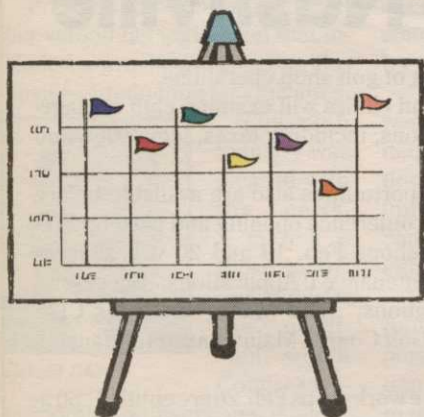


BRIEFS



PALMER MOVES OFFICE

ORLANDO, Fla. — Arnold Palmer Golf Management Co. has moved its corporate offices to Arnold Palmer's Bay Hill Club here. Part of the Bay Hill Lodge was converted into offices for the APGMC staff. The new address is Arnold Palmer Golf Management Co., 9000 Bay Hill Blvd., Suite 300, Orlando, Fla. 32819; telephone 407-876-6700.



Arnold Palmer

PRESTWICK BUSY

Prestwick Golf Properties Ltd. recently participated in the sales of Westport Golf Club in Denver, N.C., Carolina Springs Golf Club in Fountain Inn S.C., Links O'Tryon Golf Club in Campobello, S.C., and Kettle Moraine Golf Club in Dousman, Wis. Prestwick is a national golf course brokerage, management, appraisal and consulting firm with corporate headquarters in Elm Grove, Wis.

FALCOLN'S FIRE NAMES GOLF DIRECTOR

ORLANDO, Fla. — Kenny Winn has been named director of golf at Falcoln's Fire Golf Club at Seralago. Winn has been head pro at Pelican Hills Golf Club in Newport Coast, Calif., since September 1991. He previously worked at Moreno Valley Ranch Golf Club in Moreno Valley, Calif., and PGA West in LaQuinta, Calif. Rees Jones designed Falcoln's Fire, which was developed by Newfield Enterprises International of Los Angeles and is managed by Western Golf Properties Inc. of Scottsdale, Ariz.

TOMMY ARMOUR AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

Six Professional Golf Management students at Ferris State University received 1992/93 scholarships from Tommy Armour Golf. Receiving awards at the PGM Student Association banquet were Michael Hinderlifter of Portage, Mich.; Charles Karnolt of Winsted, Conn.; Ken Hartmann of Dallas; Andrew Rogers of Wildwood, Fla.; John German of Grinnell, Iowa; and Jeff Rainey of Tonawanda, N.Y.

CLUBCORP COURSE OPENS

The first course at Jack Nicklaus-designed Indigo Run on Hilton Head Island, S.C., opened recently for limited play. The private golf and residential community is operated by Club Corporation of America and The Melrose Co. Construction of a second course is scheduled to begin this spring.

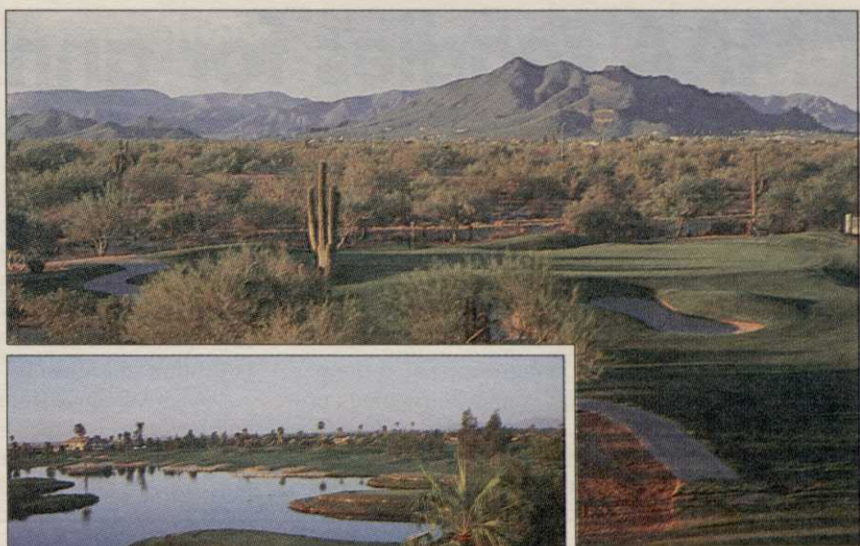
AGC's Arizona holdings reach double digits with Superstition Springs purchase

PHOENIX, Ariz. — American Golf Corp. acquired Superstition Springs Golf Club in Mesa in October, the third Phoenix-area acquisition for the California-based golf course management firm in as many weeks.

AGC bought Tatum Ranch Golf Club in Cave Creek and The Legend Golf Resort in Glendale in separate transactions, bringing the total number of courses owned in Arizona to 10.

According to Kevin Roberts, American Golf's senior vice president of operations for the West Coast, AGC has been monitoring the progress of the three Arizona resort courses for several years.

"It has always been our intention to expand our presence in the high-end, resort-type golf courses," said Roberts from the company's Phoenix office at Tatum Ranch.



The purchase of Superstition Springs GC in Mesa, inset, brings AGC's Ariz. holdings to 10. The company also bought Tatum Ranch, above, in Cave Creek in another recent transaction.

Superstition Springs is an 18-hole resort course. According to General Manager Jeff Lessig, the purchase included the par-72, 7,000-yard golf course, clubhouse and practice facilities from Phoenix-based DMB Associates.

The Tatum Ranch purchase includes the par-72, 6,780-yard resort course, clubhouse and existing practice facilities. It will be one of the key Arizona

operations centers of AGC and headed by Gary Klein, regional director for Arizona and Nevada. Klein, a 25-year veteran of the golf industry who has been with American Golf since 1975, comes to Phoenix from the Sahara Country Club in Las Vegas.

The Legend Golf Resort is located in the master-planned community of Arrowhead Ranch in Glendale.

Mich. designer awarded \$2.45 million in Alaskan contract suit

By PETER BLAIS

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — A jury awarded architect William Newcomb \$2.45 million in a breach of contract against the operator of the Anchorage Golf Course.

The course manager, Boyne (Mich.) USA subsidiary The Golf Co., claims the jury misread the evidence and is asking the state Superior Court judge to set aside the verdict.

Newcomb and The Golf Co. formed a partnership in 1984 to construct the course on municipal land with the intention of eventually selling it back to the city, the architect said. It opened in 1987.

"In today's market, that type of arrangement is not unusual," Newcomb said. "Limited funds are available for new construction. Boyne was a good partner the first three years. Then we saw things

differently."

The Ann Arbor, Mich.-based architect filed suit last year saying he was unable to exercise his option to buy The Golf Co.'s interest in the project because it was mismanaged. Lack of maintenance made it impossible to attract investors, he claimed. He predicted he will eventually end up with control of the club.

"We figured to have the course three to four years then sell it back to the community," Newcomb said. "I fought with Boyne for four years. Now we'll have to put a lot more money back into it."

The Golf Co. countered that Newcomb was unable to find investors at the inflated price he was asking and that the company did a good job maintaining and improving the course.

Newcomb's faulty design and construc-

Continued on page 68

Is there life after the RTC?

By HAL PHILLIPS

Ever wonder what happens to financially trouble golf courses — usually real-estate based — that wind up in the hands of lenders, bankruptcy courts or the dreaded Resolution Trust Corporation?

Eventually, these developments are placed at public auctions, like the one recently conducted by Chicago-based NRC Auction, Inc. The Harbor Club, a resort located on Georgia's Lake Oconee, sold for \$3.25 million at an auction conducted by NRC in November.

Pioneer Group, Inc., a real estate investment company based in Bristol, Va., purchased the golf course, equestrian center and 300 acres of undeveloped land at the Atlanta auction, which was ordered by bankruptcy court. Pioneer is affiliated

Continued on page 66

Bankruptcy court to rule soon on Ventana Canyon

By PETER BLAIS

TUCSON, Ariz. — The federal bankruptcy court is expected to confirm Ventana Canyon Golf & Racquet Club's reorganization plan by late February or early March.

Course operator Everett Home-town Limited originally filed for Chapter 11 protection last spring. The filing in no way affected Loews Ventana Canyon Resort, a nearby 398-room hotel.

"The course was simply unable to generate enough cash flow to cover the debt (\$20 million) it was

Continued on page 66

HOOK A KID
NYSCA President and Chief Executive Officer Fred Engh, left, discusses the Leewood (Kan.) Hook A Kid On Golf Learning Center plans with golf course designer Michael Hurdzan, center, and Scott Whitaker, director of parks and recreation.



Bennett: 20 to 30 supers capable of winning GCSAA title

Continued from page 17

Carlton Oaks and Steele Canyon will host the championship flight.

Bennett believes 20 to 30 superintendents are capable of winning this year's event. Among his stiffest competitors, he believes, will be past champions Roger Null (1983, '90 and '91) of Norwood Hills Country Club in St. Louis; Dave Powell (1985, '88 and '89) of Myers Park Country Club in Charlotte, N.C.; Mike Apodaca (1982 and '87) of Tijeras Arroyo Golf Club in Albuquerque, N.M.; and

David Oliver (1986) of Martin Downs Country Club in Hobe Sound, Fla.

Looking for a darkhorse? Try Andy Campbell of Brook Valley Country Club in Winterville, N.C.

"The last three years he's either tied or beat me in the team qualifying competition," Bennett said.

Dick Stuntz of Alvarado Country Club in Lawrence, Kan., was a sentimental choice mentioned by fellow competitors and others in the GCSAA hierarchy.

"He's been close several times," said Dave Fearis of nearby Blue Hills Country Club in Kansas City, Mo., a 14-handicapper, candidate for the board of directors and close friend. "It would be nice to see him win."

Stuntz has a second-, third, and fourth-place finish to his credit, although his best shot resulted in a lower finish at Houston in 1988.

"I had a four-shot lead with 11 holes to go. But, I absolutely collapsed. Everything that could go wrong did go wrong. A bunch of

people went by me and Dave Powell won. I finished something like eighth. Just another disappointment," he said.

Stuntz said there are too many good players to designate anyone as the favorite. The Iowa State University graduate likes his chances as much as anyone's and has particularly fond memories of Carlton Oaks.

"I played there 20 years ago. It was the only NCAA tournament I qualified for," he said.

Past champion Oliver of Martin

Downs Country Club in Hobe Sound, Fla., was particularly intrigued by last year's runner-up, Jim Sparks of Champion Hills Club in Hendersonville, N.C. The 6-4, 225-pounder "is a very long hitter who could do very well," Oliver said.

Apparently, though, 1993 won't be Sparks' year.

"I was busy with other things and forgot to send in my application," said Sparks, who played in his first GCSAA tourney last year. "So I guess I won't be playing."

Oliver considers himself one of 10 players with a good chance of winning, even though course reconstruction work and building a new house have limited his play the past 12 months. He finished 5th last year and 12th the year before that. An eagle on the 14th at Palm Valley in Palm Desert, Calif., was the key to his 1986 victory.

"I shot par the rest of the way and some other people fell back. I won by one stroke, but didn't know it until I was in the clubhouse," he said.

Newcomb awarded \$2.5m for breach of Alaskan contract

Continued from page 61

tion work were the cause of any maintenance problems, Boyne representatives claimed. Previous non-jury decisions favored The Golf Co., according to Boyne Chief Operating Officer Art Tebo.

"He built the course, but really never finished it," Tebo said. "The jury was confused about the issues."

Those issues centered around maintenance. Newcomb's attorney said the company spent \$195,000 annually operating the facility during the three years before Newcomb's buyout option expired in May 1991. The next year maintenance costs jumped to \$310,000.

The maintenance staff increased from 10 to 17 the year after Newcomb's option expired, the jury foreman told the *Anchorage Daily News*.

Boyne pledged the ruling will not affect golf course conditions. It will appeal if the judge does not overturn the jury decision, Tebo said.

"Boyne is carrying on at the course right now," Newcomb said. "I don't know how long that will last. But their days are numbered. There should be a new owner there by spring."

Tebo said he was confident the judge would set aside the verdict or that The Golf Co. would win on appeal.

Whatever happens, the case means the end of a 27-year relationship between Boyne and Newcomb, both sides agreed. Newcomb had done several projects at the Michigan resort, including The Ross Memorial.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

Introducing:

THE NEWEST BREAKTHROUGH IN WEED CONTROL SYSTEMS

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This revolutionary weed control system covers a lot of ground - nearly every municipality in the U.K., the grounds of Windsor Castle and championship golf courses the world over to be exact. And now, it's complete line of unique applicators and herbicides are being made available in the U.S. The Expedite now features an upgraded head and spiral disc for greater flexibility. With the addition of the Compact and the Minipro, combined with a full-range of 4 new herbicide formulations, over 90% of the U.S. markets' needs will be met. The unique features of the Nomix system include:

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Our unique oil-based formulations actually adhere to the leaf's surface longer and provides faster absorption of the chemical into the weeds. NO runoff means a more accurate and faster method of eliminating weeds.

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