Got some swampland you want converted?

BY VERN PUTNEY

Buying swampland in Florida long has been a standing joke. Felix C. Paguaga, now course superintendent at Boca Rio Golf Club in Boca Raton, Fla., in 1969 went one step further in treacherous footing.

Paguaga left a comfortable post at the prestigious El Conquistador Hotel & Club in Fajardo, Puerto Rico, to take over "The Fountains Country Club" in Lake Worth.

The street address for the "golf course" was a vacant tomato farm, with empty fields and abandoned migrant housing units. The Fountains existed, if at all, strictly on paper or in the minds of developers.

When Paguaga in 1986 departed The Fountains for his current post, that complex had become 54 holes of exceptionally well-groomed, almost public use and exceptionally well-groomed planning a location for the homeowners may not have been a priority.

In addition, the complex seven miles south of West Palm Beach is a valuable piece of real estate. Member condominiums abound and in places block out spectacular course views.

Settled nicely at Boca Rio, in a "delightful" atmosphere featuring very special treatment by the maintenance crew, etc.

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The remainder of the year involved the problems of construction, planning, irrigation and growing-in period. Country Club Golf Course News, May 1989

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