Foster said.

The site has stands of pines and magnolias, as well as ground that is "perfectly suited for an outstanding course," Foster said.

Cypresswood Golf Complex here, has opened in 1993, Keith Foster has seated another design opportunity. The former president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects, will be completed by Flint Golf.

Victor International of Southfield are developing new courses across New England alone since 1956, George Sargent Jr. (below right) discuss construction plans on the site of a new project. The two have turned a designer-contractor relationship into a design team, one of the firstruits of which is an 18-hole track at Point Sebago Golf and Beach RV resort in Casco, Maine. Point Sebago's developer, Paul Eldredge, president of Wadsworth Golf Construction Co. headquartered here, said: "The next emphasis should be our alliance with the architects, finding ways to improve the quality of golf courses, working with the environmental issues that face us all, and assuring we don't do anything that would be negative to the continued expansion of golf.

"All the people in the industry — superintendents and allied associations — have begun to work together to identify those issues and come to grips with them before they become a major deterrent to golf."

The GCBAA will address some of these issues at its summer meeting, Aug. 8-10, in Louisville, Ky. A panel on the quality of golf courses, working with the environmental issues that face us all, and assuring we don't do anything that would be negative to the continued expansion of golf.

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Wogan (below left), who has designed golf courses across New England alone since 1956, and George Sargent Jr. (below right) discuss construction plans on the site of a new project. The two have turned a designer-contractor relationship into a design team, one of the firstfruits of which is an 18-hole track at Point Sebago Golf and Beach RV resort in Casco, Maine. Point Sebago's developer, Paul Eldredge, president of Wadsworth Golf Construction Co., which has offices across the United States including Hawaii. "At the margins we work at today, we can't afford that."

Retainage is the amount of money a developer holds back from a builder until the project is complete. GCBAA Executive Director Phil Arnold said: "That can be $500,000, and it is often the builder's entire profit."

Even though retainage is a portion of the agreed-upon amount to be paid the builder, "some owners take the attitude that it is always going to be their money and they're not going to give it to you," Eldredge said.

What to do?

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"What to do?

Continued on page 38

"I'm fortunate to be working with Phil," Sargent said. "His experience, along with my background in the business, makes a
Q&A: Palmer & Seay
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scaring the cobra out of the way." There are all sorts of stories about animals and culture... sticking a live monkey's head up through the top of a table, a machete comes along and takes the top of the head off, and that's where you dip your spoon if you want monkey brains. There are some weird delicacies like live eel and turtle eyeball soup.

There is very dedicated and talented pros in well, although I had heard of his reputation and knew he was very good. That turned out to be far better than I had anticipated. In a lot of areas where I am not as organized, he is extremely organized, and he picked up the ball on that note.

His ideas and knowledge of architecture are crucial, particularly in the greens area of design — by that I mean the agronomy and horticulture, the vegetation and trees, all of which he has handled on.

He gave me a lot of his ideas, and I transferred a lot of mine to him. So the combination of my experience and his expertise has been very, very good. He has a tremendous feel for what we are doing. And everyone around him grasps that feeling.

GCN: Are you spending more time in design work now?

Palmer: As you know, over the past 26 years Ed and I have been together and we have spent thousands of hours together designing and building courses. Our business and company grew quite rapidly in the '70s and '80s, and we now have 17 very dedicated and talented pros in Palmer Course Design.

Each year I have become more and more active with every member of our team and with every project. And I will continue to increase my involvement in our designs as my tournament commitments become fewer.

GCN: What is the defining bottom line of a Palmer-Seay course design?

Seay: I'd love it if everybody just said ‘yes’ without a lot of worries. It's what we're all about. We're in the business of course design — that's what we've been doing for 25 years. We're looking at how we can make courses easier to play, more enjoyable, and more challenging. That's what we're all about.

GCN: Arnold, how important was it to you to team with Ed Seay in your design career?

Palmer: It was very important. I was very busy and I didn't really know Ed very well, although I had heard of his reputation and knew he was very good. That turned out to be far better than I had anticipated. In a lot of areas where I am not as organized, he is extremely organized, and he picked up the ball on that note.

He is particularly aware and very sensitive about the contouring of the greens. We have, from time to time, designed a couple of bizarre greens, but for the most part they are very subtle.

GCN: Arnold, you have a project in the Philippines that will involve eight other major tournament winners. That's a very interesting concept. How is it coming together?

Palmer: The name of the project is Bonafacio and it will be located in the heart of metropolitan Manila. Palmer Course Design will be creating the master routing plan for the 18 holes and preparing and coordinating all specifications, instructions and construction inspection. There will be nine winners of major tournaments designing two holes each. I will be joined by Nick Faldo, Nick Price, John Daly, Ray Floyd, Fuzzy Zoeller, Fred Couples, Tom Kite and Steve Elkington.

Hopefully we will get underway very soon with the routing plan. Construction is scheduled for 1997.

GCN: Speaking of working with other guys, do you think some architects have gone overboard in recent years in "trick-up" golf courses?

Seay: I couldn't agree more. Not all architects, but some individuals have made golf courses entirely too difficult. Some are totally unplayable. But, keep in mind, in most cases they were asked to do that because they had done it once prior to [the new project] and had gotten notoriety by it.

A golf course on the moon makes the top 50 and the next guy who builds one wants it on the surface of Mars. The degree of difficulty on a lot of these courses was what received the notoriety.

GCN: What will drive the future of American golf?

Seay: You will see more public golf courses. Not necessarily city and county courses, but privately built pay-for-play. There may be development around them and resort courses, but they will be accessible to more people.

GCN: Do you have any concerns about the industry?

Seay: I heard Jack Nicklaus say this, and I agree: We have to keep the ball where it is, or take 5 percent off it. That will take our courses back to 6,800 yards, what we were designing 15, 20 years ago. It's a wonderful idea.

Second, we have to be careful of pricing ourselves out of growth. There are not many more people who can afford $100 green fees. We can saturate that market real quick. We're entering in the next 20 years where our kids are going to be less affluent than we are. Look at all the young people living with their parents.

Also, I think we can build some golf courses that don't have to conform to the Smithsonian Institution moral requirements, or USGA requirements.

Just push up some dirt; if you've got a few agronomic problems call up somebody to take care of them; and get on with it.

There's no reason a green shouldn't cost $10,000 rather than $50,000 to build. Go spend $80,000, and you can have greens like Augusta National. But you don't have to do that.

There is too much stress on the maintenance of the golf course. No one can argue the beauty. But the course! GCN: Are we too enamored with "par"?

Seay: A teaching pro once told me a golfer should consider his par on a hole the best score he has had on that hole down to actual par.

Seay: In Europe they play match play. Par doesn't mean Jack Squat to those people. If you make 15, all you hope is that your opponent makes 14. And you go on and enjoy the next hole. But an American who shoots par, par, triple-bogey wants to go to the clubhouse. His days is ruined because he is 3-over-par on one hole.

GCN: And we're losing something with that attitude.

Seay: Sure. We've got that almighty par staring us in the face, and it's just not that important. To me, it's not near as important as the game, as having fun, as you make a 6 and your opponent makes 7, you win.

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