

New PGA Complex Adds Impact To South Florida Golf

By EARL COLLINGS
Director of Communications, P.G.A. of America

The administrative headquarters of the PGA of America have been in South Florida for many years. For the past seven years the offices have been in an office building in Lake Park. Several warehouses hold a building store of golf reference material and memorabilia.

Now that the new PGA National Complex is launched and ground broken for the new administrative building, the 625 acres located at the quadrant of PGA Boulevard and the Florida Turnpike intersection in Palm Beach Gardens will fast become the national and international focus of golf.

Construction plans for the new 36,000 square foot administrative building are moving at full speed. Completion is scheduled for early next Fall. In this building the burgeoning interests of the nation's 8,400 PGA professionals and 4,000 apprentices will be nurtured and promoted. The educational and tournament programs, membership and apprentice records and services, two national publications and a host of hundreds of pieces of literature, will be generated and administered from the modern new PGA headquarters.

The long awaited PGA Hall of Fame, Museum and Library will soon be located on a five-acre tract near the entrance of the complex. When completed it will offer visitors to the Palm Beach area the largest golf library in the world and a history-laden Hall of Fame featuring memorabilia and artifacts of the 48 members of the shrine. Expanded educational facilities for Association members and apprentices will be constructed also.

As you read this, the first of three Fazio-designed golf courses nears completion. The first rounds will be played there in January. The Championship course is scheduled for completion in early Fall, and a third course will be ready in December.

The first competitive event will be held at PGA National in March when one of the popular PGA Club Professional Tournament Series 36-hole events is played there.

The first national championship to be contested there will be the PGA National Junior Championship in August. Thousands of juniors from all over the nation enter, and the finalists will include a boy and girl champion from each of the PGA's 40 Sections, plus winners of other major junior events.

Then in October, PGA National will host the world's largest all-professional championship, the 13th annual PGA Club Professional Championship. International competition will be coming to South Florida also. PGA National will host the 1983 Ryder Cup Matches.

At final completion there will be 6,800 housing units, including 1,400 single family residences. The first town house units went on sale recently with PGA members from all over the United States on hand for the initial sales. And when 200 of the units were offered to the public, they were "sold out" in less than three hours.

The final product of the PGA Complex will be an international Showcase for Promoting Golf in America — for 15,000 future residents, for golf-related conventions, for tourists, golf related industries, for national and international competition and for anyone fascinated by the lore of the game.