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Developers Say Palm Beach Gardens-PGA Contract Signed

Royal American Industries, which is developing Palm Beach Gardens subdivision, has issued a release saying that Lou Strong, PGA president, and John D. MacArthur have signed a contract that moves the PGA headquarters to the real estate development northwest of Palm Beach, Fla.

No announcement of details had been made in PGA publicity. Strong says that PGA members will be familiarized with the construction and operation budgets of the Palm Beach Gardens project after the executive committee meets during the PGA Championship. Initially, the Palm Beach Garden-PGA deal was referred to by some officials as involving a \$2 million property. Strong says in the Royal American publicity release that the "evaluation on the two 18-hole championship courses and clubhouse, which also will house the national headquarters office of the PGA, is \$3 million." He advises that the PGA will borrow \$1 million as initial financing.

Hall Withdraws Objections

Following a PGA executive committee meeting at Palm Beach and letters to presidents and secretaries of PGA sections advising that the Palm Beach Garden deal had been approved, PGA treasurer George L. Hall, who had repeatedly objected to terms of the contract, wrote section officials that he "would refrain from making further objections" and cooperate with the executive committee decision.

No PGA release covering the executive committee decision was made to the PGA membership in general, newspapers or magazines.

The Royal American Industries release stated that signing of the contract by MacArthur and Strong put "an official end to rumors and speculation" concerning the move of the PGA headquarters to north Palm Beach County.

The signing was a formal recognition of an agreement already understood by the parties involved. "The only reason for the long delay," according to Strong, "is that the time schedule agreed upon in November, 1961, when the announcement was first made was too tight to

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set up this large a project.

A new target date for official opening is set for no earlier than Nov. 1, or no later than Dec. 1, 1963.

Expect Many Visitors

Economically, the announcement means that many thousands of new visitors and golf pros will visit the Palm Beaches annually to play the courses. There are 5,000 PGA members. More than 125,000 pieces of mail from the PGA will emanate annually from Palm Beach Gardens. Thirty staff members, and approximately 100 associates will be employed year-around to administer the total operation of the PGA.

Home sites are planned, surrounding the courses, and it is expected that a large number of the home sales will go to the pros and golf enthusiasts. Royal American Industries is in charge of these Sales.

The club and courses will be operated by the PGA for professional golf members. Membership will be private. Residents of Palm Beach Gardens will be permitted to play the courses on a daily fee basis.

Virginia Active in New Course Development

By HARRY C. ECKHOFF
Director, Eastern Region
National Golf Foundation

With the opening of ten new golf courses and additions in the last year, Virginia has a total of 150 courses of which 137 are regulation length and 13 are Par-3 layouts. A further study of the Old Dominion's golfing setup reveals that there are 84 9-hole facilities and 66 18-hole operations in the following categories: 102 private clubs; 41 semi-private and 7 municipal.

Among the new courses opened in Virginia in recent months were the following 9-hole layouts: Hanover CC in Ashland Nottoway River CC, Blackstone; Alleghany CC, Covington; Natural Bridge GC, Natural Bridge; Gordon Trent GC, Stuart; and Carpers Valley in Winchester.

River Bend CC at Great Falls, Va., and Aero Pines GC, a Navy facility at Oceana, each have opened a second nine for play. Bow Creek CC, 18 holes — a