

Gonzales Gardens

Sept. 19, '40

Completely Filled By First of Month

By October 1, a total of 1,000 persons in 236 families will occupy Gonzales Gardens, Columbia's new \$1,000,000 project, William R. Geddings, supervising manager, announced last night. Through yesterday, 100 families had moved into the project. Of this number, 95 were families of soldiers and the remainder civilians.

One hundred apartments of the 236 units in the new project were set aside for families of non-commissioned officers at Fort Jackson. This action was taken by the Housing Authority of Columbia in view of the present national emergency and to help meet the housing need in Columbia at present due to the fort being established here.

Civilian leases are being signed during this week at the administration building, Gonzales Gardens. All applicants allotted apartments have been notified and appointments for selecting apartments made. A total of 50 leases had been signed with Columbia families through yesterday. Applications are still being received and encouraged and a reserve list will be established for vacancies that occur.

Finishing touches are now being put on Gonzales Gardens by the contractor and the project has taken on the appearance of a modern village. Street lights are placed about the grounds and along Garden Plaza, the new street opened up through Gonzales Gardens. Decorative street signs have also been placed at street intersections. A 30-foot flag pole has been installed in front of the administra-

tion building, which will house the offices of the Housing Authority of Columbia and the indoor recreational space for tenants.

Plans are now being made to convert five acres in the southwest portion of the site into a beautiful park and playground with slides, see-saws, swings and other features, including a softball field and basketball and volley ball courts. In the rear of the administration building, a spray fountain of unusual design has been installed for the children.

Rents at Gonzales Gardens range from \$7.65 to \$16.75 per month for apartments. These rentals include an electric refrigerator, gas range, oil-fired hot water heater and space heater, shades, curtain rods, utility kitchen cabinet, water, gas and electricity. Every unit has yard space.

Tenants who have occupied Gonzales Gardens have expressed themselves as well pleased with the facilities offered. A feeling of community spirit will be encouraged by the management and residents who wish to organize various clubs for recreation will be offered the use of the social room in the administration building. Adjacent to the social room is a community kitchen for holding any club luncheons that might be given.

The fence around the project has been demolished and the city is grading the street between the present paving and project property line, which will result in a considerable widening of street space available.