

JUPITER HILLS: Site of U.S. Amateur Championship

By Irene Jones

DICK HERR, JUPITER HILLS AND FLORIDA — THREE WINNERS

When the United States Golf Association chose Jupiter Hills Country Club, Jupiter, Florida as the site for The U.S. Amateur Championship, August 25-30, 1987, they picked three winners. Namely: Dick Herr, Jupiter Hills and Florida. Dick Herr, Superintendent at Jupiter Hills is excited about his course being chosen to host this prestigious golfing event, in fact, this will be the first time in the 87-year-history of the U.S. Amateur Championship, that it is being held in Florida.

Dick is ready to show off his course to the 288 top rated amateur golfers who qualified for this event, as well as to the countless number of golfing fans who will be viewing the action in person or via the media coverage. "The golf course crew, as well as myself, consider our course the best."

The "very private" Jupiter Hills Club offers its members two completely different 18-hole courses; The Hills and The Village. In fact, this will be their first major tournament. And while that is true, it is also true that Dick Herr

and Jupiter Hills have both achieved a vast amount of experience and recognition in our industry.

Designed by the world renowned golf architect, George Fazio, Jupiter Hills has a reputation for excellence throughout the entire state of Florida. The club also ranks high in national opinion. Fazio has worked with and retained the natural intrinsic design of The Hills course by using to its full advantage the up to 80 foot elevation of the sand dune on which the course was constructed. This gives the golfers a variety of shots as they are faced with uphill, downhill and sidehill shots to the greens.

Because of the natural terrain George Fazio chose to give The Hills "a Carolinas look" rather than Florida. There isn't even one palm tree to be found on this course, which was first opened for play in 1969.

The second 18-holes at Jupiter Hills is The Village course. This course is a little flatter, but according to Dick Herr, "it is a tougher driving course." The Village is said to be reminiscent of an English inland course, with homesites blended into the rustic setting.



Hole No. 18, Par 4, 423 yards. Second shot to very elevated green.

Dick Herr will be bringing some 37 years of knowledge and involvement with the game of golf into getting Jupiter Hills ready for the U.S. Amateur Championship's 87th tournament. "I started out caddying, playing golf and mowing greens at the age of ten-years-old for The Logan Sport Country Club, in Delphia, Indiana. When I was 17 and still a senior in high school, the professional golfer at the club was killed in a car wreck and I was offered the head professional job upon graduation." Dick stayed at The Logan Sport Country Club for five years.

"At the end of those years I had a choice to make between joining the Pro Tour or becoming a teaching pro. I decided on teaching and accepted a position at an executive course in Delphia, Indiana. I stayed at this course for 15 years, eventually becoming a superintendent and teaching pro."

Dick first came to Florida and worked for George Fazio for one season in 1980. "I really loved Florida and I really enjoyed working for Mr. Fazio, so I moved down to become superintendent at the Jupiter Hills Club in 1981. And with my family all grown now and living up in Indiana I can put the majority of my time and effort into the Jupiter Hills Golf Course. I just love my course and that's where I usually stay."

An interesting feature at Jupiter Hills is their Bent greens. Dick said he enjoys working with Bent grass. "I always enjoyed a challenge and I believe that Bent creates the best putting surface. When we first put in the greens we would go out each morning just to see if they were still surviving. Now they are not only surviving, they are thriving and healthy. Yes, they do require more attention and careful maintenance, but to me they are worth all the extra."

Dick maintains the two courses at Jupiter Hills, The Village and The Hills, with the help of an assistant, John Sibley, Jr., who he describes as "a first class assistant." A secretary, Kim Moore, who makes all the record keeping a lot easier. A good foreman, Mark Marc Matteson and a crew of from 20 to 25 members.

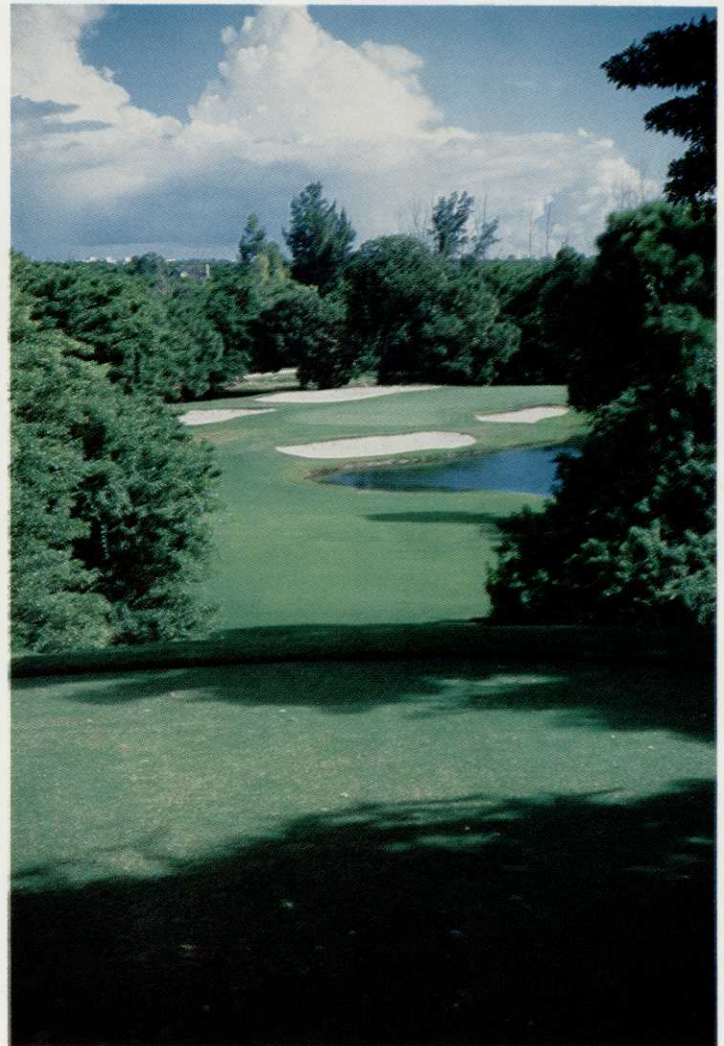
Dick's boss, and the President of Jupiter Hills Club, Mr. John "Jack" Diesel says, "If you have good people you have to pay in order to keep them." And Dick believes now that his people could not go out anywhere else and find a more liveable wage or better benefits.

What specific things will be done in preparation for the U.S. Amateur Championship? "In general it will require a lot of extra work for the crew, up to 16 hours of work per day right before and during tournament play. All golfers will go off the Hills Course, play will start at 7am on August 25th and last until almost dark. Both courses, The Village and The Hills will be used for play. The United States Golf Association, in preparation for tournament play, has requested a 6' intermediate rough cut around the fairways at 1 1/4". The fairways will be 5/8", with the rough cut at 2". The greens will measure 9 1/2" on the stimp meter and will be a tight 1/8" cut.

Jupiter Hills is ranked somewhere around 41 in Golf Digest but after this tournament Dick Herr sees that ranking set at a higher position. And according to an article which *The Palm Beach Post* ran on May 26, 1987 entitled *Jupiter Hills Could Deceive In Amateur*, and I quote, "Situated on a ridge near the ocean in South Martin County, Jupiter Hills offers one of the more striking settings for a Florida golf course. The par-3 ninth hole, for example, requires a 192 yard shot that must carry over vegetation to an elevated green. A flat pitch-and-putt course, Jupiter Hills is not."

Florida courses will host 12 professional tournaments this year. In fact a major championship tournament, The PGA Championship, will be held just down the road from Jupiter Hills, at the PGA National Golf Course, where Luke Majorcki is superintendent, on August 6-9, 1987.

The USGA, perhaps paid the best compliment to Jupiter Hills by not asking for any major changes to be made before the tournament. "We're sure it's going to be a good test," said P.J. Boatwright, executive director of the USGA. ■



Hole No. 11, Par 3, 198 yards. A beautiful sight from elevated tee to well trapped green with water along right side and back of green.