

More than 30 years ago Forrest Richardson was asked to create a fantasy golf course to showcase a new paper being manufactured by the Gilbert Paper Company. The result was **Lost Fathom Links**, a whimsical design with wild holes and plenty of humor. Enjoy.



“IT’S NOTHING MORE  
THAN THE SOFT SQUEAKING  
OF DISTANT FIELD MICE  
WHO, BY NATURE, ARE ALWAYS  
AFRAID OF CHALLENGES  
GREATER THAN THEY.”

— *Golf Course Architect C.J. DeForrest  
on opening day in 1937,  
responding to criticism of his  
Lost Fathom Links  
as being “too difficult.”*

THE RULES WERE SIMPLE: THERE WERE NONE. ANONYMOUS  
EXECUTIVES HAD COMMISSIONED DEFORREST TO FIND  
AN UNMATCHED LOCATION, AND FINALLY, TO DESIGN AND BUILD  
“THE WORLD’S MOST DIFFICULT GOLF COURSE”. GILBERT ISLAND  
WAS ULTIMATELY CHOSEN. AND, AFTER THREE YEARS OF  
PAINSTAKING LABOR, LOST FATHOM WAS FINISHED FOR ITS  
ELITE MEMBERSHIP OF HIGH-ROLLERS AND THEIR GUESTS.

THE TIME SINCE, OF COURSE, IS HISTORY. AS A CONDITION OF  
MEMBERSHIP, ITS LOCALE WAS NEVER TO BE DIVULGED,  
NOR WAS ITS “WHO’S WHO” LIST OF MEMBERS. AND SO, AS IF IT  
HAD SLIPPED OFF THE FACE OF THE EARTH, NARY A WORD  
WAS EVER HEARD OF THIS SPECIAL GOLF COURSE — UNTIL NOW.

THANKS TO THE EFFORTS OF GILBERT PAPER, LIMITED  
MEMBERSHIPS ARE ONCE AGAIN BEING OFFERED TO  
THE FULLY-RESTORED LOST FATHOM LINKS. APPLICATIONS  
OF SERIOUS GOLF ENTHUSIASTS ARE CURRENTLY  
BEING CONSIDERED.

*Note: In following tradition at Lost Fathom, the Green Committee has rated each  
hole on a scale from 1 to 5 based on the “Probable Lost Ball Method.”*

# I

## TROUBLE-TO-THE-RIGHT

445 Yards, Par 4

*Stay left and make sure you bring plenty of umph to clear the shoreline.*

*Players are reminded to respect the privacy of sunbathers on the beaches below.*

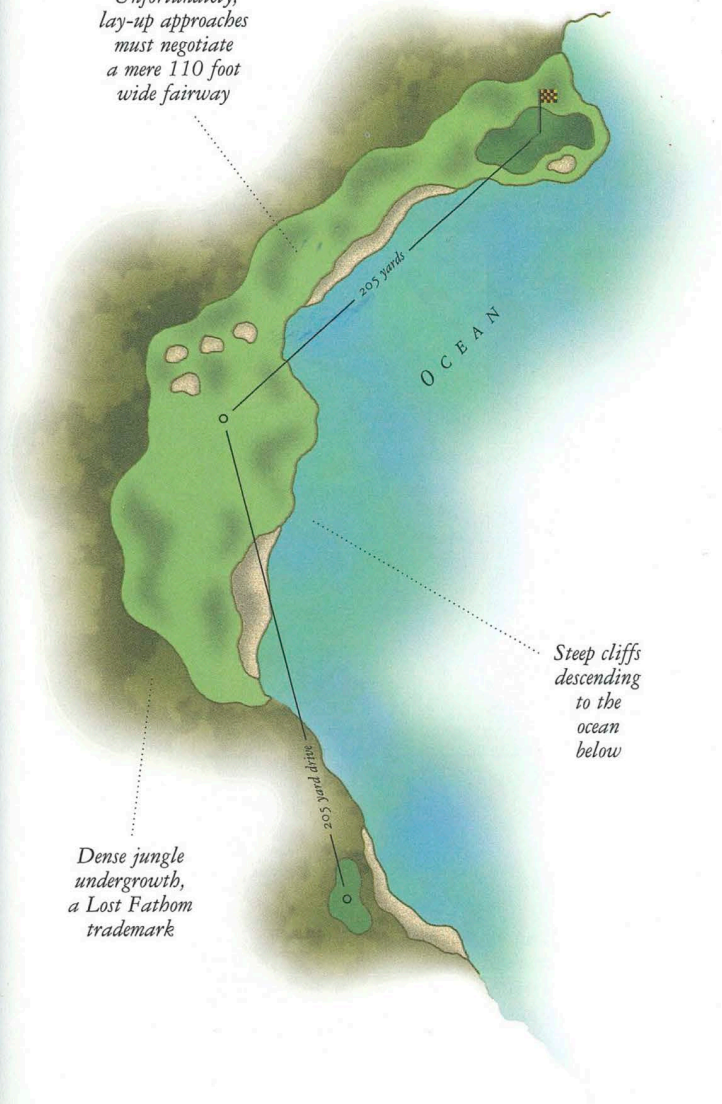
Rating:



*Unfortunately, lay-up approaches must negotiate a mere 110 foot wide fairway*

*Dense jungle undergrowth, a Lost Fathom trademark*

*Steep cliffs descending to the ocean below*



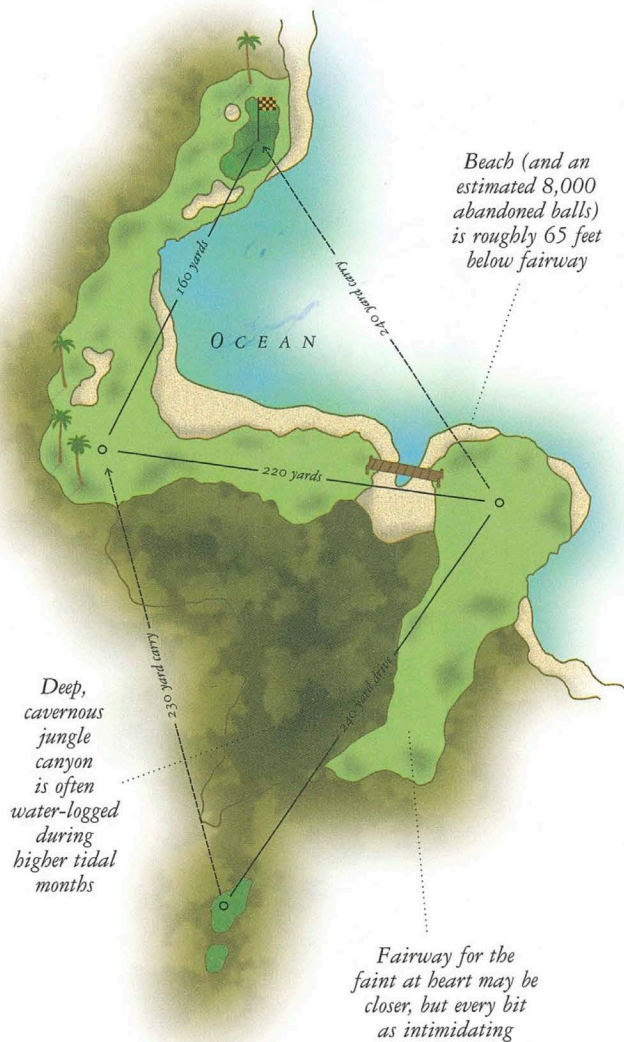
2

DOUBLE-  
JOINTED

620 Yards, Par 5

*Position really is, everything, as you shall soon discover. More than once has the occasional golfer re-dubbed this hole, quite appropriately, "Double-crossing".*

Rating:



3

SHORE  
IS PRETTY

410 Yards, Par 4

*Endeavor right and you shall soon be enjoying the beach. The local advice is quite simple: hit straight and repeat as often as necessary until fear goes away.*

Rating:



*Extremely evil pot bunker is usually filled with sand crabs*

*Otherwise pleasant beach, so long as you are not playing golf*

*Widest portion of fairway is 114 feet, narrowest portion is 44 feet, or about as long as a 5-color Heidelberg*



4

COLLECT

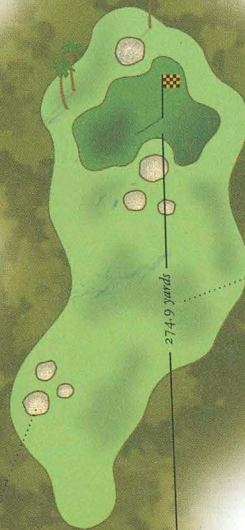
274.9 Yards, Par 3

*Caddies will be the first to explain that par is a seldom occurrence here, for this is about as close as a hole can come to a par-4 without being one.*

Rating:



*This series of traps are an excellent example of psychological menacing, considering they are placed 175 yards from the tee and 115 yards from the green*



*Best possible approach is to leave a full wedge into this large green*

*Seldom used back tee was built to make the golfer feel even more defeated when playing from the more forward "regular" tee*

5

NEEDLE

430 Yards, Par 4

*Is that really a fairway?*

*Yes, but of the slim variety. One chap hit putter, putter, putter, putter, putter, putter, putter, six iron, and added two putts for nine.*

*Not a bad strategy.*

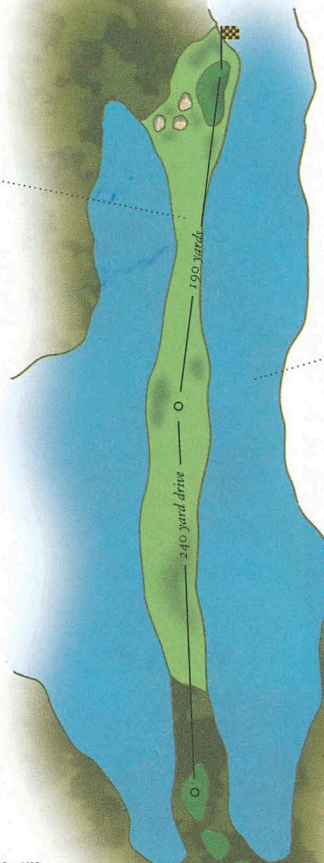
Rating:



*In addition to being only 35 feet in width, this portion of the fairway is slightly crowned*

*Lakes were formed by volcanic cooling action, creating the perfect ridge with which to call a fairway*

*Back tees are rarely used, extending the hole to an impossible 460 yards*



# 6

THREE-  
HOUR-TOUR

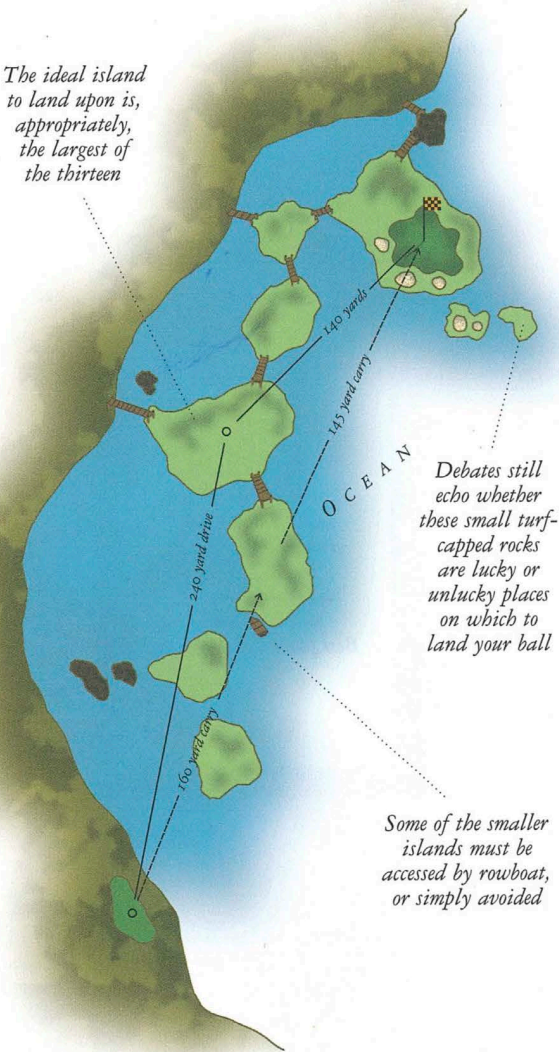
380 Yards, Par 4

*Figuring that island greens were interesting, DeForrest purposefully routed the links to take advantage of this string of rocky islands. That devil.*

Rating:



*The ideal island to land upon is, appropriately, the largest of the thirteen*



*Debates still echo whether these small turf-capped rocks are lucky or unlucky places on which to land your ball*

*Some of the smaller islands must be accessed by rowboat, or simply avoided*



7

WHAT A BEACH

535 Yards, Par 5

*Yikes! From the cliffs above to the ocean below, it will soon sink-in that you are indeed playing a fairway that is rather missing. Best played at low tide.*

Rating:

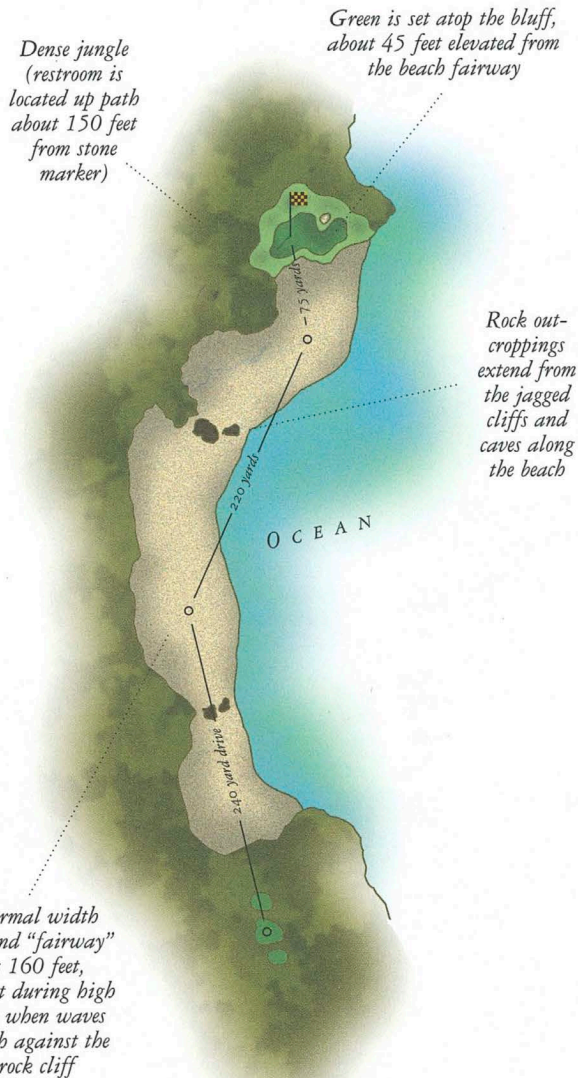


*Dense jungle (restroom is located up path about 150 feet from stone marker)*

*Green is set atop the bluff, about 45 feet elevated from the beach fairway*

*Rock outcroppings extend from the jagged cliffs and caves along the beach*

*Normal width of sand "fairway" is 160 feet, except during high tide when waves crash against the rock cliff*



8

ON THE ROCKS

190 Yards, Par 3

*Golf is not meant to be played from deep, cavernous gulches strewn about with jagged rocks and outcroppings of hideous character. Need we say more?*

Rating:



*More than one putt has ventured too close to the edge of this abruptly ending green*

*Best approach is a right-to-left shot staying clear of the quarry and traps*

*Deep rock quarry was excavated to build the main boat launch for Gilbert Island*



# 9

## THE GROVE

390 Yards, Par 4

*In contemplating this hole it is best remembered that the game of golf was not devised to be fair nor equitable. The choice is yours.*

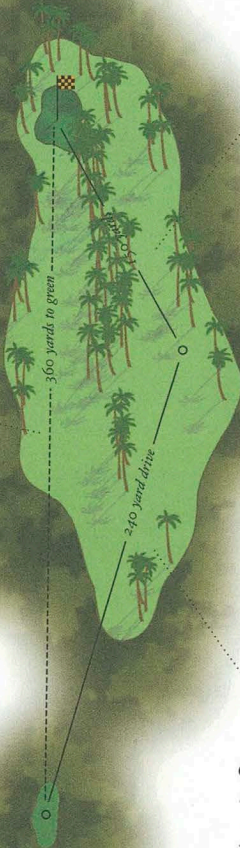
Rating:



*More direct route requires finesse*

*Slightly less obstructed route requires a dog-leg left approach*

*Coconut Palms have an added drawback: when the wind blows 12 lb. coconuts fall like bombs*



# IO

LUCKY SEVEN

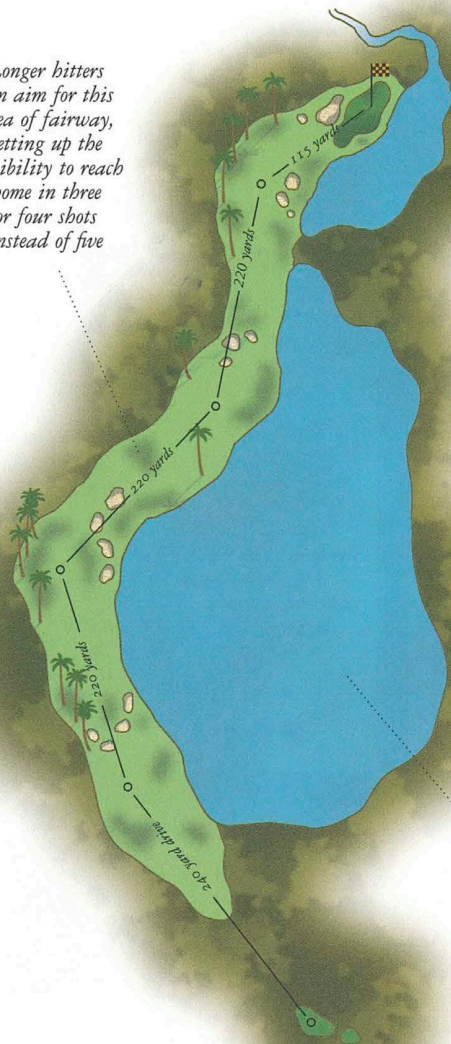
1015 Yards, Par 7

*Leave your thoughts of scoring a four or five for another place and another time. Here, the challenge is simply to stay away from trouble, yet remain on your way to the green.*

Rating:



*Longer hitters can aim for this area of fairway, setting up the possibility to reach home in three or four shots instead of five*



*Upper lake is the source of all fresh water for Gilbert Island*

## II

### STREAM

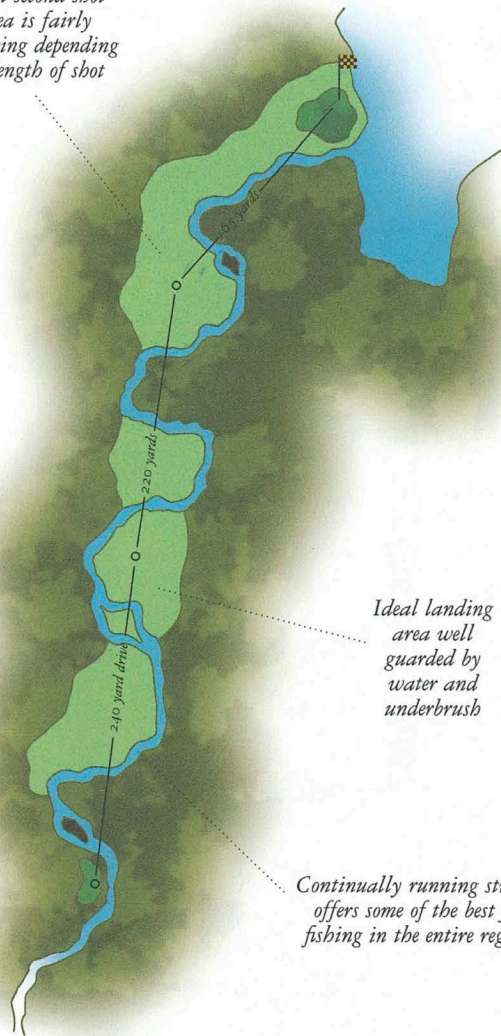
625 Yards, Par 5

*Beware the stream,  
for it awaits your ball.  
Not once, not twice,  
but as many as eight times  
does its awful path  
cross what remains of the  
fairway. Plan ahead.*

Rating:



*Ideal second shot  
area is fairly  
forgiving depending  
on length of shot*



*Ideal landing  
area well  
guarded by  
water and  
underbrush*

*Continually running stream  
offers some of the best fly  
fishing in the entire region*

# I2

CHIPS AHOY

65 Yards, Par 2

*Experimentation was a hallmark of DeForrest. His golf architecture knew no bounds and met no barriers. This invention, the par-2, requests your undivided attention.*

Rating:



*Low swale tends to divert balls left, towards the jungle*



*The most difficult pin position imaginable; 195 feet downhill with no room for error*

*A terrible place to put one of your two shots allowed against par*

*"Teeing" area, where chips or pitches originate on this wee little hole*

# I3

CASUAL WATER

470 Yards, Par 4

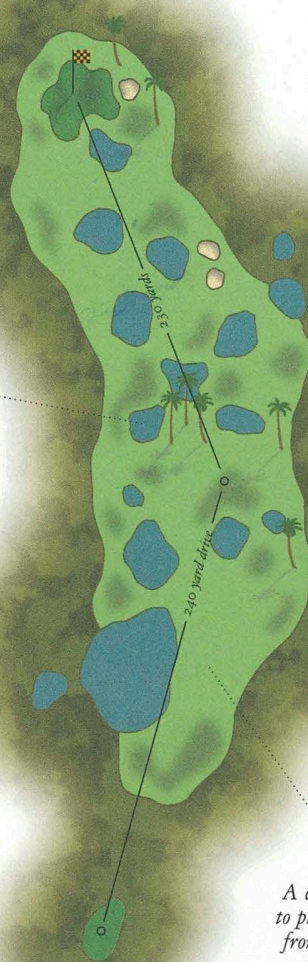
*Recently, the greenkeeper staff has managed to remove a few ponds from the original design. The oddest luck, however, is with the poor soul who winds up in a sand trap.*

Rating:



*One of sixteen ponds awaiting the fate of nearly any shot played*

*A common strategy is to play shortish wedges from one open area to another — if such an area exists*



# I4

## THE CAVE

340 Yards, Par 4

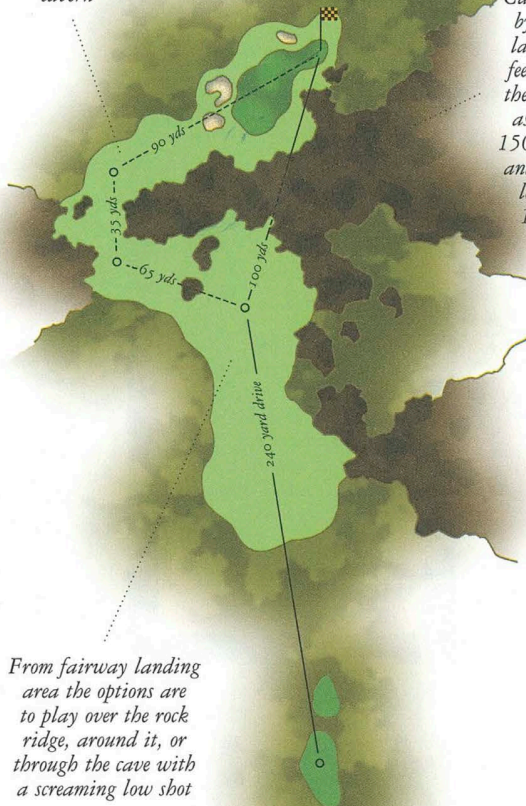
*This may bring new meaning to the golf term "holing out!" For here, you are encouraged to "hole out" en route to the green and then again once safely there.*

Rating:



*Alternate route for those leary of what lurks within the 100 foot long cavern*

*Cave formed by cooling lava is 24 feet high in the center by as much as 150 feet wide and covers a length of 100 feet*



*From fairway landing area the options are to play over the rock ridge, around it, or through the cave with a screaming low shot*



# I5

## QUICK SAND

505 Yards, Par 5

*As any regular will explain, being sand-bound may not be all that bad on this short par-5.*

*The sand, after all, presents little trouble to those who willingly aim their ball there.*

Rating:

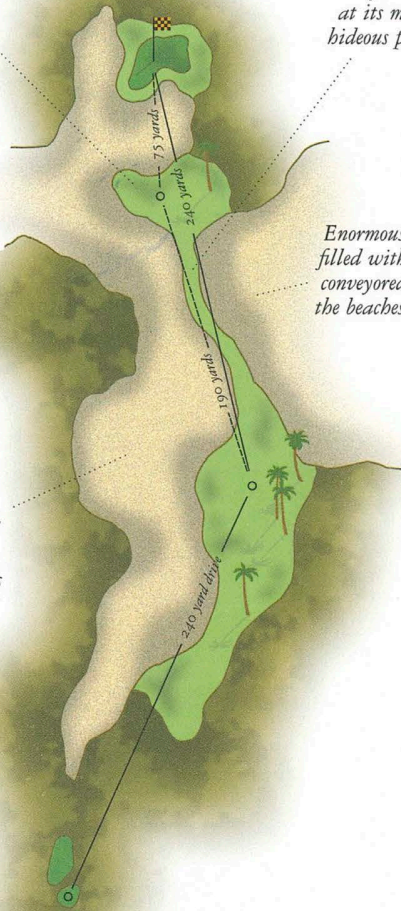


*The last remaining bit of fairway is not all that ample, either*

*Fifteen foot wide fairway at its most hideous point*

*Enormous area filled with sand conveyed from the beaches below*

*Once dry lake filled with pure beach sand and a mixture of crushed seashells*



# 16

## DECISIONS, DECISIONS

335 Yards?, Par 4

*Purposefully perplexing, DeForrest took the blind shot one step farther, demanding that flagsticks never be used here.*

*Which green contains the cup? You never know.*

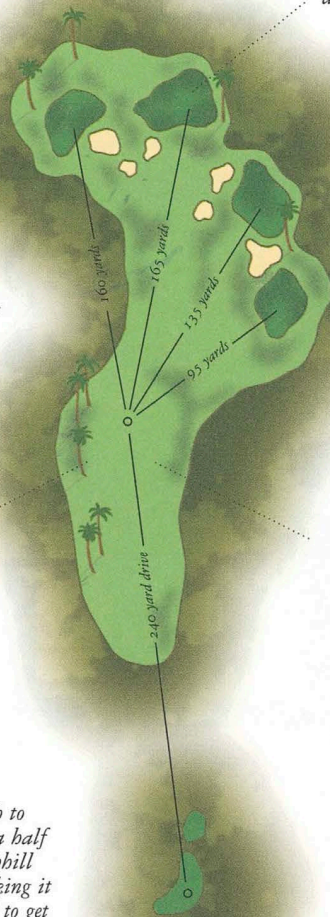
Rating:



*The hole is cut on any of the four greens with daily changes*

*A characteristic of poker is good policy at No. 16, for the farthest from the hole must hit first, and this golfer will usually base their shot on what reaction they can see from others out ahead*

*The path to No. 16 is a half mile of uphill hiking, making it impractical to get a glimpse of which green the group ahead has putted out upon*



*From the lowered fairway it is impossible to see a hole cut into any of the four multiple choice greens beyond (it is against local rules to walk beyond your ball on No. 16)*

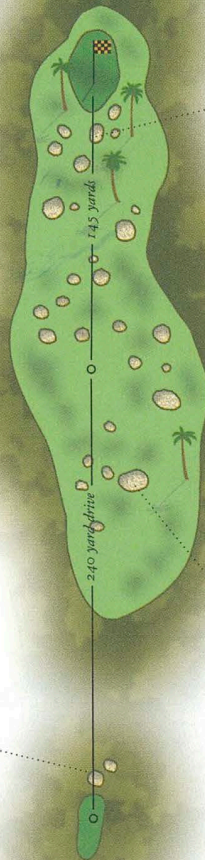
# I7

HOLY GROUND

385 Yards, Par 4

*Every so often a guest will walk from the green here having taken nary a shot from the sand. But we submit that this is a rare occasion.*

Rating:



*"No. 4", the deepest and nastiest bunker of them all*

*For the occasional topped ball or exceptionally poor hit, may it rest peacefully*

*Thirty sand traps ranging in depth from 4 feet to nearly 12 feet*

# 18

LAST BUT  
NOT LEAST

465 Yards, Par 4

*Reality awaits  
just a few hundred yards  
across that swampy  
marsh and across it one  
more time again.  
This finisher is no meek  
golf hole.*

Rating:

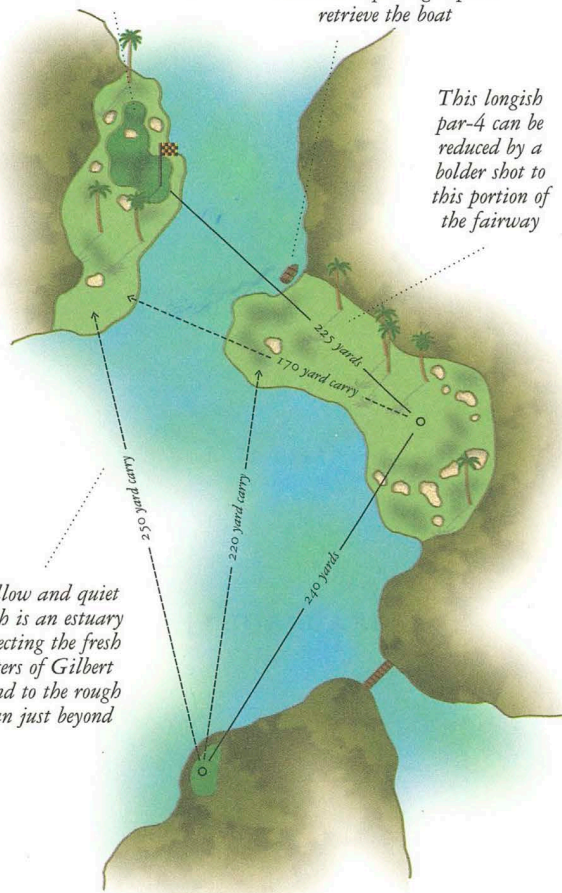


*Rather than fill in a small sink  
hole, DeForrest converted it to  
a bazard that makes putting at  
No. 18 an extra challenge*

*Access to the green is by  
rowboat, a cable and wench  
allow subsequent groups to  
retrieve the boat*

*This longish  
par-4 can be  
reduced by a  
bolder shot to  
this portion of  
the fairway*

*Shallow and quiet  
marsh is an estuary  
connecting the fresh  
waters of Gilbert  
Island to the rough  
ocean just beyond*



## RULES & ETIQUETTE

- (i) USGA Rules govern play except as modified and include the local provisions of Hole 14A, which must be played and counted toward the score of any and all rounds completed.
- (ii) At any given time during play on Hole 16 players may not venture closer to the hole than the point at which their ball rests until it is moved forward by the legal stroke of a club.
- (iii) All players must carry 40 balls and may at their option carry one extra club in the event another becomes lost or entangled within *Rbus diversilobia*.
- (iv) There are no out-of-bounds.
- (v) The helicopter pad adjacent to No. 9 green is considered an immovable obstruction.
- (vi) A single red signal flare shall represent suspension of play; all players must mark balls and proceed to the nearest landing zone or boat dock.
- (vii) All guests must be accompanied by a member in good standing.

8274.9 Yards, Par 79 Course Rating — 84.8 Slope — 177  
C.J. DeForrest, Golf Course Architect, Founded 1937

Scorer \_\_\_\_\_

Attest \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Medical Clearance Date \_\_\_\_\_

By (Attending Club Physician) \_\_\_\_\_

Psychological Clearance Date \_\_\_\_\_

By (Attending Club Psychiatrist) \_\_\_\_\_



## SCORECARD

