

# Tuxedo Gives Way to "Progress"

The Tuxedo Club, in Tuxedo Park, N. Y., ancient as golfing life goes in this country, seems about to have its golf course overrun by highspeed automobiles and trucks, and another landmark of golf history will thereby disappear.

Tuxedo is, of course, not the first to lose its golf course to a super-highway and it will not be the last. Yet Tuxedo occupies a unique position in golf history.

The Club was founded in the Ramapo hills of Orange County in the early Eighties as a hunting and fishing lodge and community convenient to New York City. One of the early residents there, Dr. E. C. Rushmore, added golf to the facilities by laying out a six-hole course in 1889, on what is now the property of J. Insley Blair. Tuxedo thus had, to the best of our present knowledge, the second course in the New York area, the original St. Andrew's course having been laid out in Yonkers a year earlier. Philip Allen, Gould Hoyt, Richard Hunt, Jr., William and Edward Kent, Alfred Seton, Norman Simpkins and Walker B. Smith were among those who helped Dr. Rushmore organize the game at Tuxedo.

Clubs and balls were provided from Montreal, and the game caught on quickly. Within three years there was a nine hole course at the north gate of the Park, on the land which, as of this writing, is still in use as the Tuxedo golf course. Only the first hole, however, remains as it was in 1892. The present 18 holes did not come into existence until 1934.

The nine-hole course of the early days lay entirely west of the Ramapo River. The Erie Rail Road tracks and the old Orange turnpike divided the course as they do today. The second hole once crossed the turnpike and the tracks, something which has been rendered impossible by the modern volume of vehicular traffic on Route 17, the Orange turnpike's present counterpart. In recent years, players have used a tunnel under the highway

## TURF MANAGEMENT

The book "Turf Management," sponsored by the United States Golf Association and edited by Prof. H. B. Musser, is a complete and authoritative guide in the practical development of golf-course turfs.

This 354-page volume is available through USGA, 40 East 38th Street, New York 16, N. Y., the USGA Green Section, Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md.; the USGA Green Section Western Office, Box 241, Davis, Cal., or the McGraw-Hill Book Co., 330 West 42nd Street, New York 36, N. Y. The cost is \$7.

and tracks to reach the eastern part of the course.

In 1894, Tuxedo invited St. Andrew's Golf Club, the Shinnecock Hills Golf Club and The Country Club, Brookline, Mass., to send four-man teams to compete in a match on October 9. Thus Tuxedo became the first club to entertain teams from other clubs. Conflicting reports state that the match was won by St. Andrew's and that it was won by The Country Club after a controversial tie which the St. Andrew's team was unable to play off.

In view of these notable beginnings, it was unfortunate that, through inadvertence, the Tuxedo Club was not among those invited to become founders of the USGA in December, 1894. However, Tuxedo was one of the first Clubs to join the original five founders in the USGA.

In September, 1953, the New York State Highway Commission plans to start building a section of the new Thru-way from New York to Buffalo and the West through the middle of the course. It will not be feasible to continue play on the two separate segments which will remain, and the Club already is studying new sites.