LION'S TALE



Roscoe got a brand new bag

It was 1942 and Roscoe L. West had been president of New Jersey State Teachers College at Trenton for 12 of the 27 years he held that post. The faculty gave him a formal, black-tie 50th birthday party at the Hillwood Inn, an event that could not have been too serious, because their gift was a new bag of golf clubs. In the archival photo here, Vice President Forrest Irwin makes the presentation.

Family informants testify that the left-landed West was a "terrible, terrible" golfer whose swing defied description, who regularly devised "little special rules" of convenience to himself, and who rarely felt an obligation to sink his putts. He played regularly with faculty chums, including Michael Travers, the golf team's coach and dean of men; Carl Shuster, professor of mathematics; and John Quimby, business manager and protector of Quimby's Prairie. For many years after his death, West's large family held a biennial memorial golf tournament on a New Hampshire par-three course at which the famed educator's "special rules" guided the competition and everyone had a delightful time.