



HOST TO WESTERN AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP, JULY 19-25

In the beautiful clubhouse of Broadmoor GC at Seattle, Wash., the contestants in the 52d Western Amateur championship will celebrate their joys or forget their defeats, during the week of July 19-25. Pro George Howard's shop is in the basement of the building, behind the 18th green in the foreground and to the left is one of the most interesting practice putting greens on which many lively competitions are played.

steel-shafted clubs in the Western Open at Memphis, the first big tourney in which steel shafts were allowed.

Many pros were a bit antagonistic to the steel shaft at first, being afraid it might cut into their club business but they soon learned that it helped business. There is no doubt the steel shaft was largely responsible for the introduction of matched sets as with hickory shafts matching sets of clubs was an extremely difficult problem.

We advertised in the Saturday Evening Post that we would present a steel-shafted club to anyone making a hole-in-one if they would send us properly attested cards. This one ad brought us more than 700 attested cards.

When the USGA barred the shaft we wrote to these golfers asking them to write the USGA their opinion of the shaft as the governing body of U. S. golf had announced it would seek the opinions of golfers on the steel shaft.

An amazing response was accorded our letter. My recollection is that more than 600 complied with our request. The association wrote us asking what influence

we had exerted to produce so many favorable letters.

Then, early in 1924 the USGA approved the steel shaft and I had the happy experience of being announced as the first user of steel shafts in a major championship. In that event which Cyril Walker won, I must have proved that the steel shaft, if a mechanical aid, certainly didn't aid my game enough to have me scoring among the leaders.

As I recall "Wild Bill" Melhorn used steel shafts in his woods in that Open championship and Bill finished third; a stroke behind Bob Jones.

Shot Heard 'Round the World

When I hit my first drive in that championship I felt as though the whole future of the steel shaft depended on that shot. I still have a nervous memory of my knees knocking together and barely being able to see the ball. I said a little prayer and lo and behold, the ball went out straight and far. So the business was saved.

After the USGA approval the steel shaft rapidly displaced wood. It is a shock for a veteran to realize that golfers such as Byron Nelson and Ben Hogan probably