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## THE ANTI-SKID MASHIE

By SANDY McNIBLICK

Golfing weather has been fairly propitious up North all winter. But the other day snow a-plenty hit the district around Philadelphia in particular, clouds of it that wafted down for twenty-two hours before there was a let-up, after which more of the same fell for several more hours just to make it unanimous.

All of which has had the effect of driving the country linksmen into the city. A heavily-reefered golfer in the person of George Sayers was encountered on one of our principal marts of trade the other day, skidding on slushy pavements, ducking great gobs of snow which dropped with dull kerplunks off the tops of the tall buildings. But golf was still very much on the mind of this prodigal son of Benny Sayers, the Grand Old Pro of golf.

George opened up a corner of his reefer collar sufficiently to slip us quite a little data on the "stop 'um" golf club, that anti-skid mashie, the thought of which might have been suggested by heavily-chained autos skidding all around us on the snowy street.

"There seems to be a lot of agitation around about these corrugated-faced clubs," volunteered George, "and most of the information given is incorrect. They are called American clubs. They are not. My father invented the first one, made it as an experiment in our shops at North Berwick, Scotland.

"The agitation seems to have started abroad when Tommy Armour returned there from his visit in America and was discovered to have a lot of the cut-faced irons in his kit. He was thought to have collected these in America. He didn't. He used to stop in our shops at North Berwick nearly every day, trying out all we had in that line. That's where he got them, right in his own country.

"Reading about the 'stop 'um' mashie," continued George, as he wiped some snow out of his left eye, "you would think that they had just been invented over here, and that Americans were prepared to lick the world by their aid."

Sayers laughed sardonically, as they say in the funnies.

"The first club was made twenty years ago abroad, though they weren't really pushed over there till 1913. It seems funny that after all these years the Britons should suddenly hop on them with both feet and claim that this 'American' invention ought to be barred in Great Britain."

The British experts have evidently found in the "stop 'um" club some of the menace they have reason to respect in that American invention, the "Sche-nectady" putter, with which Walter Travis indirectly was the first Yankee to win the British amateur for he had a spell of uncanny putting, which the Britons laid to his new-fangled putter mostly.

In the same way, the "stop 'um" has now been evidently discovered as an equally dangerous tool. The chief objection to the club abroad is that it's the cut-face of the mashie more than skill which is responsible for the back-spin imparted to the ball, and that a well-hit stroke with a "stop 'um" will cut the ball rather badly.

But this doesn't keep nearly every good player in America from carrying some form of a "stop 'um" in his bag, which gives a line on what the 400 in these United States think of the club.

Their opinion is divided on barring it. You can argue either way. But this settles its origin and date of birth, anyhow.

Sayers is now at work making novel and standard designs in wooden clubs. He has imported a clubmaker from the famous shops in North Berwick and the two are very busy these days.

"Right out of the block," said Sayers. "Wait till you see them — pretty as a picture."

"No golf this winter?"

"Only Pinehurst," replied Sayers, as he slipped on the ice. "Of course I've got to play there. It wouldn't do to miss the North and South open. Sure, I gotta play at Pinehurst."

## U. S. FLAG, GUN AND NERVE SAVED 500 FROM DEATH

(United Press Staff Correspondent)

KATTOWITZ, Upper Silesia. — How an American flag, and an American captain with good nerve, a trusty revolver and a bit of American bluff seared off a Polish mob and rescued 50 exchanged German prisoners, inbound from Poland, leaked out here today.

The American was Capt. Stettler, over six feet tall, born in Joplin, Mo., a globe trotter, with no knowledge of what fear means.

The incident occurred during the Polish outbreak in Upper Silesia last year. Stettler, then associated with Col. Good-year of Buffalo, N. Y., on the American coal commission, was helping Goodyear to clear up the uprising. He had been across the line into Poland, located prisoners dragged off by the Poles, and also a large group of men, women and children long interned in the same camp.

Having had good relations with both the German and Polish sides, Stettler was able to induce the Polish commandant to surrender the prisoners, as the basis for later negotiations toward an armistice. With difficulty he obtained a train for the refugees, and had reached the border line where the hatred between Poles and Germans was particularly bitter.

A mob collected as the train pulled in. Each car bore an American flag. The crowd grew vicious, threatening to massacre the whole group of prisoners.

Here is where the captain, the American flag, the nerve and the bluff come in.

Taking a Polish interpreter with him, and carrying a little American flag in one hand and his revolver in the other, he proceeded to tell the Polish leader something.

"This train is under American protection," he said, "and if you shoot upon it, you are shooting at America. That means not only that America will shut off all the food supplies she's been sending you here in Poland, but it means that she'll send an army to avenge this act. And, I'll shoot the first man who makes a move."

The cold courage — and the trace of good American bluff — had its effect. The crowd growled a bit, and seemed for a moment hesitant and then backed down.



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