How Ben a Hogan Got Rid of the Hooks

His down-cock (Extreme handsiness) is a timing issue that creates a severe snap hook when his normal, faster tempo is present, which it always was.  Here's why it causes a snap hook...

Mr. Hogan, due to his natural, wristy swing, did not get the club released by the time his hands passed the natural bottom of the swing.  As a result, his club head was still traveling downward at the ball because his shoulders were open to his feet - which means they were open to the target. When you don't have an ascending blow with a steel-shafted wood or long iron into impact, you get a hook.

Witness a recent attempt by Rory McIlroy to hit a balata ball with a persimmon driver at The Deutsche Bank tournament at Ridgeway country club.  He hit low hooks because modern equipment requires a more level - not upward - blow on the ball.  Today's tour pros and amateurs alike make more level impact with their drivers today.  They must - 1) to get the shoulders to open, which 2) gets the club face back to square.

Hogan and everyone else of his era had to hit up on the sweeping clubs.  This is the origin of the "Reverse C". Swinging into this back-cracking position was written in Golf publications as the thing to do.  It was an equipment-necessitated theory.

The only way Mr. Hogan could hit up on his driver with the wristy swing that was natural to him was to move his ball position way forward of the natural bottom of the swing along the target line and close his stance so that his path.  Though moving across his feet, his new path was along the target line.  And his impact angle - once more level - allowed him to hit up on the ball.

Funny enough, the grip everyone lauds as the standard today, was actually complicit in the problem that necessitated his particular fix.  If his grip had been in his fingers more than his palm, his club would not have closed as quickly because it would necessitate a weaker left hand on the club.  This, consequently, would have disallowed the cupping of his left hand at the top of his swing.  This would have eliminated the down-cock he developed and allowed him to release his golf club into the hitting zone without fear of the hook.

So, to summarize.... Mr. Hogan did the best he could with what was known about the body and the golf swing at that time in history.  Most golfers who were raised on wooden-shafted golf clubs were predominantly arm swingers in that era.  They all adapted to the steel shaft in slightly different, but similar ways.  This era gave birth to the closed stance, as well as the shanks.