

Tom Cade: Hello, this is Pod for the Course, and I am Tom Cade, the Director of Communications for Washington Golf. And 2022, this year, is the centennial year of the Washington State Golf Association, which is now called Washington Golf. And today, we have with us Mike Riste, and Mike is many things. He is the official historian for the Pacific Northwest Golf Association. He's the historian at the British Columbia Golf Museum, up there in Vancouver, B.C. He is co-author of the monumental "Championships & Friendships" book, which is the centennial history book of the Pacific Northwest Golf Association, which was published in 1999.

He's also the author of the biography of A.V. Macan, Arthur Vernon Macan, and the book is called "Just Call Me Mac," and Macan is the well-known golf course architect who has put his name on numerous golf courses in the region such as ... Let's see here, I've got a list going somewhere. They are Royal Colwood in Victoria, Inglewood Golf Club, Fircrest in Tacoma, Broadmoor Golf Club, numerous clubs in the area.

Mike is the volunteer historian, again, at the British Columbia Golf Museum. He also laid the foundation for the history book for Washington Golf, which is going to come out here in just a couple of weeks actually, called "Washington Golf: 100 Years of Growing the Game." Mike did a lot of research in preparing the material for this book. And Mike Riste, thanks so much for being with us today.

Mike Riste: Oh, thanks Tom. Good to talk to you again. We haven't talked for quite a while and this is a whole new topic for us.

Tom Cade: It is, yeah. And with the border situation, there's not been much back and forth across the border for quite a while now, so hopefully that'll change here in the future.

Mike Riste: Yeah, I hope so.

Tom Cade: So Mike, I just ... Again, 2022. 100 years ago, 1922, the very first Washington State Amateur was held at the nine-hole golf course of Yakima Country Club in Yakima, Washington. That ostensibly was the informal and formal founding of the Washington State Golf Association. But there were numerous events leading up to the 1922 founding, and not just for Washington State Golf Association, but other golf associations, other golf courses. There was a lot going on in the golf community in our region around that time of the century, is that correct?

Mike Riste: Yeah, that's right Tom. After the war, all the returning soldiers had seen this game being played in Britain during the first World War. They came back to the Northwest, Vancouver, Seattle, Portland, and small towns like Yakima and Longview and interior towns like Kelowna, Salmon Arm, and they wanted to play this game. So when you're looking at the history of golf in the Northwest, period of the 1920s, there were probably more golf courses constructed. Nine, some 18, depending on the size of the town or whatever, how much money they had, than any other period in the 100-plus-year history of golf in the Pacific Northwest.

In towns like Seattle, Vancouver, Victoria, these returning soldiers couldn't join the golf clubs. Shaughnessy, Jericho, they were closed shops. Seattle Golf Club, closed to public players. So they had to start building golf courses to satisfy the demand. And as the number of golf courses grew, then it was only natural that we had to have some sort of body to oversee them.

And in British Columbia, there were a number of factors why the BC Golf Association formed prior to the Washington State Golf Association in 1922. Across Canada, golf was flourishing. And actually before the war, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba had already formed golf associations. And in 1921, Manitoba was very upset with the Royal Canadian Golf Association. It was basically run out of Toronto and Montreal, and they wanted more input into the game of golf in Canada. So they start the process to form the Western Golf Association in Canada, but they needed to have everybody involved, all the provinces in Western Canada. So they really encouraged the golf clubs that were forming in B.C. And at that time in 1921, there were 17 clubs that had formed and built golf courses.

So that was one reason why they formed. The other reason, they needed to have some sort of overseeing of all these clubs for rules and handicaps. And thirdly, in each area, they had actually started to form their own regional associations like the Interior, Victoria, Vancouver. So there was this movement to form the BC Golf Association. And by 1922 at Colwood at the PNGA event, that was the final step to form it. And to link this to the Washington State Golf Association, a fellow had attended that meeting by the name of George Wise. He was a member at the nine-hole Yakima Country Club, and he took the idea home to Washington and started the process to form the Washington State Golf Association.

Tom Cade: So yeah, the PNGA Championships in 1922 were held at Royal Colwood, and I think that was in June of 1922, is that correct?

Mike Riste: Yes, June. That was actually a really, really significant event for a whole pile of reasons. First of all, it was the largest PNGA ever held. They had somewhere in the neighborhood of 300 to 400 contestants from all over Western United States. Why did they come to Victoria?

Well, Macan had built this incredible golf course, Colwood, and word was getting out it was the best golf course ever constructed on the west coast. For example, it was the first golf course to have dogleg holes. All these really good players like from California, Utah, all showed up at Colwood to play this incredible golf course. And prior to it, Macan had been working for two years at upgrading the course, 1920 and '21, to make sure it was absolutely perfect. And this event probably propelled his career more than any other event.

And actually in July 1922, after the PNGA, he appeared in Seattle at *The Seattle Times* with Alex Rose, and he announced for the *Times*, "I am now Vernon Macan GA, Golf Architect. No one had ever heard that term before, and the people thought he was crazy. He had given up this incredible lands and forest job in Victoria, just a cushy job

because he had been wounded in the war. And they thought he was nuts, that he would quit it and all of a sudden became a GA, well, became the busiest golf course architect probably in the Northwest on the coast before the second World War. But that event in Colwood, for a whole bunch of reasons, was a really, really important PNGA golf tournament. It lasted for two weeks. At the hotel, The Empress, they had over 1,000 guests staying there to watch and play in this tournament.

Tom Cade: Wow. So representatives of different clubs from all over the Northwest were there as well, not just the players, correct?

Mike Riste: Correct. I always compared the PNGA tournaments during the 1920s as the week of the Masters at Augusta. Everybody came from all over the southwest, the north, to attend this incredible golf tournament. Well in the 1920s, the PNGA men's and women's amateur was the same sort of thing. If you wanted to be a socialite in the Northwest, you had to be at that event.

Tom Cade: I know that one of the six founding clubs of the PNGA was Butte Country Club from Montana. And so it wasn't just ... I mean this was a big area, it covered a large area. And I believe even Utah at the time was part of the PNGA. Was that right?

Mike Riste: It was, but the PNGA at that time allowed, how should I put it, really good players. Oh, I can't think of some names. Neville, all these guys from California because they were champions, they allowed them to play in the PNGA, even though their club was not a member. I guess you could say today, I think even the PNGA invites guests to play in their-

Tom Cade: They do, yeah. It's called presidential invitations, things like that. Yeah.

Mike Riste: Same sort of thing occurred then.

Tom Cade: Okay. So what year did Royal Colwood open? You say Macan was renovating a little bit in 1921 or so, but, what year did it open?

Mike Riste: Well, there was an "official unofficial" opening in November, I believe it was November 13th, 1913. And at that time, Victoria Golf Club and Seattle Golf Club, and I believe it's still being played today, it dates back to about 1908 I believe, they had a team match between the two clubs. They were at Victoria Golf Club in November 1913. The course was pretty much finished. It was open for play by invitation, and Macan invited all the players to his new creation.

And immediately one of my favorite quotes was in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, they said, "The most incredible golf course on the west coast rivals any eastern golf course," and they were referring to Colwood. And the basic design of these holes, this unique features putting these bunkers out on the fairways, not a lot of bunkers, but all these routes allowing very mid- and high-handicappers, "Wow, this was the best course I ever played." And then the low-handicappers, "Wow, this was an incredible golf course." This had never been heard of before.

Tom Cade: So actually, going back to Colwood, I know that Inglewood Golf Club, for example, although the club itself was formed 1919, I think the golf course, Inglewood Golf Course, didn't open until like 1921. Do you know if that's correct?

Mike Riste: Yeah. The official opening.

Tom Cade: The golf course itself, yeah. So during this time Macan, he was a busy guy, busy architect.

Mike Riste: Yeah. He had a lot of projects going on before he declared this GA title. He renovated Seattle Golf Club for the PNGA. He renovated Colwood. He built Inglewood. He had renovated Shaughnessy. He had eliminated the over-the-road holes at Victoria Golf Club. Just prior to declaring himself an architect, he had undertaken the contract for Manito, for Chehalis. They hadn't started yet, Bob Johnstone did the first nine holes at Rainier, and then Macan shortly after he declared this GA title, he got the job to design the back nine at Rainier. He was busy prior to this, but then after this Colwood tournament, he becomes really busy because now he's invited to California. There's a golf course, I believe it's called Meadow, it's up on the hill in San Francisco. Well, Macan was supposed to design that golf course, California Golf Club calls him in, and actually there was a clipping in the *San Francisco Chronicle* that everyone thought that Macan was going to move to California and set up shop because he felt he'd be more successful.

Tom Cade: So let's go back to the PNGA Championship in 1922. Again, that was in June. And the first Washington State Amateur was held in late September of 1922, so three months later. And so in those three months, George Wise, and it looks like a few other people were involved as well, such as W.E. Draper also of Yakima, and was a member at Yakima Country Club just like Wise was, and a few other men got together. So in those three months, they came up with a plan to conduct this first Washington State Amateur, yes?

Mike Riste: Yeah. But there was also another person who was basically I believe the most influential up until about 1926, '27, and that's Bob Johnstone. He had formed the Pacific Northwest Professional Golfers Association, but we have to go back basically to 1919, 1920. Prior to the first World War, there was a tournament held the first day, depending on the number of players or the very end of the PNGA tournament called the Pacific Northwest Open. It started in 1905 at the Lewis and Clark event in Portland at Waverley. And there were, it varied before the first war between four and 10 professionals working in the Northwest, Johnstone being one of them.

And so that these fellows could earn extra money, there was usually a purse of \$50 up for the pros, there was this open event held in conjunction with the PNGA, and usually a wealthy member like Cary Sayward in Victoria, somebody put up the \$50. The PNGA never put up the money, it was always a wealthy person in the area. So these pros, so after the war Johnstone in 1919, he approaches the PNGA and asks for permission to hold this Pacific Northwest Open on the two days prior to the PNGA's official opening. And usually it was on Sunday and Monday. And he raised the money, and the PNGA

agreed. And Johnstone's idea was, now there were many more pros in the area, it would give them an extra way to earn money. Okay?

So in 1922, there's this movement amongst the nine-hole golf courses to form this association. And they approach Johnstone, and Johnstone says, "Sure. I'll hold another open event so the pros can earn even more money called the Washington State Open. We'll hold it the first two days, 36 holes each day, and then you can hold your Washington State Amateur after our Open." So he forms the Pacific Northwest Professional Golfers Association in '22 to look after the Pacific Northwest Open and the Washington State Open.

Tom Cade: That is absolutely correct. And so 1922 is not only the founding of the Washington State Golf Association, but also the Pacific Northwest Section PGA, which Johnstone drove too. And it should be noted also that yes, both of those tournaments, the Washington State Amateur and the Washington State Open, were held consecutively at the same venue the same week for years starting in 1922.

Mike Riste: Yes. And he arranged the courses, and he actually oversaw the operation of both tournaments. So therefore, what was the problem with these nine-hole golf courses? Well, like the Manitoba Golf Association who was upset with the RCGA, the nine-hole golf courses in Washington were upset with the PNGA.

Tom Cade: Because the PNGA did not hold any of their championships on nine-hole courses, is that correct?

Mike Riste: That's correct. And as A.S. Kerry pointed out, the PNGA Championships had become so large it was impossible to hold it on a nine-hole golf course. It just wasn't possible. So he was entirely in favor of these nine-hole golf courses all uniting under an umbrella. In fact, he was the first chairman, he donated the first trophy, and they would hold their own tournament on the nine-hole golf courses. Now there were some stipulations. The PNGA, and Washington State agreed, in order for a nine-hole golf course to hold this event, they had to be a member of the PNGA. And then another reason for holding as Kerry said, "It will be good for the little nine-hole golf courses and these little towns," like the first ones were held at Yakima, Earlington.

Tom Cade: And Grays Harbor over on the coast, in Aberdeen.

Mike Riste: Oh, and Aberdeen. These citizens of these little towns would have an opportunity to see these very good players for a week. So everybody was happy, but I found it interesting that the Washington State Golf Association did something different than the PNGA, mostly during the 1920s and even into the '30s, and I always use Joanne Carner and Scotty Campbell as examples: to play in the PNGA events, you had to belong to a PNGA member club.

For example in British Columbia, there were only about four or five clubs that belonged. So if you were a member of Penticton Golf Club in the 1920s, you couldn't play in a PNGA event because their club didn't belong. Scotty Campbell, he was a public golfer.

He got a free membership at Sand Point CC, same as Joanne Carner. They gave them free memberships so they could play in the PNGA. But the Washington State Golf Association didn't have that rule originally. They allowed any member of a private golf club on the coast to play in their event. And actually, the sidelight, the British Columbia Golf Association when it was formed, it took over the operation of the BC Men's Amateur and the BC Ladies. And the original qualifications for the original BC Men's Amateur in 1894 allowed any member of any golf club in North America to play in the event. So, that was a little quirk that the Washington State Golf Association kept separate from PNGA.

Tom Cade: So it sounds like during this time, the early 1920s, shortly after World War I, there was such an interest in the game of golf, and in particular an interest in competitive golf for local players, that they needed to hold these tournaments where more people could play. Yes?

Mike Riste: Oh yeah, absolutely. And most of the golf courses that got built, and I can tell you an interesting story of why, but these small towns, Longview, Chehalis, over on the peninsula. They all built nine-hole golf courses. First of all, they didn't have the land, didn't have the money, didn't know if the whole proposition was going to work. There were a whole bunch down in southwest Washington below Aberdeen on the coast. From Aberdeen to the California border in the late 1930s, there were something like a dozen golf courses along that coast. They were all nine holers. And Macan didn't build very many of them for a specific reason.

So this Washington State Golf Association had a lot of members, mainly all nine-hole golf courses, so their members could play in a state ...

Tom Cade: Statewide championship, yeah.

Mike Riste: Exactly.

Tom Cade: And as I understand it, one of the reasons was to not only allow more players to have a chance to play in events, but the other reason to conduct these events at nine-hole golf courses was to help them grow to 18-hole courses. Yes?

Mike Riste: Absolutely. Many of them did, some didn't. Like Chehalis, Macan always referred to it as his best nine-hole golf course he had ever designed. I was about 10 miles south of Chehalis on the Pacific Highway in Jackson Prairie. I actually just finished a major article on it. And it was the first nine-hole golf course in the Pacific Northwest, maybe even the coast, where Macan designed 18 tees and nine greens. So it was like playing two different nine-hole golf courses, and that had never been heard of before.

Tom Cade: Wow. I don't think that golf course exists anymore. Is that right?

Mike Riste: Unfortunately, one of the mysteries, and I put it in my article, I don't know if anybody ever knows the full story. It had a tournament called the Short Stop, which was another event which was totally unique to the Northwest, totally unique to Chehalis. They had

around 200 to 300 people try to qualify for 64 spots on the Sunday. And all of a sudden in 1936, it basically closed for no apparent reason at all. One of the mysteries.

Tom Cade: Going back to this Bob Johnstone person, he's an interesting man, and he has had a lot of impact on the game in our region. And you wouldn't even think about it because for whatever reason, he's not one of the glamorous names so to speak. But it was he who helped found the first municipal course in Washington, which was Jefferson Park Golf Course, in 1915. And at the time, I believe he was the head pro at Seattle Golf Club. And I also think that he played in that exhibition with Jim Barnes and Ted Ray and Harry Vardon. Is that correct?

Mike Riste: Yep, that's correct. Yeah, Bob Johnstone is a fascinating character. He arrived on the Pacific coast in 1898. He was probably one of the very first, if not the first, golf professional in California at the San Francisco Golf Club. And he arrived in the Pacific Northwest in 1905 when Seattle Golf Club moved from Laurelhurst to the Highlands, where it is today. And he was basically the man that designed it. He designed, as you say, the first public golf course. He designed the first nine holes at Rainier. He designed another nine-hole course ... Oh, West Side Golf Course, which was in the north end, I think basically near Jackson Park. It existed only for about 20 years. Yeah, he was a very fascinating guy. He was from I believe Aberdeen, Scotland. Good player, played in that exhibition as you said with Ted Ray and Harry Vardon, played in a number of exhibitions.

Jim Barnes also returned. He and Jock Hutchison returned in 1923. Johnstone played against them at Seattle Golf Club. There's two people in the Northwest that had an incredible influence on the development of golf, and nobody has ever really written their story. They appear in books, they appear everywhere. And that's Bob Johnstone and A.S. Kerry. A.S. Kerry had the money, he was a lumberman from Minnesota I believe. He arrived around 1910 in the Northwest. And because he had the finances, he financed the Vardon/Ray exhibition matches in the Northwest. He invited Chick Evans and I forget who else in 1913 to play a series of exhibitions in the Northwest. He financed the first team of amateurs to go to the Western Amateur in 1921, there were 21 players from the Northwest who went to play in the Western Amateur. e was the first one from the Northwest to serve on the USGA executive committee. Fascinating character, but boy, did he have a lot of influence on the development of golf. He redid the PNGA Constitution in 1927. He revamped it. Yeah, a lot of input those two fellows had on golf.

Tom Cade: So A.S. Kerry, as I understand it, he was the President of PNGA in 1920, is that correct Mike?

Mike Riste: It could be. I would have to look it up.

Tom Cade: Yeah, I believe so. I'm just trying to figure out the timeline here. So in June at the PNGA Championship at Royal Colwood, the British Columbia Golf Association is founded. And between June and September, when the Washington State Amateur is held and the WSGA is founded, Bob Johnstone, George Wise, and W.E. Draper, and A.S. Kerry, they all get together to form these two championships, the Washington State Open and Washington State Amateur, held at Yakima Country Club. And how did A.S. Kerry get

involved with this? I know that they selected him as the first President of the WSGA, I think that was because he was at the time the PNGA President.

Mike Riste: I believe so because the clipping that basically sets up the Washington State Golf Association, the clipping is something like, "State association is under the wing of the PNGA."

Tom Cade: Okay. That makes sense.

Mike Riste: That really happened. It got set up and then it kind of went on its own. And as we're going to talk about here around 1926, it's really floundering. It needs some sort of orderliness, as Dr. Ford said. So what happened? Kerry got the whole thing rolling. PNGA got it rolling. But they had really very, very little influence for the first five years. Basically, it was run by Johnstone. Johnstone, he found the venue. The club then, the president or the captain, I think it was usually the president, of the host club, they became the president of the Washington State Golf Association. They oversaw the tournament at their club. And then the following year was the same thing. Johnstone went out and got Aberdeen to host it. Anyway, he was the head of the bank in Grays Harbor, and he's the president for that particular year. So for the first five years, Kerry got it started, but I don't think the PNGA had a lot of influence.

Tom Cade: And I think it was Kerry who actually donated the first trophy for the championship. It was called the Kerry Cup, is that right, for the Washington State Amateur?

Mike Riste: Yeah.

Tom Cade: Okay.

Mike Riste: And the rule was that if you won it three times, you got to keep it. And I believe it was Chuck Hunter who won it three consecutive times, and that's why it ended up in Tacoma, and I think you took a photo of it, when we were at Tacoma Country & Golf Club, I found the cup in their trophy case. Nobody quite knew why it was there. Well, Chuck Hunter had won it three times, so he retired.

Tom Cade: And that trophy still does exist in their trophy case at Tacoma Country and Golf Club.

Mike Riste: Is it?

Tom Cade: Yeah, still there. So the second president, like you said, they just went down the line. If you were the president of the golf course, you were president of the WSGA for that year.

Mike Riste: Correct.

Tom Cade: And during those first few decades, the only function, the sole function of the WSGA, was to conduct this one state amateur championship. And that was all it did. There was

no administrative duties really. There was no course rating. They didn't do handicapping at the time. It was just to run this one state championship. Is that right, Mike?

Mike Riste: Yeah, but that was characteristic of the British Columbia Golf Association as well. In fact, they gave up the ladies in 1933 when the CLGUBC branch of the women formed, so then they took over their own tournament. The BC Golf Association didn't really have another function until 1948 after the war, when they started holding the BC Junior. And really, the only function was operating the BC Men's Amateur, same as Washington State. I think the Oregon Golf Association, which formed in 1924, I think they actually operate the amateur and the open, but I'm not certain. But yeah, these associations had very little duties. But in the Northwest, we had the PNGA. The PNGA oversaw the rules, standardized the handicapping, and the provincial and state associations, they didn't have anything to do with that. That was the PNGA's job.

Tom Cade: So after a few years, yes because it was floundering, there was no real organization at the time. In fact, just a segue on this, the Washington State Women's Golf Association was founded in 1922, and their first championship was held in 1922 at Grays Harbor Country Club. And I think they were a lot more organized at the time. They had a board, they had elected officials, they had a president, they had the whole thing. And the WSGA did not have that, is that correct?

Mike Riste: Yeah, that's correct. They were organized from day one. Mrs ... The lady at Aberdeen isn't it? I can't remember-

Tom Cade: Patterson, I think.

Mike Riste: Patterson.

Tom Cade: Yeah.

Mike Riste: She organized it. And they had a board of trustees. They held a regular annual meeting, totally separate from the date of the tournament. They produced financials. They had committees to do the social activities of their amateur, to oversee the tournament. No, they were super, super organized. And therefore, it was only natural that they would last forever. Whereas the men, because of this lack of, as Dr. Ford said "orderliness," it probably would've folded eventually. It was on the route to folding in 1926. Dr. Ford had been president of the Washington State Golf Association because they went away from their nine-hole concept and held the 1926 tournament at Inglewood. And so he was the president, and he could see very quickly that there was a problem here. This thing, it was loosey-goosey. So he then called a meeting in 1927. He produced a constitution and bylaws, circulated it to every golf course, every club in Washington state, and asked everybody to come to the 1927 Washington State Amateur so they could have some sort of order here.

Tom Cade: And that 1927 Washington State Amateur was held at Fircrest Golf club outside Tacoma, and so that was when things really became official so to speak. Is that right?

Mike Riste: Yeah. He set up a similar situation to the women. Dr. Ford's another really interesting guy. He became the president of the PPGA in 1929, and he'd been influential at Inglewood. He was involved in the formation, and he had been very influential in Seattle golf because at this time during the '20s, the Seattle Golf Association formed, and he was part of the formation of that. He was another fellow, not quite as influential as Kerry, but definitely a very close second.

Tom Cade: So 1927, it picks up again and it goes along, and what I think is one of the most interesting things is during World War II. For many years, even in our office, we had assumed that the Washington State Amateur was on hiatus during World War II, just like every other major tournament in the area and across the nation, and across the world really. But that was not the case. The Washington State Amateur was held during World War II, just in a different format. Is that right?

Mike Riste: In fact, I'll give you a piece of trivia. There's one tournament that until COVID, and I couldn't convince them to hold something to keep the record going, the Vancouver City and District Men's Championship up until COVID had been held every year continuously since 1913. And my research showed that it was the oldest continuous state, provincial, or national championship in North America, and they broke it because of COVID. But yes, the State Amateur, it held and it's a really unique story of how they did it, why they did it. I found it fascinating.

Tom Cade: Well, as I understand it, the Washington State Amateur was held as match play until 1942, I think it was, or 1941 was the last year was held as match play. And then during the war for I believe four years, it was held as stroke play. Is that right?

Mike Riste: Correct. That's correct.

Tom Cade: Yeah. And the reasons for doing so ...

Mike Riste: You go ahead.

Tom Cade: The reasons for doing so, I'm asking you, what do you think?

Mike Riste: So the war's on, and the U.S. enters the war in 1942. Sandpoint Naval Station is part of a base. After the Japanese bomb Pearl Harbor, Canada and the U.S. become really nervous that they're going to have a surprise attack by Japanese submarines. So from San Diego to Fairbanks, Alaska, both countries set up a series of amphibious bases along the coast to patrol outside their boundary. And Sand Point was one of them. Jericho in Vancouver was the biggest in Canada.

So there's Naval people stationed there. There's also soldiers stationed at Fort Lewis and Boeing factory at Chilliwack in Vancouver is going full bore, and also Boeing in Renton. So there's soldiers, there's Naval people, there's service people, have come from all over the country to serve in these spaces. And there's lots of really, really, really good golfers. So the Washington State Golf Association, I believe it was George Pope, he comes up with the idea, "Well, let's hold a tournament and we'll allow any serviceman who is

serving at one of these bases or working at Boeing to play in this tournament. Any member of the WSGA, PNGA, British Columbia Golf. We'll allow them all to play in this tournament." Wow. I think the first event they had like 200, 250 applicants.

Tom Cade: Yeah, they-

Mike Riste: Well, they couldn't hold it in match play for a whole week. First of all, these guys can't get the time off. They can get the weekend off. So the organizers say, "Okay, we'll have 36 holes on Saturday, and we'll have 36 holes on Sunday." Well, they allow anybody to come. And the first day of the first tournament in stroke play, I think there's 250 people. Well, you can't have that in a 72-hole tournament. So they reduce it to 54 holes. And it's probably ... Well, it's after the tournament in '40, I guess the first one after is '46, there's a movement saying, "Wow, we had the most successful Washington State Amateurs ever held. Let's keep it at stroke play." But the Jonsons and the people involved in Washington Golf said, "No, no. We're going to go back to match play."

Tom Cade: And so during the war, not only did they have all the servicemen who could play in these tournaments, but also all of these employees, just basic employees of the Boeing plants and the Bremerton shipyards and all of that. They couldn't play during the week anyway as well because they were on full war production schedules. And so they got to play on weekends as well. And I guess, I don't know if it was a specific restriction, but they could not hold any tournaments during the week for those reasons because of war production purposes.

And there's one story in the 1944 Washington State Amateur, and you probably know this story Mike, but Harry Givan and Scotty Campbell were tied after 54 holes on Sunday. And they had to wait until the next Sunday to do an 18-hole playoff because they couldn't play during the week.

Mike Riste: Correct. There was another reason why: basically in British Columbia and in Oregon, they canceled their tournaments because of gas rationing. But in Seattle, because everybody was so close, like Sand Point was close and Fort Lewis and the people were working at Bremerton. Everybody was close, they didn't feel that the gas rationing would be a big problem in Oregon and Washington. That's the main reasons why their championships were canceled in BC and Oregon, because of gas rationing.

Tom Cade: Yeah. I believe the entries for those wartime tournaments were the largest that they still to this day have ever had, as I understand.

Mike Riste: Oh, really?

Tom Cade: Yeah.

Mike Riste: That's interesting.

Tom Cade: So they go back to match play I believe in 1946, and I think they stayed as match play until 1965 if I remember correctly.

Mike Riste: '64 I think.

Tom Cade: And they reverted to stroke play again, and that's what they've done in that championship ever since.

Mike Riste: Yeah, unlike the PNGA who maintained their match play. And the reason for that is the USGA went to stroke play, and the reason they went to stroke play was because of television. Match play did not work well on TV, so they went to a stroke play format, strictly to accommodate television.

Television had a big, big influence on changing a number of things. In the British Open, American players wouldn't go over. They wanted the British Open on TV and they wanted to play the U.S. ball, and that's why the British ball got outlawed in the British Open, mainly because of TV. TV was a big influence in marketing and everything, Arnold Palmer and all that. But the PNGA did not fall, even though the PNGA was part of USGA, they did not follow the same thing as the USGA. They kept their match play.

Tom Cade: So you're talking about the U.S. Open?

Mike Riste: U.S. Open.

Tom Cade: I know the U.S. Amateur, they tried that as stroke play for a while, and I don't know why they changed back to match play. But there was a period in the '70s or something like that. I don't know my dates on that exactly, but they played stroke play for a while, the U.S. Amateur, and now they have reverted back to match play in the U.S. Amateur as well.

Mike Riste: That's correct. I think it went back, and unfortunately the reason has slipped my memory. There was a very, very specific reason why they went back, but it was in the '70s. I'll take a guess mid-'70s. It was about a decade when they were in stroke play, and I forget the reason why they went back, but there was a very specific reason.

Tom Cade: In fact, if I remember right, the 1970 U.S. Amateur was held at Waverley I think, and Lanny Watkins won it in stroke play. I'd have to look on that. But any listeners out there, they can correct me on that, but I believe that's what it was.

Mike Riste: There was an interesting sidelight with regard to golf during the war, and it lasted for I guess about the same time, maybe 1941, it could have been '40 and '41, I'd have to check. But because Boeing had a plant in Vancouver in Chilliwack and on Sea Island, and because they had plants in Seattle area, I think three, there was a tournament played again on the weekend of the good amateurs and professionals. There were 24 players on each team, and they played a home and home series for the [inaudible 00:51:16] Cup. And [inaudible 00:51:18] was a prominent young United Distillery in Vancouver, one of the wealthiest guys in Vancouver. And he financed these trips back and forth, and it was a home and home series, one played late June and one played in September. And people like Stan Leonard, I wouldn't be surprised if I checked Bob Johnson played on it. I know Gordy Richards played. But they had to be working at the Boeing plant to

be able to play on these teams, Benny Koch, all the good players in Vancouver played against the good players in Seattle, which I didn't know about until about a couple of weeks ago. So they had these matches, which I thought was kind of cool.

Tom Cade: So just to kind of wrap up this session, Mike, is there anything else about the early years of the Washington State Golf Association? I know there was a strong connection between the WSGA and the PNGA, and the PNGA had taken the WSGA under their wing for the first several years.

Mike Riste: I think it actually was under their wing through the Jonson's because the Jonson's basically ran the PNGA from Ernie Johnson's office. He ran the PNGA and the Washington State Golf Association. And I can remember going to Evan Scholar selection meetings in the 1970s through the '80s. And there was this very, very close affinity between Washington State Golf and PNGA, and I think it was basically through Ernie Jonson because he basically ran both.

And also the handicap system that Ernie devised, and he first of all did a test market in the Seattle Golf Association to see how it would work, and then he expanded it to the Washington State Golf Association. Then he expanded it to the PNGA, which took it all over the region, and then he gave it to the USGA and it's still used in some format today. So there was evolution.

And then I'll never forget the meeting in the 1990s, when Washington State took over the funding for the handicap system to give them money. The PNGA gave it to Washington State Golf because they had no money. And PNGA was starting to accumulate a lot of money. And the PNGA, under Washington State, wanted to have a golf course because Oregon had a golf course. So in order to fund it, the handicap system was transferred to Washington State Golf, and that was quite a contentious meeting. I actually had lunch a couple of days ago with Dorothy, and we were talking about this, probably the most contentious PNGA annual meeting we'd ever been at. And it was the transferring of this power. Because handicap system was very profitable.

Tom Cade: And that transfer of power ultimately happened in the early '90s, correct?

Mike Riste: I'm sorry?

Tom Cade: The transfer of the power from the PNGA to the WSGA happened in the early 1990s?

Mike Riste: Yeah, we thought it was after the World Amateur in Vancouver. I always use it as a reference, 1992. We thought it was probably 1993 or '94. We didn't think it went much further. That would be my guess. One day, I'll have to look at those minutes from that meeting because that, I'd just never seen anything like it in my life. People were yelling and screaming and, "The PNGA is going to go broke. They're going to fold. They're going to have no money." Yeah, it was ... Oh, what a meeting.

Tom Cade: We're talking today with Mike Riste. And again, Mike is the historian for the BC Golf Museum in Vancouver, British Columbia. And the website for that is bcgolfhouse.com.

And Mike is also the official historian for the Pacific Northwest Golf Association, and he was talking with us today about the centennial year for the Washington State Golf Association, which is now known as Washington Golf, and which was founded in 1922 with the first playing of the Washington State Amateur at Yakima Country Club. And the book is coming out in a few weeks called "Washington Golf: 100 Years of Growing the Game," and Mike Riste provided a huge amount of material for that book, which we used to complete the book.

Mike, thanks so much for talking with us today, and we'll talk again too. This is just part one of this particular conversation regarding the history of the Washington State Golf Association and Washington Golf, and thanks so much Mike for being with us today.

Mike Riste: Oh, you're very welcome, looking forward to doing it again. And if I had a choice of topics, I specialize in lost golf courses of the Pacific Northwest. And people would be astounded to know how many golf courses closed at the end of the 1930s that had existed in the '20s and '30s. I believe every small town, Washington, Oregon, British Columbia, most of them are ghost towns today, had a golf course, and there was one specific reason why. Looking forward to it.

Tom Cade: Okay. And again, Mike Riste, thanks so much for being with us today. Bcgolfhouse.com if you want to learn more about the museum that Mike volunteers at. Thanks again Mike, and we'll talk again soon.

Mike Riste: Good. Thank you. Good-bye.

Tom Cade: Bye.