

Tom Cade: Hello, this is Pod For the Course. I'm Tom Cade, the director of communications for Washington Golf. Today, we are doing the fifth in a series of podcasts with Mike Riste. Mike is the volunteer curator and historian for the BC Golf Museum, which is housed in BC Golf House, which is located just off the 8th tee at University Golf Club, in Vancouver, British Columbia. It's actually housed inside the old clubhouse there at the golf course.

Mike is also the official historian for the Pacific Northwest Golf Association. He was co-author of the monumental Championships and Friendships Centennial History Book of the Pacific Northwest Golf Association, which was published in 1999. He also did the foundational research for the Centennial History Book For Washington Golf, which was the history of the Washington State Golf Association, published last year.

Last year was the centennial for Washington Golf. We started doing a series of podcasts, just to commemorate the historical year for the association. Once we began having a conversation with Mike on these podcasts, we kept coming across other subject matters, so it has now blossomed into a series of these discussions with Mike Riste. Again, welcome today, to Mike Riste. Mike, thanks again so much for being on with us today.

Mike Riste: Oh, my pleasure. It's been a lot of fun researching these things.

Tom Cade: As I mentioned, every time we had a conversation, we started coming up with other ideas and topics of conversation that we just wanted to make sure we touched on. Not just for the centennial history, but just for the history of golf in the region. Because, well I don't need to tell you, but you start getting into these things, the rich history that's here, of golf, is really amazing.

Mike Riste: Yeah, I guess when you started doing the research for the Washington State Golf Association, certain names kept popping up. People I actually knew nothing about. Particularly the gentleman we're going to talk about today. Then when we researched his life, wow. He had quite an influence, not only in golf, but I can give you examples, parks, the Olympia Hotel. He definitely played a key role in the development of Seattle, which I find amazing.

Tom Cade: Right, so just what we're talking about today is a man by the name of Albert Sperry Kerry. He's better known as A.S. Kerry. You do not have to go too deeply into the history of golf in the region, before you start coming across the name of A.S. Kerry, pretty much everywhere you look. Is that right, Mike?

Mike Riste: Yeah, definitely. His mentor, I guess you would say, a C.J. Smith, who was probably the wealthiest man in Seattle when Kerry arrived in 1886. C.J., and I think because it was such a close relationship between A.S. and C.J., I guess that's why he never, anywhere in the research, you never see his first name, Albert. You never see him referred to as Albert Kerry. All of the newspapers, you do a word search, it's always A.S. When you do the research for Smith, it's always C.J. So I think that because there was such a close relationship between these two men, that's why Kerry never used his first name.

Tom Cade: So you mentioned that A.S. Kerry arrived in Seattle in 1886. It looks like he was about 20 years old or so at that time? He was born in Ontario, it looks like.

Mike Riste: Yeah, he was actually a Canadian. The census lists 1866 and 1867, and on his death certificate it's actually 1867. So yeah, he was quite young when he arrived. His family were just farmers in Kingston, Ontario. They didn't have any key role as politicians. Just a very ordinary family. I

assume they came probably from Britain. Why he arrived in Seattle, unless some family member today could tell me, I really have no idea.

Tom Cade: I wonder if he just came to Seattle, just to make his way on his own in life?

Mike Riste: Yeah, I would think so. Which was very common. This wasn't an exception or anything, because Seattle was starting to boom. They needed businessmen. It was attractive to these young fellows from the east, to come and open a business. How he got connected with C.J., you can only speculate. But obviously, C.J. saw something in him, because they became very, very close, and played a key role in the development of Seattle.

Tom Cade: So it looks like for A.S. Kerry, his first job basically was working in a lumber mill.

Mike Riste: Yeah, started as a tallyman. He started on the green chain, counting boards coming off the green chain, and tallying that.

Tom Cade: I'm looking at your notes here about him. Just a tallyman, counting boards that came off the mill. Within a year he was a foreman of the mill. Within two years he was a manager of the mill. Two years later, C.J. Smith helped Kerry start his own sawmill, and three years after that, Kerry became one of the leading sawmill operators in Seattle, and began buying thousands of acres of forest land in Washington and Oregon.

Mike Riste: Yeah, and he and C.J., they actually started buying up a lot of the area in Seattle. All the timber land in the north end.

Tom Cade: Oh, okay.

Mike Riste: They controlled a lot of land around Seattle. I'm only speculating, but one of their key first housing developments, because these guys could see that people would need housing, they were building one, two, three bedroom homes. Their first was the Highlands, and that's where the Seattle Golf Club is.

C.J. got A.S. to become a golfer. He was one of the founders of the Seattle Golf Club. So you can speculate that C.J. and A.S. donated that land to the Seattle Golf Club. Kerry's house is right at the entrance to the Seattle Golf Club.

Tom Cade: Is it still there, that house?

Mike Riste: Yeah, it's still there. Every time I go to Seattle Golf Club, I always stop and look over, and say, "I wonder if the Kerry family, the relatives, still own that house?"

Tom Cade: I'll be darned.

Mike Riste: I haven't done the research yet to figure it out.

Tom Cade: So then in 1900, Seattle Golf Club was formed. C.J. Smith and A.S. Kerry were one of the founding members of that club, yes?

Mike Riste: Correct, yeah. Kerry had never played golf before, as far as I can tell. But C.J. had. I think he came with a golfing background, to Seattle. Came from the Midwest. But there's vindication for

Kerry: he became a very good golfer very quickly, and had a single digit handicap basically his entire life.

Tom Cade: Amazing. So, he arrived in 1886 as a 19-year-old, and really within a decade, he's one of the wealthiest people in Seattle.

Mike Riste: Yeah, just before the war, the Seattle Times did a survey of the 12 wealthiest people in Seattle. C.J. was the wealthiest, and Kerry I think ranked third.

Tom Cade: I'll be darned.

Mike Riste: For all were millionaires. This is pre First World War, so that much wealth accumulated. But I think the key thing about Kerry, that goes through this entire research, which amazes me, is the fact that he was so positive. He believed anything could be done. To prove it, he carried it out. He put his money behind his mouth. Which is quite unique, actually. When he was on the Parks Board, you'll have to help me, the big hotel downtown, is it the Olympia, or the Olympic?

Tom Cade: It used to be the Olympic, that's correct.

Mike Riste: The Olympic. So in the 1920s for example, Kerry felt that Seattle should have a world class hotel. So he founded the Olympic Building Foundation. It floundered around, and it wasn't getting anywhere. So finally Kerry said, "I will take it over. I will build this hotel. But I want full control," and he did. They gave him full control, and he got the hotel built. But that was characteristic. Whether it was with the PNGA, or the Washington State Golf Association. Whether him sitting on the Western Golf Association Board, or on the USGA, he was a doer, and he put his money on the table to make sure it happened.

Tom Cade: I'm just trying to imagine his life. So again, arriving at age 19, in Seattle. I'm assuming, not much money in his pockets. Within a decade, he becomes a successful businessman. Before World War One, he's in the top three wealthiest people in the area. Yeah, I would say he is a go-getter. He likes to get things done.

Mike Riste: Take for example, one little story. He basically controlled all the timber on both sides of the Columbia River, from the town of Kerry to Astoria. It's about 30 miles. He wanted to build a railway on the south side of the Columbia, on the Oregon side. He approached all these engineers to building this railway, and they said, "Forget it. It's impossible. You're going to have to drill an 1800-foot tunnel. There's quicksand all along the river." Kerry said, "No, we're going to build it," and he did. He built the railway. Apparently it's still there today, from the little town of Kerry, all the way out to Astoria.

He wouldn't take no for an answer. Whatever he thought could be done, it would be done. Before 1920, he's in the hospital having an appendix operation. He learns that his sawmill has burned down. His executives tell him, "I've got some bad news for you," and I think that was his second mill fire, or third. Anyway, they say, "Oh, we've had a tragedy. The mill has burned down." He said, "Oh, no problem. I'll build a bigger and better one. Don't worry about it." That was Kerry. Nothing couldn't be accomplished under him.

We'll get later into him financing these trips on the golfers in the Northwest, to go play in the Western Amateur. Then he gives the board, I think it was 1923, he challenges them, that, "I can put together a team from Washington and Oregon, that will beat any team that you want to put

together, of all the organized states of the Western Golf Association." They said he was crazy, but he wasn't. He put that team together, and they actually, that was the year Stein finished second. He would do anything. I would love to have met this guy. I would give anything to meet him.

Tom Cade: I'm just again looking at his bio here. So he becomes a member of Seattle Golf Club in 1900, which was their founding year. The other things that he does, it looks like in 1909, when Seattle hosted the Yukon Exposition there in Seattle, he played golf with President Taft, who came to town for the exposition. He played golf at Seattle Golf Club, and Kerry played nine holes with him.

Mike Riste: That's right.

Tom Cade: He wanted a major tournament, to compete with the PPGA Championship. Is that right?

Mike Riste: Yeah, the Potlatch. He thought, "Well, we're having this big exposition." I didn't go in and research before that. For all I know, he could have made that thing happen. It was built on lumber. So it seems reasonable to me, that maybe in 1906 or 1905, I think that's how far ahead they planned these things, maybe he was the person who said, "Look, we're going to put on this exposition." It was out at the University of Washington grounds. Some of the buildings, when I went to university there, they were the original 1909 buildings, were still there.

So he organizes this Potlatch tournament. Of course, he supplies the money for the pros, and he wanted it to compete with the PPGA. It lasted, I think about a decade. They held one every year. But that was Kerry.

Tom Cade: So that was in 1909, and from 1910 to 1920, he was a member of Waverley Country Club, down in Portland. I think, according to your notes, he was a member there for those 10 years, because specifically, he was living in Portland at the time to oversee his timber operation, and I'm assuming also to oversee the construction of his railroad that was along the Columbia River?

Mike Riste: Yeah, that's right. If you look at the clippings, he still came back to Seattle. But his main residence in the 1920 census was Portland. He wanted to organize that logging operation, and I would imagine, 30 miles along the river, you have all the timber on both sides, you must have thousands of acres of timber. That's pretty obvious.

Tom Cade: Yeah.

Mike Riste: Once he had it all organized, he only had a 50% share in that company. He sold 50% of it. So I'd say he was a minor shareholder. But he did, and when he died he was an honorary member of Waverley.

Tom Cade: In 1912, he becomes a director for the Western Golf Association. Why do you suppose he did that? All the way from Seattle, to be a director of the Western Golf Association? Which at the time, and still is, based in Chicago.

Mike Riste: Yeah, I think that was because of his roots with the PPGA. They were pretty close, even though PPGA was probably closer to the USGA. But he didn't become a board president. He was on the main executive committee of the board of USGA, but that was later. I think it was through his PPGA connections. That they probably, yeah.

Then, oh, no, there was one other major factor, which I could never figure out exactly when it started. We have to mention that in 1913, he financed a trip for a group of golfers, led by Chick Evans, to come and play in the Pacific Northwest. The Western Golf Association wouldn't finance it, because they were worried about all those players losing their amateur status.

Tom Cade: Oh, sure. Yeah.

Mike Riste: Evans and Kerry became very close lifelong friends. Now whether they were friends before, maybe Kerry had lived in Chicago before he came to Seattle. I don't know. But the clippings clearly state that Evans and Kerry became very, very close, longtime friends. Evans was heavily associated with the Western Golf Association, so he got him on their board.

Tom Cade: Yeah, that makes sense, sure. So that was 1913.

Mike Riste: Kerry actually was the chair of the Seattle Parks Board.

Tom Cade: That's right, yeah. That's right. So he was involved with the creation of the first municipal course in Seattle there. The Jefferson Park Golf Course. Is that right?

Mike Riste: Well I think it's actually the first on the entire west coast.

Tom Cade: Yeah, mm-hmm.

Mike Riste: I believe, because the one in San Francisco didn't open, I don't think, until 1915 or 1916. So yeah, he was instrumental. But he was a golfer, and he was trying to create, I found this term, "golfer's paradise," in the Northwest. That would be all part of his philosophy, for creating this training ground for these really, really good players to compete on a national level. Even though he was a private club member, and they were usually very distinct from the public golfer, in Kerry's case, I don't think that was the fact. I think he was more interested in a golfer. Whether you belonged to a private club, you belonged to a private club, a public course or private course, I don't think that really mattered with Kerry.

Tom Cade: So Jefferson Park, the municipal course there in Seattle, it opened in 1915. I think you are correct, it was the first municipal course on the west coast. It became very popular. I think I read a statistic somewhere, that by 1922, that course was doing 100,000 rounds a year. Just a phenomenal amount of play on a public golf course.

Mike Riste: A really interesting piece of trivia with the opening of that golf course. It was all finished in 1914. The summer of 1914, it was totally playable. So the Parks Board has to make a decision. "Do we open it just for a few months? Or do we wait until the following year? Because it may not be financially successful." So they didn't open it.

The first year of operation, they had, in the short timeframe that it opened, over 100,000 rounds of golf. It made enough money, and from that fact, Calgary opened a public golf course, Spokane opened a public golf course. They were trying to get one in Vancouver, Victoria, Portland. All these cities could see, "Wow, this thing's a gold mine." That's a really neat piece of trivia about Jefferson.

Tom Cade: You spoke about the exhibition matches with Chick Evans in 1913, and several other amateurs that came out from the Western Golf Association. Also in 1913, there was an exhibition tour

throughout the Northwest by Ted Ray, and Harry Vardon, who played with the local pro Jim Barnes, and I believe Robert Johnstone was one of the other players.

Mike Riste: Yeah, that's right. Would never have happened without Kerry.

Tom Cade: Did he finance that tour?

Mike Riste: Oh yeah, absolutely. He went to California, to the organizers, Spalding, of that tournament, and said, "I will pay all the costs, for those guys to come to the Northwest. Because I want the people in the Northwest to see these fellas." Now you have to realize, for the people that aren't aware, 1913 was probably the most important year in the development of golf in North America. Francis Ouimet, in September, had defeated Vardon and Ray in a playoff, to get headlines across the country. This amateur, beating these two pros.

Tom Cade: To win the U.S. Open, yeah.

Mike Riste: So then Spalding said, "Oh, well we'll put Vardon and Ray on a tour across the country, to sell our golf equipment. But they weren't planning to come to the Northwest, or to go back across Canada, because they didn't think the audience there'd be enough demand. So Kerry financed them to come to the Northwest. They played at Waverley, Spokane, Tacoma, Seattle, Victoria, Vancouver. Then they went across Calgary, Medicine Hat, Winnipeg, and then went back down to Chicago.

But that tour probably did more, particularly in the Northwest, to expand golf. Everybody wanted to play golf once they saw these guys in the Northwest. In Tacoma, there were three golf courses built within six months after that exhibition. Lockburn, Lakeside, and Lakewood. All what we would call semi-private public golf courses today.

And basically Vardon and Ray were happy, because they got the gate, and they got an extra \$100 if they broke the course record. So in Victoria, they stayed another day to play another round so they could each break the course record at a Victoria golf course. They made a lot of money.

I remember interviewing a fellow, C.C. Tiernan. He was 12 years old at the time, he skipped school and hiked through the bush, because he lived way on the east side of Vancouver, and snuck through the fence to watch this match. I'll never forget interviewing him later in life, and him telling me about these thousands of people who watched that match at Shaughnessy Heights. It was a big, big deal. Everyone was charged 50 cents, and that went to Vardon and Ray. So it was big money.

Tom Cade: Yeah, big money for them, to do that tour. They were over on this side anyway, because they had played in the U.S. Open that year, which was over in Brookline Country Club, over there in Massachusetts.

Mike Riste: If Vardon had won, that tournament would never, I believe, it would never have created this North American tour. If you do a newspaper research for the day Ouimet beat those two guys to win the U.S. Open, it was headlines, in every major newspaper across the country. Instantly, golf for the very first time had created a headline on the national newspapers of North America. All because an amateur had defeated these two fellows.

Tom Cade: And so we get into World War One, which is 1914 to 1918. There was a bit of a slowdown. But then it picked up again after the war. You had mentioned earlier in today's conversation, about the challenge that Kerry had put out to the Western Golf Association. That he could put together a team of amateurs from the Northwest, that could beat anybody. In 1920, 1921, he did this, and they went on. He gathered a group of Northwest amateurs, and they went on a bit of an exhibition tour. They played a series of matches against the Western Golf Association teams. Is that correct?

Mike Riste: That's correct. All around Chicago, mainly in the Chicago area. A.V. Macan was actually on the team. I don't know why he didn't go on tour with the team. But anyway, there were about 12 players. The best players in the Northwest. Then they played in the Western Amateur at the same time. They didn't do very well in the Western Amateur. But they did win many of their matches against this team.

Tom Cade: And they were known as Kerry's Raiders, is that correct?

Mike Riste: Kerry's Raiders. That's how I finally found out what the S stood for. The members of the team nicknamed him Uncle Sperry. Albert Sperry Kerry was his full name.

Tom Cade: Uncle Sperry, mm-hmm.

Mike Riste: He was known, basically until his death, as Uncle Sperry. In the PNGA, the Western Golf. Everybody called him Uncle Sperry.

Tom Cade: So these Kerry's Raiders, they included players like Bon Stein, and Frank Dolp, and Jack Westland, and Forest Watson, Chuck Hunter. Really the top amateurs in the Northwest, no question.

Mike Riste: Right. But they didn't have this national exposure, so they had to create this event, so they would get national recognition. It wasn't until a little bit later, I think somewhere I listed the years where the Northwest dominated. From 1926 to 1931, the Northwest players dominated this Western Amateur. Took a little while to take effect. But getting to Kerry's original idea, he wanted to create this training ground for these players in the Northwest to become national players. It was all his idea, and he had the money to finance it.

Tom Cade: Before we get into the Western Amateur, which actually did come to Seattle in 1927, let's keep going down the timeline here. So 1922 comes along, and a few big things were happening. Number one, the formation of the British Columbia Golf Association. Then also, the first year of the Washington State Golf Association. At the time, A.S. Kerry, he was president of the Pacific Northwest Golf Association, the PNGA. Is that right?

Mike Riste: Yeah, the PNGA was actually in trouble. Kerry saw it as early as 1920. It was beginning to wane. He wanted to figure out the reason why, so he took the presidency. Typically Kerry, "You're going to do it my way. I'll be the president, but it's going to be done my way." He redid the constitution. But then, I found it very interesting, he traveled to all the major clubs of this organization, and wanted to know what the problem was.

He redid the constitution to take care of what they had told him. But you have to think, this guy's a businessman. He's one of the major lumber men in the Northwest. But he undertakes this big job of traveling around, trying to figure out what's wrong with the PNGA.

Tom Cade: Yeah, you wonder where he gets all the time to do this. He really had a passion for it.

Mike Riste: He must have had an incredible managerial style, to look after his business interests. He was also in, not only the lumber at this time. He was in the coal business. He was starting to take over coal mines. So he must have had incredible organizational skills, and incredible passion for golf. He must have been an incredible manager. But he had this one trait, "If I'm the top, it's my way or no way." The people around him must have been very comfortable saying, "Yes sir, yes sir, yes sir." He had money to back it up.

Tom Cade: So he's president of the PNGA at that time, and the Washington State Golf Association starts in 1922. He serves as the first president of the WSGA as well, it looks like. Is that right?

Mike Riste: That's right, and he's also heavily involved in this Western Golf Association. So he has a lot on his plate.

Tom Cade: Yeah.

Mike Riste: He turns down the presidency of the Western Golf Association, I think it was 1924 or 1925, and he said, "No, I live too far in the West, and this organization should always have a president from the central area where it exists. No, I shouldn't be president."

Tom Cade: I didn't know this part. So 1922 was also the first year, well actually the founding year of the Pacific Northwest Section PGA, and the first year of the Washington State Open. Which was held concurrently, or not concurrently, but the same week at the same venue as the first Washington State Amateur. Kerry put up the \$500 prize money for the Washington State Open, that first one.

Mike Riste: Yeah, I think there must have been a very, very close relationship between Johnstone and Kerry. They belonged to the same golf club. But Kerry must have had incredible confidence in Johnstone, because we already know the influence Johnstone played in the formation of the pro organization.

Tom Cade: Yeah, you were talking about Robert Johnstone there.

Mike Riste: He was close with all the golf clubs. Because we know from our previous podcast, that at this period, if you were looking for a pro, or you were looking for a manager, you were stupid not to go to Johnstone. We already know that. So Kerry must have allowed him to organize the sites for the Washington State Amateur, Washington State Open. The Open was held first, and then the Amateur. Kerry did the administration work, make sure everything functioned properly. He put up the money for the pros. But he let Johnstone oversee the Washington State Open.

Tom Cade: For the pros, for the State Open, yeah.

Mike Riste: I think this happened until Johnstone gave up the presidency in 1930, or '31. In that period, Kerry's starting to wind down his operation. He only sat on the USGA board until 1933, and then he went off their executive committee. Then he only sat on two committees. He knew then, that he had a serious, serious heart condition. That he could die at any moment. So he started to wind things down.

- Tom Cade: I see. So then, along with donating the prize fund for the Washington State Open that first year, he also donated a championship trophy for the Washington State Amateur that year, and it was called the Kerry Cup.
- Mike Riste: Yeah, we know where that is. There's a beautiful picture of it in the book. I'll never forget finding it. We were at an annual meeting for the PNGA, at Tacoma Country and Golf Club. We were downstairs in the bar area. I'm always looking in these trophy cases, and there's the Kerry Cup. I couldn't believe it.
- But Kerry also donated all the money for the Pacific Northwest Open, which was held prior to the PNGA Amateur. So he donated the prize money for the pros for that also. I think he also donated the money for the pros for the Potlatch.
- Tom Cade: This is an amazing resume he has for golf. In 1923, he was part of the group that formed the Pacific Northwest Seniors Golf Association, is that right?
- Mike Riste: Yeah, I had just found that fact recently. Because I was doing some research on 100th anniversary things for 1923, and oh my god, the Seniors Northwest started in ... I thought it started in '24. Then, so I'm getting ready to write an article for our newsletter on that organization, because they didn't even know, at the Victoria Golf Club, it's their 100th anniversary. So, "Oh my god, Kerry's involved in the formation of this thing." He had his fingers in absolutely everything.
- Tom Cade: Yeah, he did.
- Mike Riste: He attended every Seniors Northwest until the day he died. So here's this businessman. Now, I realize the Seniors Northwest was a big event. It was a "who's who" event of seniors. All these prominent businessmen, from all over the Northwest, all belonged to this organization, and all assembled in Victoria for this tournament. He was a star. The first years, he played. I think the first half a dozen years. Then he and Macan were the starter. I think Kerry and Macan, again, were very close.
- I found a note by the sportswriter Alex Rose, just a simple little comment. Kerry had said, "Well, it's the Depression. I've got to make sure my friend Mac has some money, so I'd better send him a check." Because there was no architectural business. Kerry got him the job as secretary, so he would have some money. I'd have to really dig deep, but I wouldn't be surprised. Kerry and Mac were pretty close.
- Tom Cade: So the Western Amateur, you had mentioned that a little bit earlier in this conversation. During the 1920s, and really for the first 40 years of their existence, it was easily on par with in prominence with the U.S. Amateur. Is that right?
- Mike Riste: Yeah, they were equal. There was a big competition between those two. We all know about the Chick Evans Caddie Scholarship. Well it formed, the first scholarship was given out in 1930. Ironically, in 1931 the USGA has formed the Bobby Jones Caddie Scholarship Fund. Yeah, there was a lot. The rules were different. Western Golf introduced steel shafts as early as 1924. USGA didn't really accept them until 1928, 1929, and the world accepted steel shafts in 1930. Always a big competition. So when they were choosing the Walker Cup, usually the U.S. Amateur and Western Amateur champions, they were on that team.

Tom Cade: And the Western Amateur came to Seattle in 1927. It was held at Seattle Golf Club. This, I'm sure Kerry had a significant hand in bringing that championship to Seattle.

Mike Riste: Absolutely. First Major in the Northwest. A Western Amateur had been held at Del Monte in California in 1916, and then it came to Seattle in '27, it was the second time one of these major amateur tournaments had been held on the coast. Then the USGA brought the 1929 U.S. Amateur to Pebble Beach. It was the first time. So Kerry, he put his money on the table again. He made sure it was the best Western Amateur ever held.

Even in the *Chicago Tribune*, I looked it up, they credited Kerry with holding the best Western Amateur event ever held. Now that was big recognition, for an eastern newspaper to give credit to somebody in the Northwest as the best, believe me. So yeah, he did it right. He made sure everybody had the best time ever. He had lunches. Everything was first class, and of course, the first time a program was produced for that tournament. I would love to put my hands on a 1927 Western Amateur Seattle Golf Club program.

Tom Cade: Well I wonder if the club itself still has that in their records, in their files.

Mike Riste: Well, I don't think they do. Because if I remember correctly, there isn't a picture in the book. In their club. So you never know. That's why, jumping ahead, I would love, and we've now I think traced a grandson. I haven't figured out where he is today, but I wouldn't be surprised. This Kerry family might have an incredible treasure trove of Kerry papers, his companies, all the things he did. That would be very, very typical. So I have to track down this family.

Tom Cade: Yeah, I think you're probably right on that.

Mike Riste: That's very typical. The scraps, the photo albums. These people knew it was important to maintain their history, and they kept everything. I checked the UW special collections, and there's no record of a Kerry donation. There's no record in Olympia, at the Washington State library, no record of Kerry records. So they all could still be in this family.

Tom Cade: You think that they're still in the Seattle area somewhere, or the Northwest somewhere?

Mike Riste: I've traced the son, who I believe is still alive, I think I have his age. I think he was born in the '60s. He lived in the Highlands, in 1966 I believe it is. I tracked him to a city directory, living in the Highlands. I contacted Seattle Golf Club, and they have no record of him as a member. So I'll have to track him down.

Tom Cade: So let's go back to the 1927 Western Amateur, held at Seattle Golf Club. First time it was held in the Northwest, and second time on the West Coast. It was won by Bon Stein, a Seattle golfer. The next year, it was won by Frank Dolp, a Northwest golfer. The next year, in 1929, won by Don Moe, a Northwest golfer. 1931, Don Moe won it again. So all of these players who won the Western Amateur, they were part of Kerry's Raiders, and part of what he was trying to do, it sounds like, was to create a system in which golfers, both public and private golfers, could thrive and excel on the national stage.

Mike Riste: Yeah, and in 1929 he attended the U.S. Amateur at Pebble Beach. I believe I'm correct in saying, I think it was the following year, Don Moe was on the Walker Cup. But Kerry wanted a Northwest player to be on every Walker Cup from then on. He was lobbying for it. He was on the executive committee of the USGA, and he wanted a Northwest player on that team.

We looked through the 1930s, we have Harry Givan. We have Scotty Campbell. We have Don Moe. We have Doc Willing. There were a lot of players selected on that team.

Tom Cade: So you mentioned Kerry being on the USGA executive committee. Do you know what years he was on that committee?

Mike Riste: As far as I can tell from the research, he was put on around 1926, 1927. He was on the Western board, and it was quite unusual for a member of the Western board executive to be on the USGA executive board. He stayed on it until 1933, when Frank Oz replaced him on the executive board. Then he only sat on two committees. The museum committee, and do I tell you what other committee? I forget. It was something to do with finances, I think. But I figure around that time, he was notified that he had a very serious heart condition. So he started to wind down, and he died suddenly in 1939 of a heart attack, on the train home from San Francisco. So he started to wind down, but he was on that executive committee for five, maybe eight years.

Tom Cade: It looks like he influenced them somehow, because several USGA National Championships started being held in the Northwest. The U.S. Amateur Public Links at Eastmoreland in 1933. The U.S. Amateur at Alderwood Country Club in Portland, in 1937. Was Kerry involved with that? He must have had some sort of influence on that.

Mike Riste: Yeah, if you look at both those tournaments, you look at the news clippings, Kerry is credited with laying the groundwork for these clubs to hold that event. Each one of them recognizes his contribution. Oz is generally credited with organizing and hosting the Publinks, and the Amateur, Oz wasn't the man who oversaw it. It slipped my mind. But Kerry is credited with laying the groundwork.

Tom Cade: So not only was he on the USGA executive committee. But it looks like he was also involved with the regional affairs, and also the USGA Museum. Is that right?

Mike Riste: Yeah, regional affairs and the museum committee were the two standing committees when he went off the executive. Those were the two.

Tom Cade: I see. I see.

Mike Riste: I found one really cool piece of trivia, and I have no idea if this happened. But if you recall back, from our very first podcast, we mention how the very first golf clubs came into the Northwest. They were brought in by Griggs. The founders of the Tacoma Golf Club. They were labeled as agricultural implements, because nobody knew what they really were. They were in the Tacoma Golf Club, and maybe from then on, but I found a note in the Tacoma daily ledger that said, "The Tacoma Golf Club should donate, and Kerry should organize, the transfer of those very first Northwest golf clubs, from Tacoma to the USGA Museum."

I have no idea if they went. I'm going to write a note to John Bodenhamer, and ask him to check, to see if those clubs are in the museum. It would be really funny if they're in the USGA Golf Museum. They're not. They probably were destroyed in the Tacoma Country and Golf Club fire, because all their memorabilia was destroyed in the fire.

Tom Cade: Oh, yeah.

Mike Riste: It would help to know if they got transferred.

Tom Cade: So A.S. Kerry passes away of a heart attack, while riding the train. Or he suffers a heart attack on the train, and then dies in hospital in Portland in 1939. Is that correct?

Mike Riste: Yes, that's correct.

Tom Cade: At the time of death, he was a member at Seattle Golf Club, Rainier Golf and Country Club, Midwick in Pasadena, Royal Colwood, Tacoma Country and Golf Club, Arlington Golf Club in Portland, and an honorary member of Waverley Country Club. The legacy of this person is amazing. I think it speaks a lot to his accomplishments, that he was selected by the USGA to be on their committees, and even by the Western Golf Association. This guy out here in Seattle, he basically put the game of golf in the area on his shoulders, and brought it forward onto the national stage, it sounds like.

Mike Riste: You're absolutely right. I think Alex Rose summed it up best in his obit to Kerry. He said when Kerry died, that two men had influenced the development of golf more than any other person ever living in the Northwest. He credited A.S. Kerry, who was the builder, and Chandler Egan as the player. Chandler Egan had this incredible, beautiful golf swing. After he arrived in 1912, he came with an incredible record. Three Western Amateurs, two U.S. Amateurs. Lost in the playoff with his brother in, I believe it was the 1903 U.S.r Amateur.

Everybody copied Egan's swing. I remember interviewing Mrs. Herron, Marion McDougal. She said, "Mike, if you can ever find a clipping, or a news reel of Chandler Egan's swing, watch it. It was poetry in motion." Kerry got all these players, Bon Stein, Frank Dolp, Don Moe, all these good players. We can go down the list. They all copied Chandler Egan's golf swing.

So Kerry financed it, and Chandler Egan got everybody to copy his swing. That's why we had these incredible players. Alex Rose raised this question, which we can answer. Now that Kerry has passed, who is going to finance the building, the tournaments, to carry on his legacy? We know who that was. The Athletic Round Table in Spokane. On a previous podcast, we listed all they did to develop golf. Robert Hudson in Portland and in Vancouver it was George Morgan.

They took up the torch, to finance these events, so the Northwest could continue having all these prominent golf tournaments. I forget how many we spoke about on a couple of podcasts. It was 20, came to the Northwest, because they were willing to finance it. They took Kerry's job. So Kerry was the link, which we didn't know when we did those podcasts. We probably should have done this podcast before we did theirs.

Tom Cade: Yeah, we probably should have. But you're right, Kerry passed away in 1939. Really, that's about when Robert Hudson started doing his promotions in the 1940s, bringing the PGA Championship out here. Bringing the Ryder Cup out here in 1947. Also, you're right, the Athletic Round Table in Spokane. An amazing promotion of golf in that area, especially in that area. It wasn't exactly the capital of the industry in the area. But they brought the first U.S. Women's Open. They brought the PGA Championship out to Manito, out there in Spokane of all places, in 1944. Just an amazing contribution to the game. But all of those, it seems like they were all standing on the shoulders of Albert Sperry Kerry.

Mike Riste: Absolutely. It's amazing. When I was researching, I thought, "Wow." I look at the research like this. I've spent a lifetime of researching golf in the Northwest. It's like a giant jigsaw puzzle. Every now and then, I find a piece that fits perfectly. When we did the research for the Round Table, and Hudson, and all these national championships that were coming to this Northwest,

who started it? It was Kerry. That little piece fits perfectly with Rose's comment. "Who is going to take up the torch? To finance these national events, to come to the Northwest, once he's dead?" Well, it was obvious. Those two organizations. Hudson and the Round Table took it up.

Everything's fitting together. It's just, when I did the research I thought, "Oh my god, if I could have known that when I did the PNGA book." That was in 1998. These little pieces, to make it all fit. It's just amazing.

Tom Cade: Yeah, amazing. Again, like we said at the beginning of this conversation, you start just barely dipping your toe into the history of golf in the region, and you start coming across the name A.S. Kerry, just right away. But he was always in the background. He was in the foreground, but he was always in the background, it seemed like.

Mike Riste: He was asked once if he would, late '20s, I think '28, '29, if he would stand for U.S. senator from Washington state. He said, "No, I'm not involved in politics. I don't have the expertise to do that job. I'm a businessman." So he refused, and he actually, except for sitting on the Seattle Parks board, that's the only time he's ever really involved in politics. He hasn't financed any of the mayoral candidates. It never shows up that he's involved in the senators or state representatives. He totally evades politics, and he is pretty low key. We only have one picture.

In the Washington state book, you have a picture of him swinging. But really, you would never really know it's him. We have one headshot, and it's when he was president of the Seattle Golf Club. It's the only one. That's why, another reason I would love to contact a family member. They have got to have records. I just can't believe they would throw them all in the garbage. They'd be in the Washington State library, or the Seattle Public Library. They'd be, but they're not showing up.

I believe that Edward McKellar Jr, he is a grandson of Kerry. I think he was born in the 1960s. No, he was married in '55, I guess it is. He's a direct descendant of Kerry Sr. His grandfather was Albert S Kerry Jr. Kerry only had two children. A daughter and a son. The daughter never married, so her line is finished. Kerry Jr. had four daughters, no sons. This Edgar fellow, he had a daughter named Joan, who is the third daughter, that's her son. He lived in the Highlands in the '60s. So he should still be alive.

To tell you how big the estate must have been when Kerry died, Albert S Kerry, in all the census reports, and the city directories, is listed as the financial manager of the Kerry Estate. So that was his job. Maybe Edgar, he's not listed as that, but that's the fellow I've targeted to find. No, sorry, Alexander McKellar. His father was Edgar. He lived in the Highlands in the 1990s. When his mother died in 1996, he's listed as living in Highland.

Tom Cade: Mm-hmm, I see.

Mike Riste: Alexander McKellar. He went to Shoreline. He went to University of Washington. Last address is the Highlands.

Tom Cade: Well you are right, it would be very interesting to try to track his relatives down. I would have to agree with you, that they would have probably a treasure trove of information and material.

Mike Riste: Yeah, it would be perfect. Or they would know where it is.

Tom Cade: Yeah.

Mike Riste: Yeah, definitely.

Tom Cade: Well today, again, we have been speaking with Mike Riste. The historian and volunteer curator at the BC Golf Museum, up in the BC Golf House, in Vancouver, British Columbia. Mike again is the official historian for the Pacific Northwest Golf Association. Today we've been talking about Albert Sperry Kerry, also better known as A.S. Kerry. Really, the grandfather of golf promotion in the first half of the 20th century. Just an amazing resume that he did in promoting the game, and promoting players really. He just had an incredible passion for the game, and for growing the game in the area. Mike, you filled in a lot of holes in the history of golf in the region, just by researching this one person, I think.

Mike Riste: Yeah, absolutely. Now because of this research, we have found an individual who, I guess I'll have to take full responsibility, but he's totally been overlooked for the Pacific Northwest Golf Hall of Fame. That's Bronson Stein. His record-

Tom Cade: Yeah, Bon Stein. Yeah.

Mike Riste: ... is incredible. BC Amateur medalist, what, two, four, six times? Champion, finalist, Washington State Amateur, what, one, two, three, four, five, six times. Six time medalist, four time champion, finalist two other times. PNGA, Western Amateur champion and finalist. Wow.

Tom Cade: Yeah, it is amazing, yeah. He probably easily deserves to be nominated for the next induction.

Mike Riste: Oh, absolutely. He should have been nominated a long time ago. I don't like to make excuses, but there is an excuse. The PNGA book was based on your PNGA playing record, and his record in the PNGA was not great. There are better records than his. Now, he's mentioned in the book, but he's not in the hall of fame. Up until the induction of Dick Price, one of the chief prerequisites was that you had to be a PNGA champion. He wasn't. But that has been relaxed now. So now is the time that he should be nominated. Oh, and he was also city champion two, four, six, seven, eight times.

But he had a very, very finite timeframe. Basically 1920 to 1930. 1931, Alex Rose interviews him, and he says, "How come you're not playing in all the major championships anymore?" "Well, I have a full time job in the car industry." I haven't determined which car company was centered in Ann Arbor, Michigan. But whichever one it was, Chevy, Ford, or whatever, he was their Pacific Northwest representative. In 1934, the company transfers him back to Ann Arbor, where he died in 1936, of I think a heart attack. Very sudden. So he had this very dominant decade record. Basically, who knew it, who was on the selection committee? Nobody. That's why he's probably been overlooked.

Tom Cade: That does make sense, regarding the PNGA involvement. As far as playing in championships. Mike Riste, I want to thank you again for taking the time today to talk about A.S. Kerry. We look forward to speaking next time about Bon Stein, and his record of playing accomplishments in the region. Thanks again, Mike, so much for taking the time. We'll talk again soon.

Mike Riste: My pleasure. It's always fun doing this research, because you never know what's going to pop up.

Tom Cade: Okay, Mike. Thanks again. Talk to you soon.

Mike Riste: Okay, good day, Tom.