

Koridon Andrew – March 6, 2023

The following oral history is from a recorded interview with Koridon Andrew (KA) and his wife, Beverly (BA) conducted by Mānoa Heritage Center (MHC) Cultural Educator Ke‘ala Wong (KW) on March 6, 2023 at MHC’s Visitor Education Hale. This interview is part of Mānoa Heritage Center’s Oral History Project.

Please keep in mind that this is a transcript of the spoken word, rather than written prose. The following transcript has been reviewed, edited, and approved by the narrator.

Koridon Andrew: [Andrew note: My Hawaiian name Mahuka means to escape. I was told that] There was a village or heiau that if you if you were- two parties were warring if you escape to it, you’re okay. You know you- nobody would come after you and you were safe and *mahuka* I guess is escape. So that’s why they use that.

Ke‘ala Wong: You’re- so you’re like a safe- you’re a safe haven.

Koridon Andrew: Yeah, there you go.

Ke‘ala Wong: Did you protect people? But yeah, so thankful, you know, for you stopping by and willing to do this short little interview. I mean, even your short time here is really valuable to capture just a little glimpse of Mānoa and to share your story, so thank you. Can we start with your name?

Koridon Andrew: Sure, Koridon Luis Mahuka Andrew.

Ke‘ala Wong: Awesome. And thanks for explaining your given name, *Mahuka*, earlier. And then where and when were you born?

Koridon Andrew: Physically born in Honolulu, but we lived up here in Mānoa, that was 1950. August second, nineteen fifty.

Ke‘ala Wong: And what- you don’t remember the address or about where your house was in the valley?

Koridon Andrew: [Andrew note: My birth certificate shows 3438 Mānoa Blvd.] I just know it was up against the mountain and I can kind of describe what the area looked like. I mean it was very green-lush. Just rainforest-like and across the street there was a stream we always used to go over to. And there was a small stream through the property. We had a house in the front of the property which my parents lived in, I lived in. And then across the stream was my grandparents place to stay. And then in the

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backyard there was about an acre up against the hill that- it was just grass, you know, they mowed it and stuff like that. So it was a great place to grow up.

KW: Yeah. So your grandparents living in the valley- were they here long time? Or did they move with you guys?

KA: Well no, my grandmother was Hawaiian. And I don't know how they met over in San Francisco, but she met my grandfather and then they got married [Andrew note: in Honolulu in 1919] and they came back to the islands and they had my dad. [Andrew note: My dad's name is Keith Larimore Andrew]. And he used to camp a lot, my grandfather, because he was born- he worked on a ranch so he liked to be out in the open. They have a lot of pictures of- you know, the islands when there was not so many people here. Yeah, so no- my mom, she came over with her friend- sister to the islands because they were just kind of 'wild', and must have met my dad. I never really got the story, you know. But yeah, they were married over here.

KW: And they had children, are you the fir-

KA: One and only.

KW: Just you?

KA: Just me. I don't know what that says about me, but-

KW: Do you want to bring your grandparents or parents name into this story?

KA: Oh, gosh my grandmother. Well, you know, we always call my grandmother Mano and my grandfather Guka. My grandmother was Nancy Andrew and I can't remember her maiden name. [Andrew note: My grandmother's name was Nancy Elaine Daniels before she got married. My grandfather was Koridon Luis Andrew. Nancy Daniels was born in 1887 and died in 1973 in Honolulu. Her death certificate showed she was a retired teacher. We believe she taught pottery and Hawaiian language at a private school. Nancy's mom's name was Margaret Kalauwalu Kahanu and her dad was William Daniels. William Daniels was one of Henry Daniels and Nancy Hannah Kamaekalani Copp's children.] We have it at home. And my grandfather was Keith, Keith Andrew.

KW: These are your dad's parents who lived- were the ones who grew up- who lived here.

KA: Yeah.

KW: Nice.

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KW: So your parents- where did they- so your dad left Hawai'i?

KA: No, no. He met my mom [Andrew note: Patricia] here and they got married and then, you know, they had my dad and- again, one and only. [Andrew note: My mom came over with her friend and sister to the islands because they were just kind of 'wild girls,' and somehow she must have met my dad. I never really got the whole story. But yeah, they were married over here on the islands. Then they had me and only me.]

KW: When, so when did the whole family move to Mānoa?

KA: That's all I remember- is Mānoa [Valley], so I cannot remember where they lived before, but I- my first part of my life was in Mānoa. [Andrew note: So, for sure they were all in Manoa when I was born in 1950. I cannot remember where they lived before, but the first part of my life was in Mānoa. My birth certificate shows an address of 3438 Mānoa Blvd. My grandfather's name was Koridon Luis Andrew and I was named after him.]

KW: So perhaps your grandma has been here a long time and then your dad grew up in Mānoa, yeah?

KA: Yeah. [Andrew note: My grandma was married at St. Andrew Church in Honolulu in 1919, so they may have lived in this area since then and perhaps my dad grew up here in Mānoa as well]

KW: Oh cool. You're right by the stream. I know- well, this stream is on the east side. And then, there is a ridge going up on the east side, too, so it could have been, do you remember cows and pastures. Because I know there's a cow pasture on the lower east side there.

KA: No, I don't.

KW: Or not cows, horses.

KA: Ah. No, I don't remember that.

KW: Okay, you must've been more up the river. Cool, and then, what did your- you want to share what your parents did?

KA: Well, my mom was a stay-at-home mom. I think she may have at one time or another worked somewhere, but I don't know, it was just a part-time job. My dad, he worked at Pearl Harbor. So he's there and he helped with the downtown stock car races, you know, he was a starter and he worked on Jerry Unser's car, and yeah, stories they tell us about what they had to do to make their cars run.

KW: And so the pottery, that was a hobby?

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KA: You know. Yeah, yeah, I don't- it wasn't a hobby. Well, I don't know. They- they liked to do it. And they obviously sold some of the pieces so I guess it was kind of a hobby/business.

Beverly (Koridon's Wife): Tell us about your grandparent- your mom- your grandma that made the pottery.

KA: Oh, Mano? Yeah, yeah. And every once while [Andrew note: My grandmother would make red salt and jam] we'd go down to the beach and my grandmother, she makes the red salt and I don't know- I guess there's two different ways of doing it or a couple different ways to dye it red and we had these, these bushes out in front of our house where you get the seed pods- and inside the seed pods was red. So you just mix it with a rock salt, you know. And so you have salt for your poi. [Andrew note: Mano also had a pottery business in the back.]

KW: Oh wow. That's, that's cool. Did you ever gather- well, you were really young- but do you remember gathering salt with her maybe?

KA: No, not the salt, just the pods and some other berry off of a vine for making jam or jelly [Andrew note: and dye]. I forget what.

KW: Poha berry?

KA: Could be, I'm not sure though.

KW: Poha is the yellow gooseberry but that's very- that's known in Hawai'i as like the Hawaiian berry jam, that they make jam with. That's cool. And so your Mano and Guka?

KA: Well, I'm just really kind of searching for what we- Guka, always sounded, you know, of course I was five years old, ten years old. Yeah, and it could have been.

KW: Okay, but they [Mano and Guka] were the ones who made the pottery

KA: The pottery.

KW: And sold it, had a little in the shop in your guys' property.

KA: Workshop.

KW: And then what was the name of the workshop called?

KA: Hana Lima. [Andrew note: Hana lima which means "busy hands"]

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KW: Hana Lima, nice. It's really interesting to think where she got her dirt from. If it was from Mānoa, because you said it was red. Do you remember it being red? For making the salt.

KA: Oh, for the salt. No, it wasn't, it was from a seed pod and inside the seed pod were red.

KW: Oh seed pod, oh

KA: Yeah, and you break it open. You have all these red seeds and you just put it on the salt and you'd shake it around a little bit and it gets the red off of the pods and the seeds and its- colors it red.

KW: I got to figure out what that seed is. That's cool. Gotta bring that back. Well yeah, I mean, thank you for that. If there's anything else that you just remember of this valley- of this place, or playing around, you're welcome to share.

KA: Okay, alright.

KW: But if that's all you remember, then that's good too.

KA: Yeah. Yeah. Pretty much unless I'm looking at pictures and then I think. "Oh, yes." but yeah-

BA: Well your mom worked- your grandmother worked in the Tea House.

KW: Oh, yeah. Mano. At the Waioli Tea House. And that was in the fifties?

KA: Yeah.

KW: 'Cause you were born, you said, fifty.

KA: Fifty? Yeah.

KW: So that was at least fifty to fifty-five. Nice.

KA: And then we all moved to Kahala. So- so we built the house, my grandparents are in the back [unintelligible] [Andrew note: My grandparents were in the back of the home with a workshop. They were forced to leave Mānoa by the government who wanted to divide up the land for more homes. It was leased land and their lease was not up, but they were forced out so someone could make more money.]

KW: Must of been tough for your grandparents to leave this.

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KA: Oh I, I heard him- my dad mentioned that he was going to be out in the front of the property with his shotgun and he wasn't going to move, yeah, 'cause it was a beautiful place and it was so— so much room. And uh- and then you're on Kahala on a- although Kahala is nice, you could walk to the beach, it was a lot smaller.

KW: And hotter.

KA: Yeah, yeah.

BA: What did your grandfather do?

KA: You know? I'm not sure. Other than— [Andrew note: making pottery. They had a pottery business in Mānoa and Kahala so I think that was their main source of income and Mano working at the Tea Room as well]

BA: You said he liked horse ranches—

KA: Yeah, he came over from the big- the Mainland. He did ranching. Some of the pictures looked like he was in you know, Montana or something like that but yeah. [Andrew note: Some of his old pictures look like maybe Montana where it looked like he was a ranch hand. My dad's birth certificate shows that my grandfather was born in Ohio and his profession was listed as agriculturist. I should have asked more questions before they passed away.] You know it's always- you never know until you really want it- I mean I've told our son-in-law or he agrees with me that you wish you would've asked the questions of your parents and your grandparents before they pass away

KW: Oh yeah. And no matter how much we, who have finally learned that, right? *yeah* share it with the younger generation doesn't quite sink in *yeah, yeah* sometimes it's just the nature of it. But that's why these- you know, these little oral histories are golden and perhaps one day your- one of your kupun-mo'opuna is going to come and "hey I heard my grandpa has an oral history here" [laughter] so they can see your nature and hear your stories. But thank you.

KA: Thank you. And, I mean, if I get some mo- if I get together some more information can I send it to you or?

KW: Oh, yeah one hundred percent. For sure, yeah.

BA: Well we have that- you have that history, someone did a history on your family

KA: Yeah, uh huh.

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BA: Like a family line

KW: Yeah, oh this genealogy. *yeah* Yeah, if you want you're welcome to share that with us. 'Cause there's other families in the valley and perhaps it would be a connection and we can share that- whatever we find too. But let me just get you two together because

BA: Whoa, is this on video *yeah* oh I didn't know that. [laughter] Gosh

KW: Koridon and, what is your lovely wahine's name?

BA: Beverly

KW: Beverly. Awesome, thank you for stopping by.

KA: Ah, Thank you.