The following oral history is from a recorded interview with Koridon Andrew (KA) conducted by Mānoa Heritage Center Education Assistant and Cultural Steward Keʻala Wong (KW) on March 6, 2023 at Mānoa Heritage Center. This interview is part of the Mānoa Heritage Center’s oral history project name.

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:** 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 um Mahuka I guess is escape. So that’s why they use that.

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

**Koridon Andrew:** Yeah, there you go.

**Ke‘ala Wong:** Did you protect people? Um, so yeah so thankful for you stopping by and willing to do this short little interview. 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 Lewis Mahuka Andrew.

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

**Koridon Andrew:** Uh, physically born in Honolulu, but we lived up here in Mānoa, that was 1950. August 2nd, 1950.

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

**Koridon Andrew:** I just know it was up against the mountain and I could 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 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.

**Ke‘ala Wong:** Yeah. So your grandparent living in the valley...were they here a long time? or did they move with you guys?

**Koridon Andrew:** 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 and they came back to the islands and they had my dad 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 um, my mom. She came over with her frien- sister to the islands because they were just kind of, ʻwild’, 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. 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 Galka (sp?). My grandmother was Nancy Andrew and I can't remember her maiden name. 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:** Yes.

**KW:** So your parents. Where did they..So your dad, he left Hawaiʻi?

**KA:** No, no. He met my mom here and they got married and then, you know, they had my dad and again, one and only.

**KW:** So then when did the whole family move to Mānoa?

**KA:** That's all I remember is Mānoa, so I can't remember where they lived before, but I my first part of my life was in Mānoa.

**KW:** So perhaps your grandma has been here a long time and then your dad grew up in Mānoa, yeah. Oh cool. You’re right by the stream. I know. Well, this stream is on the Eastside. And then, there is a ridge going up on the Eastside, too, so it could have been, do you remember cow pastures. Because I know there's a cow pasture on the Lower Eastside there.

**KA:** No, I don’t know.

**KW:** No. Or not cows, horses.

**KA:** No, I don’t remember that.

**KW:** Okay, you must’ve been more up uka then. Cool, and then, do 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 uh, yeah, stories they tell us about what they had to do to make their cars run..[chuckles]

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

**KA:** You know. It wasn’t a hobby. Well, I don’t know. They they like to do it. And they obviously sold some of the pieces so I guess it was kind of a hobby/business. Yeah, yeah. And every once while we would 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 it dye red and we had these bushes out in front of our house where you get the seed pods in this inside and seed pods was red. So you just mix it with a rock salt, you know. And so you have salt for your poi.

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

**KA:** No, not the salt, just the pods and uhm some other berry off of a vine for making jam or jelly. I forget what?

**KW:** Poha berry?

**KA:** Could be I’m not sure though.

**KW:** Poha is the yellow, Goose berry but that’s very, that’s known in Hawaii as the Hawaiian berry jam. Um and so your Mano, and Gako?

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

**KW:** Okay, but they were the ones who made the pottery.

**KA:** the pottery

**KW:** and sold it, um, had a little in the shop in your guys property

**KA:** Workshop.

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

**KA:** Hanalima.

**KW:** Hanalima, nice. It’s really interesting to think where she got her dirt from. If it was from Mānoa, because you said it was 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 shake it around a little bit and it gets the red off of the pods and the seeds and colors it red.

**KW:** I got to figure out what that seed is. That’s cool. Got to 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 just playing around, you’re welcome to share. But if that’s all you remember, that’s good too.

**KA:** Yeah. Yeah. Pretty much unless I’m looking at pictures and then I think. Oh, yeah. But-

**Beverly (Koridonʻs wife)**: Well your mom worked, your grandmother worked in that Tea house.

**KW:** Oh Yeah. Mano. And that was in the 50’s?

**KA:** Yeah.

**KW:** Cause you were born, you said, 50.

**KA:** 50ʻ, yeah.

**KW:** So that was at least 50’-55’

**KA:** and then we all moved to Kahala. So so we built the house, my grandparents are in the back.

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

**KA:** Oh 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. yeah, because it was a beautiful place and it was so much room and uh then you’re on Kahala, although Kahala is nice. You could walk to the beach. It was a lot smaller.

**KW:** And hotter.

**KA:** Yeah. Yeah.

**Beverly (Koridonʻs wife):** What did your grandfather do?

**KA:** You know? I’m not sure. Other than

**Beverly (Koridonʻs wife):** You said he liked horse ranches..

**KA:** Yeah, he came over from the, big, Mainland. He did ranching. Some of the pictures looked like he was and you know, Montana or something like that but yeah, yeah. It's as always. You never know until you really want. I’ve told our son-in-law and he agrees to me that you wish you would ask the questions of your parents and your grandparents before they pass away.