

Andy Urevich, BOL interview (2024-02-02 13_05 GMT-7)

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00:00 David Allison

So anyway, thank you again. And I would love for you to just start by introducing yourself, sharing your name, and just a little bit more about yourself.

00:14 Andy U

Well, sure, this is Andy Urevich speaking. I've been a pet sitter in Longmont for almost 35 years and I was very blessed with that. I was in graphics and advertising before that; went to school in New York City and graduated from Parsons School of Design. I went out on Madison Avenue for a couple of years and got tired of that real quick, and then came out to Colorado. This is because Colorado was a place in New York City that when we heard about it, you know, it was Boulder Colorado, you know, we're thinking it's like way out there, you know, in the woods. So it was funny, it was funny. But then we started hearing John Denver stuff. And all of us, you know the gang, so to speak, not the kind of gangs we have today. I'm talking about water pistols and stuff like that. We all were hanging out, smoking cigarettes on the corner and we'd hear this John Denver stuff from Boulder, Colorado. So we were curious about it; a few of us came out here and they said, "Hey, guys, come on out." So long story short, a bunch of us came out here. Here we are 50 years later, and there's still a few of us here.

01:38 David Allison

That's fantastic.

01:39 Andy U

So here I am. I lived in Boulder for a while and then came out here to Longmont. I've been here in Longmont for 35 years. So I've lost track already; so many numbers to think of, you know. Let's face it; the brain's not as sharp as it used to be.

01:54 David Allison

What was your first kind of impression coming from New York to Colorado? What was it like?

02:00 Andy U.

We were overwhelmed. We were overwhelmed because it was so much so different from what we experienced from our childhoods on the street corner in Queens, Jackson Heights, to be specific, right

next to LaGuardia Airport. But anyway, that was the thing. So you're in that and the only sky you ever see is the little thing in between two buildings. You're used to it, you're not thinking about anything. I mean, you're a kid, you know, you've played stickball, that kind of stuff. So a couple of us came out, and then they sent the word back to the rest of us. We all came out. And boy, seeing this place. Now imagine, imagine Boulder 50 years ago. Unbelievable. Yeah, unbelievable. And then of course, you have 390 degree sky all around, which we can't believe it. Yeah, of course, all the hills right there and all of it. And here I am, 50 years later, 55 years. It's somewhere around there. You know, and Shep, that's been 25 years now.

03:20 David Allison

Yeah. Wow.

03:22 Andy U.

But it was a great thing to come out here. You know, I fell in love with the place and here I am all this time, half a century later; you know, and looking to enjoy these years.. I'd like to make it to 90. Yeah, that's my goal. If I can make it to 90, I think I can, I'd be good with that. So I got 15 years left. So that's the whole thing about the house and you know, putting the money together to make that happen, where I'm not freaking out about that. I'm always going to be a pet sitter. David, I'm always going to be a pet sitter. It's on my last Walking Day and I'm walking pretty good, doing a lot of walking in 35 years. So until that time, you know, I'm hoping that I pass away on that day that I can't walk anymore, or even that anymore. My goal was to, you know, how do you say, die doing it? I didn't die while doing it. You know? Maybe I walk one step too much. I don't know. Right now, I feel pretty good. So that's my inspiration for being interested in animals.

And that was a whole learning situation, becoming a pet sitter. You just don't become a pet-sitter just when you say, "I'm going to be a pet sitter today." I like to think of it but there's a whole incredible wonderful learning curve to that in terms of dealing with the situation as a business and doing it to make money; and then, learning the rights and the wrongs, the yeses and the nos, the do's and the don'ts, all that stuff. You know, that doesn't happen overnight. And here I am, let's say 35 years later, I think, I think I know what I'm doing.

05:10 David Allison

You got it, yeah.

05:11 Andy U.

But learning about animals and appreciation for the love of animals, you know, because I was just a kid in New York City. You know, not much, there's great things going on when you're in that, but animals, you know, I mean, I've always loved animals, but never had the type of feelings or knowledge that I have today. I started to learn when I decided that I want to do this, and I just set out to do it. And here I am. I have a lot of clients. They all love me. I don't make enough money. But when you're a pet sitter, I tell people, because I get a lot of questions about that. You must say it's great. But you know, it gives you all the stuff that goes to the heart. But as far as money is concerned, there isn't going to be a whole hell of a lot of it. More than you would think; you don't make much. But then you also learn, talking about this learning thing, you also learn it takes a while, but all of a sudden, you wake up one morning and you realize one day, wait a minute. This is not about money. This is not about money. All of a

sudden you realize this is not about money. This is about all what you've learned to this point about what you're doing. And the money is just like there. You get these epiphanies, these revelations as you go. To this day, doing this now 35 years, I don't really make much money. So I got involved with real estate.

06:57 David Allison

There you go. (Laughter)

06:58 Andy U.

Of course, between when I first came here and where I am today there is a lot of time between then and there. And thank goodness, and thank the heavens, that I became a pet-sitter, because I did the graphics thing and all that in school and all that stuff in New York City. But I found out after doing that for quite a while, that was 20 years. That is not really not what I wanted to do, you know, right? I knew that there was something else.

I'm a creative person. I enjoy, you know, all the artistic aspects. But what I've done and what I've learned, becoming a pet sitter, I'm on my knees. It's emotional, that I could be so lucky, you know, and still be here all these years later and doing okay. And looking forward to my retirement, so to speak. I really think I was retired decades ago. Because this has not been nothing but great fun. My clients love me. I love the animals, and you know, I have great clients and the animals are beyond belief.

I was watching TV one day and all of a sudden, just rolling through the channels...And back in the early days I think it was Channel Nine. They used to have these shows back in the early days not too long ago, let's say, before cell phones, a while before cell phones. You'd see these local shows where the local broadcasters or newscasters would do these hour-long shows and they do little 10 minute segments about different things happening in the local area. Then sometimes they might run a little longer, so they have, you know, four or five, maybe more than that. I'm just rolling through the channels one day and all of a sudden, it just happened

09:11 Andy U.

I stopped and here was this story about Shep, the turnpike dog

09:20 Andy U.

That was a life changer. Just curious about it; oh my goodness, it was just a little 10 minute thing. And oh yes, right here in Broomfield Oh, yes, right by the highway, that he's buried there and the caretakers and the whole story.

09:37 David Allison

Yeah, yeah.

09:39 Andy U.

You know, I was sold right there.

09:46 Andy U.

While all these years later, you know, the whole thing I'm talking about it, learning about what I'm doing as a pet sitter and animals and all that stuff, Shep is like the crowning glory of what that's all about

09:59 David Allison

Yeah.

10:00 Andy U.

And that's what he means to me. And that's why we love each other. Oh yeah, I'm a nut job. I talk to Shep all the time. But he listens and he answers me. And I don't just throw stuff at him anytime I want, you know, it's usually things that I really need some help with, you know, and he's really done well to steer me in the right direction with a lot of stuff, you know, over time. But that aside, being an advocate, and a caretaker, and a storyteller about him, and I've told this story, you know, what I know about Shep a lot of times through the years to different people. A lot of the time, and I'm very proud of that, and very happy that a lot of time, right there at the grave, and I'm working on it, people come over. A lot of people know me and remember me being there for a quarter century, doing that? Well overall, I've been I think it's been how long? How long has it been at the museum, 20 years?

11:17 David Allison

I think that's about right. 19, 20 years.

11:20 Andy U.

I could add this in a little bit, but when I started, when I became interested, I actually went down after getting all the information from the thing I saw on TV. And I went down. The magnetism was unbelievable. There was something going on there in the middle and, you know, it used to be right there on 36. Very, very noisy. But even with all of that, there was a strange sort of serenity. In the middle of all this insanity, with roads going all these different ways, and entrances and exits, and all these things. There was something about it, it was electricity that, you know, and I just fell in love at that point, really. But I was just beginning the journey and I didn't know what was in store at that moment. But something you know, something kept me coming back and doing little things. Like when I was decorating the grave at the highway, it's much different than what we do here at the museum, much different. You know, because you can only do so much, you know, it was not as convenient, let's say. People would understand, not as convenient, so I had to bring a lot of stuff. And so I started out very small, just with the wreath. Putting the wreath in the middle, a wreath and then throwing some biscuits in the middle of that, you know, kind of what we're doing now.

12:55 David

Right. Back to that. (Laughter)

12:59 Andy U

Yeah. And, and then, you know, once that happens, once you begin to, you know, let's say, stake that claim, it gets, you know, yeah, I'm gonna do this every year. And knowing the whole story about how it all happened, and you know, his time at the highway, and all that kind of stuff, it was easy for me to see well, if he did all of that and here you know, then I can certainly pay tribute to this wonderful, wonderful animal doing this once a year. I can do this. You know then it just really got solid, you know, and everybody loved it. You know, all the people before you before your time and all that stuff. Here I am

still doing it. I couldn't think of not doing it. That's what worries me, because I wonder now a lot, you know, it'd be nice to find somebody.

14:06 David Allison

Yeah. The next candidate.

14:08 Andy U.

The next person. Yeah, that's kind of a goal at this point. Because I don't know. I'm in good health for a 75 year old clown. I'm in good health. You know, I think I'm in good health because a lot of people I know and even my own, I would say with some sorrow, my older sister passed away just a few weeks ago. She was 78, but she had a lot of problems and all that stuff, but I'm hoping that I can find somebody. And I'm always,, you know, have my eyes and ears open for that kind of thing. Thinking back to one story, just a few weeks ago, when I was taking everything apart at the grave. I drove up in the car in front of the museum and I saw a gal there, you know, and there was somebody else, two women. So I got out of the car and here's this little three or four year old girl that they had brought to the grave to see and to be there with Shep and for Shep. And as I carried on the conversation, I find that they bring her every year.

15:39 David Allison

Wow.

15:40 Andy U.

Because that's what she wants to do.

15:43 David Allison

Yeah, I tell you.

15:46 Andy U.

And she's like, maybe four?

15:49 David Allison

Yeah, yeah, real young

15:53 Andy U.

It just connected right away because of what the gal said. That's all I needed to know. And there was a need, to get back to where we talked, that was a perfect opportunity to talk to somebody about this kind of what we're talking about now.. And the age difference is a little big, you know. And I don't think it...I mean, just the idea that if she was maybe, you know, if she was a teenager?

16:26 David Allison

Yeah.

16:27 Andy U.

You know, I would do a good job in getting them together and know what was going on, Shep's life story, the whole story. you know. Everybody that I ever tell the story, doesn't make any difference who it is, when it is how it is, under what circumstances, whenever I have a chance to tell that story, which I have told it a lot, people love the story. They love the story. They absolutely love it. And, that makes me feel wonderful, because I'm hoping that anybody picks up the story that never knew it before, that's a blessing right there.

17:07 David Allison

Absolutely.

17:08 Andy U.

And maybe somebody along the way, just like, you know, somebody along the way, like someone's trying to buy this house, I'm telling you about, there's always somebody out there wanting, to have hope, or you want them too, right? It's like I want it and I want to buy it. Yeah, you got to work at. And so I am in that position now, where I have my eye on that kind of thing, because the caretaker is not a young kid anymore. Now, I felt like well, when we first started, that was already such a long time ago. It's just amazing.

17:50 Andy U.

David, all this time, the only thing I can say is how blessed I am. That's what I would want to say, to this recording and to these people who along the way may listen to it for some reason. That doing this and being able to, you know, be involved in this whole thing, you know, in my life, my life going this way. I can't really put it into words other than to say, I'm so very, very grateful for everything that I've been able to do with my life so far. And I'm really working hard now to get these houses sold, so I can spend these last 15 years or so. Maybe we'll go longer than that, I don't know. One thing I can do since I wouldn't be working so much anymore. I'd be doing the pet sitting, but I would have more time to go down to the grave and hang out.

19:00 David Allison

Yeah. Yeah.

19:01 Andy U.

Which I do a lot.

19:03 David Allison

Absolutely.

19:04 Andy U.

Whenever I have a chance. And it gives us a chance to connect. He's a smart old boy, that guy, I gotta tell you, he's a smart guy. Smart guy. But he had a wonderful life. A lot of people cared about him, not just me, a lot of people along the way. I've been fortunate to meet some of these people and also get to know some other people very, very well. Because believe it or not, I didn't even know there was a connection there, but I have a whole connection with the Brunner family.

19:48 David Allison

Oh yeah.

19:49 Andy U.

I knew Clyde, I knew Dr. Bruner, very well. When Shep had his problems after he got shot, Dr. Bruner was the person who took care of and brought him back to normal again. You know, so that whole Bruner thing was a connection. And so meeting people along the way, who were already, you know, it's great to know people who have had a strong connection even before we even met. So again, if I was going to say something to the people who have listened to this, I'd say, whatever your heart tells you, you follow it. And, you know, it's not a bad thing to take a chance. Because there I was, you know, Mr. Graphic Designer. Yeah, I'm walking around Madison Avenue. And you know, I'm going from here and there and going from job to job and all that kind of stuff, and learning things, and it's great. It's fun. But it was never much in terms of the heart. What's going on? Not that I was grabbing about that. You know, but it was too angular. Too precise, measurements, all that stuff, making those decisions. And I guess there was just something in me that was looking for something more from here.

So that whole thing, you know, it was just one of many parts of what we're talking about, that brought me to where I am today. And it's great to know you and I think you're doing a wonderful job with running the museum, and so on and so forth. Thank you very much for this opportunity. I've talked to some people. I've talked to some news people about it, you know, but it's like, oh, yeah, I can show you the tape. You know, the Nine News thing that they did, you know, but it was like, they're gone in like a minute. You know, I'm good with that, because just sort of getting the message out to anybody, a four year old girl or anybody who's on a TV set. That's how I found out; look at what happened to me.

22:20 David Allison

Yeah. And here you are. So I'd love for you ... You referenced how when you tell the story to folks, they kind of instantly are drawn in by it. And I've seen that happen, too.

22:32 Andy U.

We haven't really told the story here.

22:34 David Allison

And I'd love for you to tell it. Would you please? I'm sorry to put you on the spot.

22:41 Andy U.

No, well, I just know the story, you know, because I learned it from other places, other people in other places. You assume that everybody knows the story, but this is back in the day, the early days of what they used to call the Boulder Turnpike. And they figured out at some point, don't know when, but I think it was when it was built. They started with this, that they needed to put a toll road in to help pay for the road. Okay. So they put in that toll road, which had the toll plaza in Broomfield, you know, and I think it was something ridiculous, like, you know, 15 cents one way and 10 cents the other way are, like crazy.

23:41 David Allison

And imagine today.

23:44 Andy U.

When you think about it now, you have to laugh when you compare it to what we're doing today. So they were still building the highway, and they put in the toll road. And there it was. Now, I believe, the highway was pretty new, still building parts of it and stuff like that. But they put in the toll road when they did, when it was still in its early stages. So it was a typical toll road. I don't know if you see it much anymore. You know, the type of thing that we dealt with, but it was a toll plaza and there were people there in booths who would take tolls from people and make change and do all that as they went through the gate. So that was going on and there was like a stamp of toll takers. You know, I have a picture, you know, there are pictures of the toll takers all you know, lined up and had their uniforms on, real sharp with the caps and all that. It's wonderful. And they did the toll-taking and then one day, this is when Shep was, you know, a pup, right? I believe that he was from one of the farms in the area. Back then that's all there was out there, a bunch of farms, just nothing but grass and you know and farms and the highway being built. And the toll takers are doing their thing, you know, there's several shifts and all that kind of thing. And there was probably, I would remember from the pictures, probably like 20 of them, or so, that did this.

25:31 David Allison

Yeah. A whole bunch of them.

25:33 Andy U.

Yeah, and so one day, I think it was right at the opening of the toll plaza. So it hits me at the moment, I think, I'm pretty sure, it was right at the opening day of the toll plaza. Here's just a little pup that shows up.

25:58 Andy U.

He lived in the toll plaza and they took care of him for his whole life, 1950 to 1964. And they took care of him and they loved him and they fed him and they gave, you know, just all of that. This group of people, there was one or two of them around for a while, but they're all gone now. Yeah, one or two that were left, you know? And I can't even imagine, you know, can you imagine all of the care and the love? I could say, you know, there's so many things you could say, for all of that time, from all those people, in that place. And he lived there. He slept there. And they you know, they would take turns. The toll takers would take turns bringing him home for the night. It's not like he was stuck there all the time. He was, it was, just like a family. Yeah, just like a film (??). And then, you know, there was the one thing that I remember, I know about, is when he was shot.

27:23 David Allison

There's a picture of him with his leg all bandaged.

27:25 Andy U.

That's right, we have those pictures. And you know, I mean, it was like the toll plaza, the highway and Dr. Brunner, there was nothing else around. (Laughter) Back then it was just like here and there, businesses out there. It's hard to imagine because today, it's like, give me a break.

27:47 David Allison

Yeah, yeah

27:25 Andy U.

And so they took him out there and Dr. Brunner, God bless him. I know it was Clyde that brought him back to health. But in general, the whole idea of being at the toll plaza, and him being at the toll plaza. It wasn't just that the toll takers took care of him, he became like a celebrity.

28:15 David Allison

Absolutely.

28:16 Andy U.

Everybody would come by and there was a parking lot. Everybody would come by, and they would stop to bring food, to throw quarters, and bring money, whatever. You know, he'd be there and they could scratch him. Imagine if that was around today. They could come and get out of the car and he'd come and the , because he loved getting the love from everyone. So, he got so much in that time. So you know he got so much, I can't, you know, it's hard to even wrap your mind around that, because you're looking at '50 to '64, looking 14 years of doing that. As far as I know, the shooting thing was the only thing that actually happened, you know, that was anything to even mention. But anyway, he lived there for all that time and he was so well taken care of. I can't even wrap my head around. You know, because meanwhile, I'm getting the fever. You know, as...

29:43 David Allison

You're learning these things, yeah.

29:47 Andy U.

Amazed. And we all know that he was a good looking boy. A beautiful, beautiful, beautiful dog. He really was. And they did, you know, I do believe, as I'm remembering, they put out around, to all the farmers, anybody whose missing one of their pups.

30:11 David Allison

Yeah,are you missing a pup?

30:12 Andy U.

Which was good, so who knows where he was born and where he came from, to be at the toll booth that day, at the opening ceremony. So 14 years goes by, all of this love and I can't even wrap my head around it. You know, there are things written there, there were things that you can read about, of course, there were no cell phones back then, you know, so you had to go to the library and they had some stuff. And of course, you would remember. And here I am at this point. And here I am getting the whole thing going in my mind about this wonderful animal you know, and it just hits me, this incredible headstone "part Shepard, mostly affection."

31:18 David Allison

Yeah. Beautiful, it's beautiful.

31:24 Andy U.

Got me going. So I started, you know, I came up with this idea, I was coming down, spending time there and just going there and remembering the story that he lived there for such a long time and got all of this incredible affection. And he passed away there. Just normally, 14 years, passed away. I don't I don't believe that there was any affliction that he had. Obviously, 14, you know, depends on the breed and stuff like that. But you know, if you have around 14 years, they figure that's pretty good, that's my feeling. And so then he passed away and they came up with this idea. Obviously, I wasn't there. But they came up with this idea about burying him on the hillside, right up there from the toll plaza. You know, you have the entrance way coming on and the highway's going right by.

32:41 Andy U.

So there he was, I don't know, for a long time, you know, and then I was interested; of course, you know, Broomfield's always been interested. Whenever Shep needed something, they took care of it, before you or any of us, they did a good job, making sure that he was there because he became like their mascot.

33:08 Andy U.

You know, the State....

33:10 David Allison

The Department of Transportation had a part in that.

33:12 Andy U.

They, you know, had the paintings and all this stuff that was done. So he was becoming popular and even more popular, back in the earlier days, as the state and people around Denver really knew about him, and about this guy who would come to the grave and who would be at the toll plaza and people could come out and see him. They had state cops coming out there and bringing them hamburgers. I mean, you name it.

33:50 David Allison

Oh, yeah.

33:53 Andy U.

This wonderful animal did not have a hard time at all and then he passes away. And there he was. And I started to go visit the grave, which was already there when I started, and you know, because they talked about it on the TV show. And they talked about Broomfield. So I got to go do this. I got to see this and I did that. Then, you know, he took me over pretty much. And then I started doing the decorating because animals have a heart and animals have a tough time on this damn planet. But you know, if you hear their stories, they'll break your heart, but there are animals who have a good time and do well while they're here. And his story was just beginning after he died, because it was something that was known. The Daily Camera would write stories about it every once in a while because you could always do something like that; and then, more and more people got to know him and stuff like that. But now it's kind of like a different phase of the evolution of man.

Shep, a lot of people still know about the story, about this dog who lived at the toll plaza all his life and he was well cared for. Honestly David, my only thing was saying to myself, instill nothing but love and happiness and contentment and all that kind of stuff. This is my chance to just keep that goal.

33:47 David Allison

Yeah.

33:48 Andy U.

And to do what's already been going on, which is a story because there's been books, the television segments and stuff like that about him, you know, about this great story. You know, I look at myself as just somebody who loves him, loves the story, and wants to respect him and his past. This is a story, especially, especially now with the world the way it is now. Especially now. Something as simple as this, so incredible, so beautiful, so wonderful, so important. It is important to people. It may never be as important as it should be in this world. You know, in Star Trek, of which I'm a fan, they talk about World War Three a lot

37:06 Andy U.

Who the hell knows what's going to be happening out there in a week?

37:09 David Allison

Yeah. Anytime. Yeah

37:11 Andy U.

You know, and we're not in a position now where we got a couple of little bombs and we're dropping them. Yeah, the planes, you know, they had propellers and all that kind of stuff. We're talking about serious, serious stuff. So when you think about the beauty and what, for me, what is so much a part of me; it's not all of me, but it's a part of me that keeps me in a place that I need to be and that I believe we all need to be. That's why I love telling the story. I love doing what you and I are doing, thank you for that. I love doing what you and I are doing here right now. And I hope that a lot of people listen to it, who knows, but anytime I have a chance to say something, I will take that opportunity. But for me again, it gets back to what I said originally. That's basically the story that he passed away and I started going to visit the grave and then here I am and that's now 25 years ago.

38:32 David Allison

Yeah

38:37 Andy U

There isn't much to say about that 25 years other than I've enjoyed the hell out of it, doing it for this animal, doing it for this dog.

38:57 David Allison

Yeah.

39:00 Andy U

What else can I say? You can see there's a lot of emotion there.

39:05 David Allison

Absolutely.

39:06 Andy U

And, and some tears. When I combine the story with how it's affected me and who I am and what I've done and what I'm doing, it's hard. It's hard not to be emotional about something like that, that means so much to you. My job is to take care of him as best I can, but also tell people about it as much as possible so this can continue on, so when people come to the museum, like that four year old girl. Oh, she comes every year to see Shep.

39:49 David Allison

Yeah.

39:51 Andy U.

Oh boy, David.

39:54 Andy U.

That's what it's all about.

39:49 David Allison

That's what it's about.

39:58 Andy U.

She comes every year. Boy, if I could get her to be the heir to my little thing, but it continues to.... you know, who's going to decorate the grave every Christmas, when I'm gone?

40:20 Andy U.

That's the least that he deserves. I don't, I don't want that to fall away.

40:30 Andy U. Michelle will continue here next time

You know, everything that he used today, for what it's worth, will at least be that straw, just not fade away. And, you know, hopefully the museum is there, and that gray will be there for a long time. So there's lots of things that can be done like you guys, thank you, God bless you. And me who concentrate. Alright, keeping historical, you know, which is extremely important to doing something like this, through the museum, to me, is extremely important, you know, and the TV stations used to chase me around a little bit the nominee.

41:15

Now, and one of the things that I love about this story, and that I can hear in your voice, as you're talking is just it. It's about hope, and connection, and love. And those are things that there's not enough right now. And we need

41:35

more. So it's, you know, instead of assume your is, I wish I couldn't save 25 years later, oh, but the world is so much better than it was when we got started. Can you imagine saying something like that? No, I can't.

41:49

You know, but you know, it's like it the world

41:54

has gone to hell, in so many ways, you know, and more of these people who were in that place. are, you know, running the show, getting getting getting their word out, stuff like that, you know, the blah, blah, blah, blah, blah. I've always loved the United States. And I've Oh, you know, but now I'm not so sure. You know, because you know, some of the way that certain things are going, you know, but I strike that because I don't want to get political. Because we're not talking politics. That's a factor that creates the need, yes, for his story to go out for the story of this dog to go out. And for that, that gravesite. I'll be gone at some point, I know, it'll still be there. And I hope it remains there. And is cared for for for the end of time through the end of time, as long as we're around and buildings around, and then all of a sudden, all this stuff that's happening, keeps on going. You know, it's, you know, I'm just looking for ways. And there will be ways after I'm gone. To keep the word going. You know, that? I won't be one I won't be telling it. But it's the story will not die. I don't believe I certainly hope not. And there'll be people who remember the story and tell it to other people like that four year old girl. Yeah. I think at the moment of the time about sitting down there in Taunton and telling her this story, and I was just like, a few minutes. Yeah, a short time, or whatever. But that was an amazing thing.

43:44

Do you remember much about when it moved from its first location to when it moved? Yeah.

43:52

Oh, I remember a lot about that. I was scared shitless

43:55

Well, tell me why.

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We're not having to filter out profanity

44:02

or now we're not a Kids program.

44:06

Transition. I was hearing or that brownfield was talking a lot to the state to the state. About what because you got to see dot the whole nine yards. You know, you had that. But do you have what you had there? They were also very interested in of course, see that was like running the show. Yeah, yeah. So what was going on? For a while while I was visiting the grave was they were negotiating

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with the next place.

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Broomfield had an idea and so they weren't they were going after it was not something that was like at the top of the dock. It took I believe it took some time for that to get to the point where they made the decisions as to what to do I'm with the dog and a lot of I think would see that, you know, see that had lot to do with the reason why the highways there, and why you're there and everything, you know, they had this I'm sure they had this vision at one time or what 36 was going to come come to be like, or the boulder Denver Turnpike. Right, right. And so that finally, after items a few years that I had heard about this, and they were negotiating and stuff like that, they're going to do this, they're going to do that to try to decide where to where to go, what to do, where to put and so on, so forth. And they and they figured it out. Then, of course, the museum was in a museum was not always in museum. I think it was I don't know how much it how far existed before Peggy that he Atkinson, not much, not much more any more than, say half a year or maybe a few years old or something like that.

46:03

But think it open an ad, but I'm sure that

46:07

that was already in the mix in terms of their negotiations. So negotiate. And then we started hearing about what they were going to do. Oh, yeah, they're going to move to the grave. Next to the Broomfield Museum. That's basically, and I was I was, then, at that time spot, it was that time, I was very used to the way that it was. Yeah, I was up on the hill. I didn't know much about the museum, you know, which, you know, which was just the thing. I didn't know much about it. But I knew I was, you know, when I first started hearing about this, you know, and then I didn't, I wasn't there. For the actual movie, where they dug it up from where it was at the highway, and then moved. It wasn't what not far, no, just up the road, the road a little bit. And then I heard stories about it. And Clyde was there. And Clyde was there. And people from city think there was a representative to from the state of Colorado, which is just, you know, they're not It's not like they ever wanted to interfere and make anything difficult. They just liked the idea of being around that kind of thing. So there was always this there was, you know, this movement, which was big with the news and stuff like that. And they moved and they moved, they moved it I imagined I don't know much details at it. Quiet didn't really give me much any information about he was he's gotten there. He's been gone now for seven years. But that all went well. And then then all of a sudden there was at the at the museum. And that's when I found out about it. Because they were the media was talking about it back then being Oh, yeah, this, this this, this wonderful story about this thug who lived at the toll taker and this highway in Colorado, and was cared for by the by the people who collected the money. Yeah. And so and then, you know, then so that's when I saw this thing, they did steal cannon server, I think it was the show on channel nine. And then I saw I'm gonna go down and check that out. You know, and as far as as far as the transfer, it was, you know, I was worried about it. Of course, there was really nothing I could say or do to participate, you know, that I wanted to or to even think about participating in anything like that. I just had to keep my fingers crossed and say boy, I hope they do a good job. But it was from that point. And I love doing I love doing the highway thing. It was from that

point that I started to get excited in a way that I was not able to do so before because I started thinking wow, I can really get creative with this thing. Now.

49:11

Imagine that you have the space and time and all those things. Yeah, I could

49:15

really get all dug a surfboard. I love doing this now I can really really put it all out there make it happen. And I know that nobody would want to make make it a hard thing to do. You know that because I know that the government is with me, you know, and you know, they're you know, and there was nobody nobody doing this kind of thing. You know, not that. That I know. Right? You know? And so it was a natural thing for me to get. I was already loving and excited that it but then it was natural thing for me when we had this opportunity to to be really Because I could bring the car right up there, and bring all the stuff right here and have it in your trunk or all in a trunk, which is what it's been for, you know, all this time. App and all that is just made it so much easier and gave me the ability to think creatively about it. And you know, as I mentioned earlier in what we talked about, that I'm, you know, I came from being a creative person as an artist, you know, so the idea of being creative with the gravesite was, to this day, has been a real, real, real turn on, and what I was able to do with the gray with the gravesite creatively, to help tell the story, I think they're all good. But my favorite was what we used to do, what I started doing, and was able to do for a long time. I don't know, I don't know if I want to get into that part of the story. But, you know, most important thing is I'm doing what I'm doing for a long time, what I do, there's no rule book or anything like anything like that. So you just have to adapt what you're kind of rolling with. But doing that it will take it will take me a week. Yeah. Put that together. And get it to the point where I was okay. I can I can I can print it. Whenever I finish, I always put the red garland around the square.

51:36

Where it is now. Yeah. And so I just want to interrupt that and just kind of set the scene here that it really is you're describing it's it's an artwork, it's a piece of art, in the sense that when you go there, you see their tennis balls, there were the stuffed animals there were the dog biscuits, different and different designs in which it was yeah, it

51:59

was the same design for well, you know, it was same design for almost 20 years, little more than 20 years, because on the other side is over 20 years, the same design, you know, and as you go, you make little adjustments or you change things, but it's all basically the same thing. There was some there was some stuff animals are put in there that always had the same place, you know, but thank you for making that point. I'm a little bit flattered. But yes, it was exactly that it was a work of art every time. And so putting it together. And it didn't matter how hard the wind was blowing, or how hard the snow was coming down.

52:42

December in Colorado.

52:44

Yeah, yeah. As I always excited excited to do when I was doing it at the highway. Yeah, you know, but it was a lot easier didn't take a week. It just, you know, put the biscuits out could you know, make sure that you know, it was from it was from what they did it the highway and what the toll taker says the highway when they were caring for it. They're theirs is what I've carried forward through today with flags that came from what the not the way that I do it, but they just put one out there. Yeah. And it was always every always they're always flying. It was it was never not there. And so it was natural for me to just say, Well, I'm going to take this something and integrate it into this was an easy thing to do. Yeah. But yes, yes, it wasn't work of art. I was very proud and to realize that, oh, that and to be doing it for so long. And honestly, or being left alone, as long as it was there that way? Yes. There were a few small things that I never gave the attention to, but they were the kinds of things where it didn't matter. I could make an adjustment. It didn't didn't change the artwork, right? Yes. Yes. I'll tell you folks to last couple of years have had to change that because too many things were being taken. hard thing to stomach. still makes me cry. Because I don't understand whether you're six or 60 why you would want to do something like that to something so important. Something so beautiful, that you could only think of yourself and maybe, well, maybe somebody took something because they needed to put something under the tree. You have to you have to okay you know you can start picking it apart say Well, yeah, maybe sometimes I'm not all the time. You know that, and I don't want to really dwell on that point. But you know, it's part of the story that it, it changed, it changed what I was doing. And I didn't want to do that, you know, because they were, I was happy for such a long time to create that artwork. And then also, it was asked not just to create it, but to maintain it while it was up. Keep it going, which sometimes is very difficult. And And this last one here, that was, you know, that one had to be covered for four days. Or days, you know, that I that I would, you know, I was I was able to protect it, and all and then I could take it off, and everything would be wiped, but it would still be there. So, again, it gets back to you, when as you go through time in your life, and you go through things and projects and stuff, you make adjustments as you go along. Yes, that was an adjustment that I don't like, or I I'm not happy with it, or whatever word you want to use, because of the reasons that I've already explained. How do you do something like that? Yeah, you know, how do you do something like that, you know, well, there could be a good reason. But you know, at the same time the only thing I can do is put that in there, which helps my brain a little bit be able to cope with the idea that people are out there or doing this kind of stuff. It's never let me clear, let me make sure that people understand something, it was never vandalized. That's true, it was never vandalized, which I'm grateful for, to suddenly to say the least There has just always been there was a fair amount of good stuff went away. Things taken, yes, things take, but it was never vandalized, that's you know, you can you can have room for something like that, where maybe somebody needed to take may be needed needed to put something out of the tree. And this was an opportunity to and they couldn't do this was an opportunity. So it gives you the opportunity to, to generous explanation. Think about that kind of stuff. So because if, you know, can you imagine if it was actually vandalized? No, I don't want to fight. Can we even you know, it just puts it in that place? It feels like it's like the world. Same thing with the world, you can't fit you, you know, you doesn't compute doesn't make sense doesn't make sense. So I'm good with it. I like what I'm doing now? Yes. I'll be honest with you. It's not as nice as what I was doing before. But it's all in the effort of keeping the word going. Yes, you know, and meeting the people having relationships with you guys, and you enjoying everything that I'm doing? Absolutely. And, you know, I can do what I want, you know, and I'm always asking, I don't never do something that you wouldn't be talking about at first, you know, and that

kind of thing. And I don't know what else I can say, because all of the very emotional stuff and things that really mean something to me, and what I hope means something to people who are listening to this, you know, like, why is this crazy, he's doing this for 25 years, he's got to be out of his mind. I don't, you know, I don't want to think that. But you know, being being the agent, I am being beat up by the world, like I've been for the last few years, you've got to be a little bit out there somewhere. But that's the bottom. That's that's the bottom line for me to make sure that everybody knows that. I feel so fortunate. And I've had a wonderful time. And we're gonna keep doing it until I until I as I hope that get sick. And then the next day I pass because I don't want to be in bed somewhere thinking I shouldn't be doing this. You know, that that kind of thing. So I hope everybody can appreciate what I've talked about and what that means to me. What he will always mean to me, and I look forward very much forward to hanging out with him someday soon. You know? Yeah. I believe. I don't, I don't believe I don't believe things in the way that the world has painted it. I grew up in all that. And, but from everything that I've learned, and I have a deep appreciation not only for my work, what I've been able to do with my life and all that kind of stuff, but what what I've learned and how I apply it to my living situation every day, in terms of trying to be as positive or as good about things as I possibly can. But you know, being an old New Yorker Yeah, people around me, people around me who just said to me, well, we don't want to see this guy when he's mad. We don't, you don't want to see this guy I grew up, I grew up in the city, you know, and all that kind of stuff. scheppers That really helped me out a lot with that. And I'm very, very grateful for all that kind of stuff. And will continue to be I only wish to do after I'm going to do some way that I can maybe there is, yeah, maybe do some way that I can help him continue on. But meanwhile, the idea of being closer to him than I already am. Well, you know, it's like, who knows what's out there? We don't have to. There's no way we'll ever know what the truth is about. But I would I would make the point say that, yes, I do believe that there's something better, something more up there, or wherever you whichever way you want to point. There's something better going on in this universe. Than including the planet Earth, including the play, I don't know about any of the people walking around on it. But you know, there's a lot of good stuff. There's a lot of good stuff there. You know, and I believe that there's something there's something or someone or something, you know, people like people like to think someone, I'm okay with that, whatever, whatever works. But if you have a belief that there's something greater, something more wise and something more beautiful, and just something all knowing it's out there. And if you if you wrap your head around that what form that takes doesn't matter, I don't believe and I do believe that. Yes. Check the turtle pack dog went ahead.

1:02:08

And I don't you know, I want to thank you for saying which for allowing me to sit here and blab about this chain. I really, really appreciate your you're interested in that. And I hope I hope I get people to listen to it and all that. I don't know what else I could say or what I've already said it kind of tells the story about the honor and the privilege of being the caretaker for ship the turnpike dock.

1:02:45

An approach and I can say it's an honor to hear the story from you. And to have this time with you. I appreciate it, Andy because your passion, your ability to verbalize what it means is really important. So thank you.

1:03:04

My pleasure, my pleasure. And anybody that you run into would like to talk to me about let let him not let me know and I'll be glad to do. Fantastic.

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Well, thank you. I

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appreciate it. Yeah, I want to do we