

# Andrea Wallace BOL interview (2024-01-26 13\_10 GMT-7)

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## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

broomfield, years, home, denver, great, mom, work, parents, mentioned, met, sister Tina Eichner, Broomfield high school, grew, husband, hairdresser, home salon, community, Community Foundation, Broomfield Days, library, talk, moved, pizza hut, Safeway, Fotomat, Midway and Main Street Manor Hotel, Cichino Family Restaurant

00:10

David: All right. Andrea, thank you so much for joining me today. I really appreciate you being here.

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David: I wonder if you could start by just kind of introducing yourself and sharing a little bit more about yourself.

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Andrea: Okay. I'm Andrea Wallace. I have been a resident of Broomfield for about 52 years, which is almost all of my life. My family moved us here from Denver when I was about nine or ten months old. My father was working at IBM in Niwot, so Denver to Niwot was a pretty...

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David: That's a haul

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Andrea: ...terrific commute even for then. So we settled here and I had moments of wanting to leave as a teenager. And if you talk to many of us, that was the case.

01:03

David: Kind of a common thing?

01:03

Andrea: Yes. And now that, . . . I met my husband, who also is a pretty long Broomfield resident himself. He moved . . .

David: Oh wow.

Andrea: . . . here with his family when he was six years old. And our kids were born and raised here and went to Broomfield High School, as did we.

David: Amazing.

Andrea: So we're pretty deeply rooted at this point.

01:31

David: Yeah, yeah. So you mentioned your father had a job with IBM in Niwot.

Andrea: Yes.

David: And moving to Broomfield then wasn't moving, you know, so far away from Denver, you know, there's still some connection there. Was that intentional, or was that . . .

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Andrea: I believe so.

01:51

David: Yeah.

01:52

Andrea: I believe it was to have that a decent proximity back to Denver. And some, I think most relatives were still in Denver. My grandma and aunt and uncle ended up in Arvada when I was pretty young. And the commute to Arvada was, seemed lengthy as a child, and it was a lot of dirt roads. (inaudible) and Sheridan were dirt roads and it felt like a long road trip. But we went back, we went to Arvada every Thursday for dinner with my grandma and my aunt and uncle and cousins.

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So yeah, and now that it's all paved - it's been paved for years, but I almost can't remember what it looked like as dirt.

02:47

David: Yeah. Yeah. It's all filled in between here and there.

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Andrea: Yeah, lots of development. Yes.

02:57.

David: So can you tell me just a little bit more about, kind of, some of your earlier memories of Broomfield, like when you moved here, and maybe, you know, as you started growing up and neighbors, and that sort of thing?

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Andrea: Sure. We lived on Holly Drive, just off Miramonte, big, big horseshoe, and Miramonte ended at Holly Drive.

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David: Oh, wow.

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Andrea: So it was a big field between there and Highway 287, which seemed vast and scary. But I do, I remember we were close with lots of our neighbors. And my sister and I, who are just a year and a half apart in age, my sister is Tina Eichner of (inaudible) Broomfield.

03:46

David: Oh, yes.

03:47

Andrea: We would, in the summertime, have dinner and a bath and my mom and dad would let us take a walk around the horseshoe, just the two of us. And you wouldn't dream of that now.

04:00

And we just, yeah, we had neighbors we could count on and lots of stay-at-home moms would come and have coffee with my mom, or we would go over there. I remember when my older brother Paul and my sister Tina were in elementary school and I was at home. I tagged along with my mom.

David: Oh wow.

04:23

Andrea: She did, it was a YWCA group at, I want to say the United Methodist Church, the one by the high school. So she would go there and do Jazzercise and art classes, tile painting . . .

David: That's amazing.

Andrea: . . . cooking, and that's where I met some of my first friends who I'm still friends with.

04:48

David: That's amazing.

04:49

Andrea: And it was just, yeah, it, I have, I have a lot of great memories being young and then Broomfield Days . . .

04:59

David: Oh yes

05:00

Andrea: I still, I mark my calendar like it's a holiday.

David: That's so fun.

Andrea: It's just, it's non-negotiable.

05:09

David: Yeah. special time for sure.

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Andrea: Yes, yes. Yeah.

05:14

David: So as you were growing up, thinking too about, you know, kind of, the changes that were happening kind of in that neighborhood, and then, you know, even Broomfield as a whole . . .

Andrea: right.

David: . . . what are some of the things that you've noticed over time, biggest changes?

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Andrea: Obviously, traffic congestion. There's some things that have gone on that I miss, and primarily, I've read and heard why, but I really miss the train horn.

05:53

David: Oh, yeah

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Andrea: I really, 'cuz that was just kind of, it was almost like a connection to the outside bigger world. Because, you know, we had a, we had everything we needed here. But it was also what was, what was out there. And I miss that.

06:14

A little bit, I hate to say it, but I miss some of the friendliness that comes with a smaller community.

David: Right.

Andrea: Just not, you know, for instance my husband and I, he was class of '86, I was '89, and we knew each other's friends above and below our grades, and when my kids graduated from Broomfield, they didn't even know everyone in their class.

06:40

David: Oh, wow.

06:41

Andrea: And so that's something that, you know, they don't know any different but I, I wish for them that they had had a bit more of that experience. Just because it's, and still everyone's very connected, especially thanks to Facebook, and I found a lot of people are still here, which is nice.

07:03

David: Yeah, yeah. For sure. For sure.

07:04

Andrea: But yeah, just, yeah I would just say the largeness and the, it just at times feels not as personal and not as, it's lost a little bit of its humanity. You know, there are a lot of great groups - FISH, I have food for them in the car, but you know, there's a lot of great groups doing really good things. But also it's, people are more closed off. And that's kind of sad.

David: Yeah. Yeah.

Andrea: But, that goes with growth I think.

07:46

David: Part of the story of . . .

Andrea: Yeah.

David: . . . going from what, 10,000 probably . . .

07:51

Andrea: Yeah.

07:51

David: . . . to 75 or 76,000 now.

Andrea: Yeah. Right.

David: It's a big, a big change.

07:53

Andrea: And 70,000 doesn't sound like that large a number but, big difference.

07:58

David: Yeah. Yeah, for sure.

Andrea: Yeah.

David: So you graduated from Broomfield High School?

08:04

Andrea: Yes.

08:05

David: What happened next in your story?

08:07

Andrea: Well, I went to Boulder Vo-Tech during high school, and got a cosmetology certificate . . .

David: Nice.

Andrea: . . . and took my exam a month after graduating, and I've been doing hair ever since.

08:20

David: That's amazing. So cool.

08:23

Andrea: Yeah, yeah.

David: That's great.

Andrea: 35 years coming up . . .

David: That's fantastic.

Andrea: . . . of doing hair, so . . .

08:26

David: So tell me a little bit more about that. I always feel like people, that you, that you have so many opportunities to connect with people in that kind of position?

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Andrea: Oh yes, absolutely.

08:39

David: So yeah, tell me, tell me a little about what that's like for you.

08:43

Andrea: I really enjoy it. I enjoy people. I enjoy the craft of it. And I've, over the years, made a lot of connections with my friends' parents. You know, I have a lot of longtime clients who are my friends' parents, and it's another way to connect with them, because I get to hear what they're doing. Especially if they're out of state and vice versa.

David: Yeah.

09:11

Andrea: I meet newcomers that way, thanks to referrals, which is, that's always lovely, too, because...

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David: Get new folks in. .

09:21

Andrea: Yeah, absolutely. Yeah.

09:26

David: That's so fun. So, do you have a studio or do you have it at your home?

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Andrea: I have a little home salon. And yeah I, just before I came here, I had a couple of people I worked on . . .

David: Nice.

Andrea: . . . and yeah, it's rewarding and it kept me home when my kids were growing up. We happen to live right across the street from my mom and dad.

09:53

David: Okay.

09:54

Andrea: So they were a big help during those years where they didn't, they shouldn't have been unsupervised. Sometimes they would all, in the summer, they would sneak back with their cousins. And I'd be trying to work and there was a big ruckus.

10:11

You guys have to go back to grandma's.

David: It's time.

10:17

Andrea: Yes. But yeah, it's been great. And now that they're grown, my kids, and my parents, they're doing great. They're very independent and, but I think there could come a day where it's important for us to be as close as we are, for their, for, so I can return that favor.

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David: It comes around, I think, sometimes.

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Andrea: Oh, it sure does. Yes.

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David: So tell me about, are your children close by now, or are they . . .

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Andrea: They are right now, yep. Our daughter is the oldest, Leandra, she is married with two little boys. When I'm not doing hair, I'm babysitting and taking care of them while she works. So we, I work when she's off, so I can help her, another way to pay it back. And she lives in Westminster.

11:10

David: Okay.

11:11

Andrea: And in the healthcare field. Her husband grew up in Erie and they met at UNC.

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David: Yes.

11:22

Andrea: And they got married and he's a machinist.

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Andrea: My two sons, Shane is 26. I should have said Leandra is 28. Shane's 26. He served eight years active duty in... uh, six years active duty in the Army. And now he's doing another six with the National Guard.

11:45

David: Wow, fantastic.

11:46

Andrea: He works with my husband who is a fleet manager for Brush Management, just up in Lafayette. Our youngest, Garrett, served four years in the Navy. He was in Sicily for three of it, which sounded really great, but COVID messed that up pretty good. So he was kind of stuck on the base for a really long time. He was, at least, an essential worker. He was military police, so he actually got to go to work. And he's back now. He's been back about a year and just kind of sorting through what he wants to do. He's 23. And he works for Ball in a security capacity. So he likes it okay. It's kind of the same thing he was doing in the Navy. And that's not that's not his path, but...

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David: not really his passion.?

12:48



Andrea: Yeah. So he's trying to figure that out. And he lives with us. Yeah.

12:55

David: Good. I was thinking...(inaudible).

13:00

Andrea: Oh, yeah. Yeah, they are. When I was a board member with the Community Foundation, I kind of took them under my wing for different fundraisers and, great group of people.

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David: So committed to..

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Andrea: Yes

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David: So tell me a little bit more about your role with the Community Foundation, what's that been like?

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Andrea: Um, really good. I enjoyed it a lot. Because I volunteered with the schools a lot. And you know, great, wonderful time, met a lot of friends that way. But it was nice serving on the foundation board, because it was a little more diverse of a group, men, women, all ages, all backgrounds. And I enjoyed my time doing that. I stepped back when my second grandson was born, just because getting to meetings was next to impossible. So they are not helpful in that type of a scene. (Laughter)

14:11

David: So as you're having those kinds of conversations, and just thinking about, you know, the Community Foundation and how, you know, how do you see some of those organizations and you mentioned FISH earlier, like, contributing to the kind of the community we have here. What does that look like?

14: 28

Andrea: Well, those two specifically, I feel are, are really good at getting a feel for what the needs are, what are the real needs and what are, you know, and prioritizing, and they're both able to rally people to donate, donate time, whatever they can, and, you know, just a lot of good positive energy and I think that's why they're successful. Just because it makes people feel good, however they're able to be involved.

15:07

David: I love that.

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Andrea: So they allow people to be involved at whatever level is comfortable.

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David: Yeah, a lot of different entry points.

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Andrea: Yes. Yeah.

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David: That's great. You talked a little bit about this, changing the subject, but you talked a little bit about Broomfield Days; what's gonna be a memory or something that really sticks with you from a past Broomfield Day?

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Andrea: Broomfield Day? I would say, in recent history, would be when I got to start bringing my kids

15:44

David: Oh, fun.

15:44

Andrea: And, and so that they were able to experience it because of all the changes, Broomfield Days hasn't changed a whole lot. Which is nice, some may not think that's a great thing, but I think it is. And they, my sons, they're not really crowd people. And I think that that's part of having been in the military, but my daughter looks forward to it every year, and now she's bringing her kids. So it's just a nice tradition. Yeah, I would say in the early years of bringing my children to it, it 's been just a nice circle.

16:29

David: Yeah, that's great. That's great. Yeah, I love how it, you know, kind of just has that feel of, just a parade and all the people you can visit and see and talk to them.

16:40

Andrea: Even now we have a meet up time. 1030, beer tent. And that's where I meet my friends I grew up with, who everyone is around. It's just that's our touch point. Yeah, yeah.

16:59

David: That's wonderful. So yeah, I'm curious what your thoughts are on the future of Brookfield, like, where do you see Broomfield going in the future?

17:09

Andrea: You know, I'm uncertain on that. I believe, or I hope, but mostly I believe, that a lot of the feel will remain the same, because as much as it's changed, it's also remained the same.. And. and I think that, I don't see the roots of Broomfield changing because I think most people get it. I think that's why people are drawn to be here. Because it just is Broomfield and it's hard to put any real description on it. So yeah, it just definitely feels like home. And, you know, it's funny because, especially today, knowing what I was going to be doing, but you know, driving down Midway through the park, I was like, "man, I

spent a lot of time in that park as a kid.” And a lot of walking from Kohl Elementary to Pizza Hut when we had a half day of school, you know, and that's where my friends and I kind of grew up together and made lots of good memories. And, you know, we were not perfect kids. I mean, kids are kids, but we also weren't destructive, we could, you know, our parents could let us, in sixth grade, loose in the world and know we wouldn't get in trouble or, and also the safety aspect. You know, we had to have a couple quarters so we could check in at home, but otherwise it was fun; be home at 4, 4:30, whatever the time was, and it was all good.

19:06

David: So, you're talking about two things that I wanted to follow up on. One is the kind of, the checking in and having to use quarters for a payphone?

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Andrea: Right

19:18

David: I remember that. That's certainly part of the past. But like, what was the payphone? You know, and you mentioned pizza, too. Where was the Pizza Hut at the time?

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Andrea: Pizza Hut was in the parking lot where At Home is.

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David: Okay. So in that same shopping area?

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Andrea: And prior to Target, there was a strip mall, where the old Heart of Broomfield sign stood. One side of the strip mall had Broomfield Drug and a store called Yellow Front, I think they were a chain and there was a Checker Auto Parts and then the other side had little shops and Safeway....

19:58

David: Okay

20:00

Andrea: ...and then Pizza Hut and the taco place. There was a little Fotomat and that was kind of when, back when they used to have half-days of school, we would get to walk over there instead of go home and hang out with our friends.

20:18

Andrea: The Broomfield Library did a reading program every summer. I think they still do. And you would win a free personal pizza, if you read a certain number of books. And so, we would go redeem our free pizzas.

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Andrea: Yeah, yeah. Very fun.

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David: Yeah, and then the library at the time would have been over here.

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Andrea: Yeah.

20:41

David: What's now the Veterans Museum?

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Andrea: Yeah. Yeah. Which seemed enormous.(Laughter) It is big, there is a lot of room in there.

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David: It's a surprisingly large-seeming building when you get into it. From the outside, it doesn't look like it is.

20:59

Andrea: And the adult library we called it, was upstairs. And it was the whole space not, you know, now they have it portioned off and downstairs was the children's. So yeah, that was... we did a lot of that in the summer; library and in our books and get our points, or I think they had us do a caterpillar on the wall. So every time each book, you got to put a circle to make your caterpillar longer.

21:32

David: That's cute. Yeah, librarians are so funny.

21:36

Andrea: They are. (Laughter)

21:38

David: So you mentioned that you were mostly you know, good kids, and your parents trusted you doing those sorts of things? What were some of the naughty things that people were, maybe not you...?

21:52

Andrea: Gosh, I just... one day, I remember that. I... my brother got caught up in, and it wasn't terrible. But they would do it when you were going into junior high. They had cream, they called it cream something and they would go after the sixth graders going into junior high the next year, and they would hit them with shaving cream and mess up their hair. And, you know, it was...

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David: Give them a bad time.

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Andrea: It was kind of a rite of passage that I would imagine, if people did that now, there would be a lot , a lot of concern and problems.

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David: Right, they'd probably stop it.

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Andrea: It was kind of all in.... it was in fun, but a little, little mild bullying, but...

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David: Sounds like something elementary students would do

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Andrea: Yeah, and you know, TP'ing your friend's house, there was a lot more of that.

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David: inaudible

22:59

Andrea: Exactly. Yeah.

23:02

David: So anything else that we didn't talk about?

23:05

Andrea: Well, um, there is and it may, well, I'm not gonna say, may; if you're interested, will require a follow up. My grandparents, while living in Denver, before my parents were married, ran and operated or owned and operated a restaurant at the Manor Hotel.

23:27

David: Oh, yes. The Manor Hotel.

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Andrea: The Cichino Family Restaurant.

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David: Yes. Tina mentioned it.

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Andrea: She did? oh good, because I was gonna say, I don't have a grasp on the dates or anything, if that's needed. But it was a nice, nice other root in our story. And I just remember when my grandmother

was getting older, and my grandpa had passed, we'd take turns picking her up and bringing her to my mom's house. And any time we drove down Main Street, she would kind of go back in memory, or not Main, Midway, and she would talk about the homes as you approached Main Street and she would say, "These were the executive homes. These were the fancy homes." And so that's kind of me, and I still look at those homes and go, I can see how that was then, like the 50s and 60s, they were quite modern.

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David: Yeah, it's also kind of cool, too, because at the end of ,you know, Midway there, it gets... before you get to Main, that's kind of, especially on the one side of the street they're kind of set back.

24:45

Andrea: Yeah. Yeah. So it's, it's, it was always fun to hear her talk about Broomfield and the way it was, then.

David: Yeah.

24:30

Andrea: And there's something else in my brain... .Oh, when the Manor was demolished my mom and her brothers, my uncles, got to go on one last tour . . .

David: Oh wow, neat.

Andrea: . . . and they each have a brick from the building.

25:11

David: Oh cool

25:12

Andrea: So that was pretty cool. The *Enterprise* covered it, and that was, we got to tag along.

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David: Nice. Well, it was such a big deal because it was such a special place in Broomfield.

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Andrea: Right, right. Yeah.

25:27

David: And now that was located kind of, not, a little bit where this apartment . . .

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Andrea: A little bit, it actually was where Walgreens is.

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David: Right where Walgreens, oh, so a little further south.

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Andrea: Yeah.

25:43

Yeah, an I chat with people during the workday, they talk about when they moved to Broomfield that was where they landed, was at The Manor, until they got moved into their home they, and it's, so it was quite iconic.

25:59

David: Yeah, for sure. And your grandparents ran the restaurant?

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Andrea: Restaurant, oh, my, they managed the hotel and my grandpa (inaudible) ran the restaurant. He was a very good cook.

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David: That's amazing

26:13

Andrea: He was a cook in the Army. And then yeah....

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David: In World War II maybe? Or . . .

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Andrea: Yeah, right around, or just after, World War II.

David: Okay.

Andrea: And he never, he never deployed, he had bad knees. So he was a cook in Monterey, California. That's where my mom was born, but they were rooted in Denver, both of my grandparents.

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David: What were their names again?

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Andrea: Cancino, John and Josephine.

26:48

David: I know, the last time I spoke with Tina was a little bit ago.

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Andrea: Was it? Yeah.

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David: We did, we did a little bit of searching around and found a few documents.

26:58

Andrea: Oh, yeah. Yeah. She, we would, if you want anything else, I would guess my mom or one of my uncles has it. So, if that's something that's helpful.

27:09

David: Yeah. And I mean if, if your (inaudible) would like to talk, it'd be delightful to talk to them.

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Andrea: Oh, sure. Yeah, absolutely. My dad's a little more, man of few words. My mom loves to chit chat, so . . .

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David: That's great.

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Andrea: Yeah, well sure.

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David: Andrea, I really appreciate chatting with you today.

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Andrea: Thank you.

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David: It's been a delight. Yeah, I really appreciate your time.

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Andrea: Yeah. My pleasure.

End of interview.