

Arnold Holgerson

By Maddy Jalbert

Most people don't really stop to think about names. Arnold Holgerson does. "My name means powerful eagle," he says. "An eagle can fly, soar, and they can pick out the smallest little details." He also says that talking about names is a good way to start a conversation. Once, when he was in the hospital, one of the nurses was named Peaches. When he asked about it she told him she worked with adults that had special needs. They couldn't say her name, but they could say Peaches. If he hadn't asked, he never would have known. However, he also said that few people ever question him back. When you do ask though, you will find an amazing person who is living an amazing life.

Mr. Holgerson was born in Rhode Island, but later moved to New Jersey. He has only lived in Longmont for three years, but he first visited when he was eighteen. Many of his jobs revolved around teaching. When he was younger he was a youth director at a church, and more recently, he taught adults with English as a second language. When teaching them he had to be very strict and if they were a few minutes late for class, they would be sent away.

Mr. Holgerson also has children. He has a daughter, Heather, who lives in France, and a son, Paul, who lives in New Jersey. His son enjoys Reggae and Hip-hop music. When he started to produce a magazine in the basement, Mr. Holgerson said he was skeptical. However, when he heard a tape of his son talking to Bob Marley, he figured he knew what he was doing.

Mr. Holgerson said, "I like to watch people." He explained that people always want to talk about themselves. When one person is talking everyone else is just thinking of a better story to tell and not really listening. "Asking questions has helped me so much."

When he moved to Colorado he joined the Longmont Writers' Club where he found that he had to read out loud. From autobiographies his favorite line is "What do you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?" Mr. Holgerson has certainly answered that question. He also has learned a lot along the way. "I can't just get involved in the little things," he says. "I need to step back and see the whole picture."