



# EAGLE EYES

Volume 1, Number 2

Spring, 1993

## The Eagle Rock Campus: From Rocks to Reality

The campus will be comprised of twenty-six buildings nestled along a hillside overlooking rolling meadows, rock domes and coniferous woodlands. An athletic field lies 250 yards south of the campus.

The buildings are designed to celebrate the land, not to dominate it. Arranged in a semi-circular pattern, they embrace the meadows and granite domes. Construction is limited to the western edge of the property. Five hundred acres are protected by a conservation easement.

One of the four buildings presently under construction is the **Professional Development Center**, aka the PDC. It houses administrative offices, conference rooms, a greeting and lounge area and the nurse's station.

**The Lodge**, also under construction, features a large dining area, kitchen and an open lounge area centered around a stone fireplace known as the hearth. "Gatherings" will be held here as the morning sun shines into this room as it rises over the eastern horizon.

Six **dormitories** will house students and house-parents. The first two dormitories are under construction. Sixteen students and two house parents will live in each dorm.

The **Learning Resource Center** contains the library, computer space, four classrooms, a meeting room, an amphitheater and offices for the Instructional Specialists.

The **Human Performance Center** is the largest building on the campus and houses a six-lane swimming pool, a full-court gymnasium with a stage and bleacher area and capabilities for indoor rock climbing, a conditioning room, and an open area that may be used for dance or martial arts.

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## Meet the New Members of the Eagle Rock Staff . . .

Five Instructional Specialists joined the Eagle Rock staff on March 1, 1993.

**Deborah Eads** will develop and implement the Environmental Studies curriculum. She comes to Eagle Rock from Nederland (Colorado) High School where she developed PASSAGES, an alternative program. Deb is a course director for the Colorado Outward Bound School and Towson State University and is an avid mountaineer.

**Marje Monroe**, Counseling and Life Skills, comes to Eagle Rock from Boca Raton, Florida, where she was Director of Counseling at an independent school. A Chicago native, Marje is a clinical social worker who has experience in both college and secondary settings.

**Rick Penner** is planning Eagle Rock's Outdoor Education and Athletic programs. Rick brings a variety of experiences to his position including working with the Colorado Outward Bound School and numerous public and private educational institutions.

**Norrie Rothenberg**, Social Studies and Society, came from Rishel Middle School in Denver, Colorado, where she developed an experiential program for students who are at risk and special education students with emotional disorders. Prior to her teaching career, she was a contracts negotiator for Martin Marietta and worked with the space program.

**Michael Soguero** is the instructional specialist in Science and Math. His graduate work was in molecular biology at Penn State. He has developed science curricula for NASA and managed the Chemistry Department at Regis University in Denver.

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Eagle Rock  
School  
and  
Professional  
Development  
Center

2750 Notaiiah  
Road

Estes Park, CO  
80517-1770

Phone Numbers:

(303) 586-0600

Denver Metro  
(303) 442-7655

FAX (303) 586-  
4805

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American  
Honda  
Education  
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Honda  
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**Mak Itabashi**  
President

**Tom Dean**  
Vice President and  
Secretary

**Sherry Cameron**  
Director

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## Guest Editorial . . . . . by Mak Itabashi

### *Dreams Come True*

Time has gone by very quickly. It seems like yesterday that our days were spent dealing with issues concerning our school site: finding land, obtaining permits, getting access... Now, when we visit the site and see the first buildings being created, we see our dream quickly becoming a reality.

I find myself meditating about the meaning of "dreams come true."

For me, Eagle Rock School is more than one dream. It represents many dreams. Generally, I believe that people tend to identify themselves with either the mountains or the seashore. A person's preference is shaped by personal character, thoughts, and actions.

I am a "mountain-type" person. Even as a small child, I preferred going to the mountains over the seashore. The Rocky Mountains, Alps, and Himalayas have always been places that have seemed mystical and sacred to me. I longed for these places.

Whenever I would dream of these mountains my heart would beat rapidly. This attraction to the mountains has made Eagle Rock School very special to me. Being in the Rocky Mountains is a "dream come true."

There is another coincidence. One of my nieces has a special talent for music. Recently she joined a professional pop music group where she plays the keyboard and helps to compose some of their pieces. The group is rapidly winning fame in Japan. The name of this very popular group is ... "Dreams Come True!"

I am surrounded by dreams, many that still make my heart beat rapidly. Eagle Rock School is a dream that is especially important to me because it will be a place where dreams are created.

My ultimate dream is that we can help the dreams created at Eagle Rock School become reality . . . that these "dreams come true!"

## Staff Profile -- Garth Lewis

Garth is an instructional specialist in Career and Service Learning and is the Owner's Representative during the construction phase of the school. In his own words, Garth describes himself as "just a regular person, attempting to enjoy life while it is still mine to enjoy, appreciating the fact that I'm able to enjoy it and trying to remember that I have something in common with everyone.

*I had some great wilderness adventures when I was growing up in New York State. Scouting gave me the opportunity to take extended trips and introduced me to*

*volunteer community service projects.*

*At the State University of New York, I studied social science and human services then moved to Maine where I restored old homes and built new ones. I also instructed courses for Hurricane Island Outward Bound School's Youth Discovery Program. In 1992, I received a Masters in Education focusing on experiential education from CU-Boulder.*

*I am very pleased and excited beyond belief to be part of the Eagle Rock staff. I feel it is a culmination of all my past life experiences."*

## Rocks to Reality . . . *Continued from Page 1*

Besides classrooms and laboratories, the **Science Building** features a greenhouse "bioshelter." Space for painting, pottery, ceramics, photography, weaving, jewelry making, woodworking and more is planned for the **Arts and Crafts Center**. The student-built **One-room School House** provides multiple use space.

Housing for staff and visitors such as guest lecturers, visiting teachers, and parents and family members is provided.

The students also will construct a **Barn** for use in farming and caring for livestock.

There are plans to build a "Thoreau cabin," a teepee, a yurt, and a green-

house in strategic locations on the property providing opportunities for reflection and spiritual growth. A small cluster of units will hold Eagle Rock's fleet of vans and school equipment.

The building continues at a rapid pace. The PDC has roof lines and framed walls. Doors and windows wait to be installed. The Lodge fireplace is complete, the roof trusses have been installed and the concrete floor will be poured soon. Masons and plumbers have been laying the groundwork for the dormitories, and carpentry work has just begun.

The PDC, the Lodge and the first dorm are anticipated to be completed in August.

## Admissions Packet Distribution

A comprehensive admissions packet for Eagle Rock School is now available through partner schools.

Discussion has centered around the profile of an Eagle Rock student. We assume that prospective Eagle Rock students want to come to ERS and grow; they may not have experienced success in their school settings for a variety of reasons. They

may be experiencing problem relationships, exhibit low self-esteem and are uncomfortable with success; however, they have reached a point where they are willing to make changes and cooperate with others in doing so.

If your school does not have an admissions packet, they may contact John Oubre, Director of Students. Student selection will begin the middle of May.

## The Search for Eagle Rock

On August 7, 1991, Robert Burkhardt, architect David Barrett, Tom Dean, Estes Park resident Judith Normali and planner Jeff Winston "discovered" the Eagle Rock site. Here are the events leading up to that moment.

Our attempt to purchase the 90-acre Gold Lake Conference Center in Boulder County generated such opposition in a May '91 hearing that the County Commissioners approved the sale with so many restrictions that American Honda withdrew its application.

During the next few months, we visited over 100 sites across Colorado. Selection criteria included: a site "worthy of teachers and students;" simultaneous accessibility and seclusion; elevation between 7000 and 8000 feet; site manageability; and varied terrain.

On August 5, Larry Kallenberger, Director of the Colorado Department of Local Affairs, urged the group to find a site in Colorado and offered Governor's Office assistance. On August 6, we visited a site in the Colorado Springs area, and learned that a "school section," or Section 16, was part of the camp. Finding a site with a "school section" was an attractive idea.

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**Eagle Rock School and Professional Development Center**

**Robert Burkhardt**  
Head of School

**Sally Duncan**  
Director of Operations

**Deborah Eads**  
Environmental Sciences

**Judy Gilbert**  
Director of Curriculum

**Garth Lewis**  
Career and Service Learning

**Marje Monroe**  
Life Skills and Counseling

**John Oubre**  
Director of Students

**Rick Penner**  
Outdoor Education and Athletics

**Norrie Rothenberg**  
Society and Social Studies

**Michael Soguero**  
Science and Math

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## The Origin of "Notaiah Road"

After deciding to locate the school in Estes Park, we undertook research to determine if local historical or place names might be appropriate for use at Eagle Rock. We discovered a publication summarizing an event which occurred almost fifty years earlier.

In the summer of 1914, Oliver Toll led a two-week pack trip through Estes, Grand Lake and what is now Rocky Mountain National Park to learn Arapaho names for the area. Gun Griswold, age 73, and Sherman Sage, 63, lived in the Estes Valley during their youth. Neither spoke English, so Tom Crispin, 38, came with them from the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming to serve as the interpreter on the pack trip.

The party covered considerable ground, concentrating on the high country. They tried to match Indian names for the various features of the region with the local names. For example, the entire Estes basin was called "The Circle," or TAH-KAH-AANON in Arapaho. Longs Peak and Mount Meeker together were called the "Two Guides," or NESOTAIEUX.

In the "North End" of Estes, according to Toll's account, "There are three rocks, the two School

Section Rocks and Eagle Rock, which the Arapaho called 'Bone Pipes,' NOTAIAH, because of their resemblance to pipe bowls, sometimes made of bone."

Acknowledging and honoring the Arapaho presence in the Estes Valley, we have named the school entrance Notaiah Road.

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## The Search for Eagle Rock

*Continued from Page 3*

The next day in Estes, we was looking at yet another piece of property. The uneven terrain led us to a precipice overlooking a vast meadow ringed by ridges. Consulting the topo, we discovered that it was Section 16 and decided to take a look. We parked on Dry Gulch Road, jumped two fences, walked up and over a "saddle," then down into heaven. We began to run, explore, and laugh as we moved through interlocking meadows, wonderful stands of ponderosa and spectacular rock formations.

The next day negotiations began with the State Land Board to discuss options, and in June of 1992 concluded the deal. But that's another story. . .

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**Eagle Rock School and  
Professional Development Center  
2750 Notaiah Road  
Estes Park, CO 80517-1770**

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