

## Writetrack

# Seen any ugly, lucky dogs lately?

**M**y wife, Julie, and I were walking out of the supermarket carrying bags of groceries when I noticed a man pinning a piece of paper onto the bulletin board. The paper had the guy's own photo on it. Below the photo were the hand printed words. "Please help me find my dog."

"Don't you have a picture of your dog to put there instead of your photo?" I asked.

"Oh, yeah, I have a photo of the mutt," the man said, "but he's really ugly and I don't want everyone to know I own such an ugly dog."

"Well you had better at least write out a description," I said. "Nobody is going help you with just what you have written."

"Yeah? Okay."

So the guy draws a line through "my dog" and writes "my ugly dog."

"That's not enough," I said.

"Yeah? Okay." He draws a line through "ugly dog" and writes "very ugly dog."

Julie chimes in, "That should do it!" With that, she grabs my sleeve and tows me toward the door.

"Are you kidding," I said to her. "He'll never get the dog back using that description."

"Yes, I know," she said. "Lucky for the dog."



By Mack McConnell

# Over the hill and out the door

**P**lease bear with me just this once while I indulge in a small, slightly serious epilogue.

At the end of May, I will retire from my position as director of communications for the Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association (MECA). I will be moving to St. Ignatius. My wife, Julie, will be joining me at the end of September when she will relinquish her post as grandnanny for twin granddaughters in Portland, Oregon.

When I joined the Montana electric cooperative family nearly 18 years ago, what is now MECA was called Montana Associated Utilities. Much has changed since then, including me. My tenure has been a fruitful and rewarding experience.

It has been a pleasure and an honor to serve the co-ops and their members. Knowing that the co-ops truly care about their members and try to do what's best for them has made it easy to dedicate myself to that same effort.

Of all of the tasks I have performed during my time here, writing and producing Rural Montana magazine has been my most enjoyable task. That is true in large part because I have been fortunate to have a gem of a workmate. Publications Technician Sherri Carl has been the nicest, most conscientious person I have ever worked with and I'm not just saying that because she laughs at my jokes.

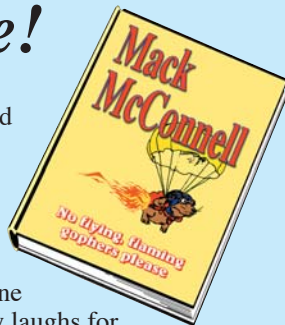
I want to take this opportunity to thank Sherri, the rest of the MECA staff and the co-op co-workers around the state for their support and their friendship.

I also give my heartfelt thanks to you, the readers of Rural Montana. Thank you for the many letters, the e-mails and the calls. Thanks for reading the goofy columns that have appeared on this page. A little laughter is good for the body and the soul and I hope my stories, which by the way are more fact than fiction, have in some small way, brightened your days.

I plan to continue to write, syndicating a column for newspapers if they'll have me, so maybe you will hear from me again. I really don't want to lose contact with all of you wonderful people so write me a note if you feel like it. My e-mail won't be hooked up for a while but my mailing address is Box 811, St. Ignatius MT 59865 or call (406) 745-4151. Bye now.

## Mack's book still available!

Although Mack's first book, "Never Grab a Cockatiel," has sold out, his second book, "No Flying, Flaming Gophers, Please," is still available through Rural Montana. Order one or two books for \$7 each plus \$1.50 for postage and handling whether you order one book or two. Give Dad some belly laughs for Father's Day. Order now for prompt delivery.



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