

CONTENTS



The lineman — your co-op's mainstay

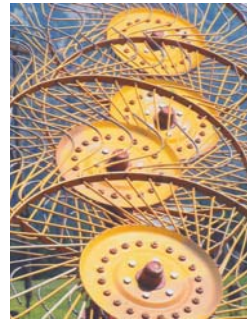
Wanted: Powerline workers. The ideal candidate will be fit to climb poles and able to “work hot” on energized high-voltage lines while hanging in space. Rappelling skills a plus. Must be able to understand electricity, its hazards and physics. Work involves the great outdoors, often at night during snow, rain and ice storms. Why would anybody do this job? The start of a series to answer that question for you.



8

Signs of a life

It began as a story about a collection of vintage signs west of Fort Shaw and became a tale of a life and a tragic death.



10

Reader photo page

Color and pattern enrich a picture. Those elements and more from *RM* readers. *Hay rake by Judith Simonson of Noxon.*



11

Legislative update IV

The Legislature is set to wrap up in April. What might happen to your electric bill in the home stretch? Fourth in the series.

7

DEPARTMENTS

1 Viewpoint

15 Calendar

2 The Face of Montana

16 Young Montanans

12 Dateline, D.C.

16 Coming Up

14 Recipes

End **O**f the **L**ine



About our cover ...

A lineman at play, sort of. At the linemen rodeo in Dillon last summer. The silhouette of man and chips was shot against the midday sun and superimposed by *RM* graphics expert, Sherri Carl, on a foggy sunrise in Pondera County.

Photos by James V. Smith, Jr