

Loose in the Foothills

by Bob Ring

Where I'm Coming From

This is how it happened: I emailed editor Tiffany Kjos last week and said, "I'd like to write a regular column for your *Foothills* regional news section. How much can you pay me?"

She answered briskly, "Nothing!"

I said, "That's more than I was expecting. I accept." And believe it or not, that's how I got this job.

Here's what I plan to do: I will write a column about once a month – on subjects that hopefully have some relevance and interest to you. I will talk about places, events, and issues that you may already know something about – adding a human interest sidelight. I'll also talk about life experiences (mine and my better half Pat's) that you may be lucky not to know anything about. Scorpion stings come to mind. I try to be humorous and I like to make fun of things – both serious and not. So try not to get too bent out of shape.

My credentials for this you ask? My most important qualification is that I am a Foothills resident. In 1993 as a recent widower, I was transferred to Tucson from San Diego. I spent two years in an apartment near Campbell and Sunrise. As many of you probably did, I drove all over Tucson looking for the perfect lot to build a house. In 1995 I found that lot and built my dream house atop a ridge on the west end of Snyder - with views of both the Catalinas and Tucson.

In 2001 I found Pat and soon was sharing the house and my life with this wonderful woman. (Note for future columns: building house, meeting Pat on internet, Pat is a KNITTER)

My writing credentials are based on 35 years of Raytheon engineering proposals, reports, and briefings – in which I promise you, not one single word of human interest or humor was even attempted. (No aspersions on all you current and past Raytheon executives reading this.) Thus, when I retired from Raytheon in 2000, a torrent of repressed non technical writing was let "loose."

Keyed by Ring-family genealogy interests, my brother Al and I have so far co-authored three history books, 80 newspaper columns, and eight Arizona History Convention papers.

The second writing torrent released with my retirement was "Gym Rat Rantings" for the monthly newsletter of the Fit Center gym at Fifth and Craycroft. These articles talk about senior-interest, health, and other humorous subjects. I've been doing the gym thing for two years now - and hope to continue - for the same grand wages I'm getting with this new gig.

So that's my story, and I'm sticking to it. If anyone out there is actually interested in this stuff, you can find all the details at <http://ringbrothershistory.com>.