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### "Way up North . . ."

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It's more the tone than the words that get my attention. There's a certain breathless quality to Buddy's voice.

*" . . . where there's lots of snow . . ."*

His slow, clear enunciation and slight lilt would sound OK if he were reading a fairy tale. To a three-year-old.

*" . . . there are lit-tle radar sites  
along the coast."*

But no, dagnab it, he's talking to me.

I'm reviewing a section of the latest bid for this project we've held for 10 years. The executive manager for this project has been persuaded by head office to have me "edit" their proposal. It runs to several hundred pages, we're a week away from submitting it, and I don't have electronic access, so I'm not sure what anyone thinks I can do at this stage.

I can play along is what I can do, so I pull the first of three binders toward me and start reading.

Almost immediately I hit an acronym that doesn't seem right. Well, none of them \*seem\* right: The way this client and our proposal use them turns text into almost indecipherable gobbledygook, IMHO. But this acronym seems less right than usual.

I've actually been to the Northern Ontario centre that receives and massages the data coming in from those lit-tle radar sites along the coast. I've tramped around its associated sites. I've had their functions explained to me. I couldn't do the work, but at the thousand-foot level I get it.

I'm almost positive that the writer has wrongly typed one letter of one acronymized site name to inadvertently create a valid acronym that refers to another site, with an entirely different function. But I figure I better check, so I take the binder over to a Technical Buddy I've never worked with before.

*"Shouldn't this be RHGC,  
not RHCC?"*

Evidently, I've caught him at a bad moment.

*"Huh?"*

I try again.

*"Shouldn't this be RHGC?  
RHCC doesn't make sense here."*

He smiles. Oh, I know that smile. That well-aren't-you-cute smile. That I'm-sure-you-don't-understand-this-complex-stuff smile. That let-me-explain-it-so-even-you-will-get-it smile.

*"Well, Isabel, way up North . . ."*