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## Incident at the Lakes of the Clouds

J. B. Sisson

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## Incident at the Lakes of the Clouds

In a mountain hostel at evenfall  
one summer fifty years ago and more,  
hikers at dinner heard an engine roar  
and saw our Clem come cruising through the col  
on his black bike he had sneaked in at a crawl  
where motorcycle had never gone before.  
In full view Clem stopped, checked his map, and swore  
and hurtled off away. Sweet folderol.

The hikers laughed, sat down again to eat,  
talked about dwarf cinquefoil, a tundra flower,  
and stepped outside for an after-dinner smoke.

O Monty Python! O René Magritte!  
You should have been there at that golden hour  
when the sun paused for that American joke.

*J. B. Sisson*

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J. B. Sisson has been hiking in the White Mountains since 1950; he worked at Lakes of the Clouds Hut during the summer of 1960. He has published poems in anthologies and literary magazines such as *Antaeus*, *The Paris Review*, and *Poetry*. He has also published poems in previous issues of *Appalachia*.

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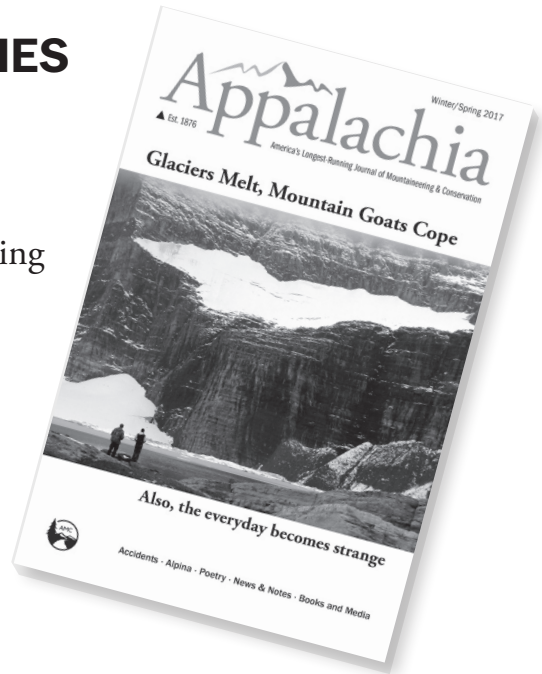
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