

Appalachia

Volume 68
Number 2 *Summer/Fall 2017: Stories from the
Albums*

Article 24

2017

Whooping Cranes at Cedar Lake

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Recommended Citation

Smelcer, John (2017) "Whooping Cranes at Cedar Lake," *Appalachia*: Vol. 68 : No. 2 , Article 24.
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**Whooping Cranes
At Cedar Lake**

*Fewer than 180 whooping cranes
remain in the world.*

Three thousand miles from home
a pair of whooping cranes
rests on a pond. The whole country
comes to see, talking of the miracle
they ever found each other.

I tell them, "Love finds a way."

That night in a lonely dream
I unfold my white, long wings
and fly over fields and towns

in search of you.

John Smelcer

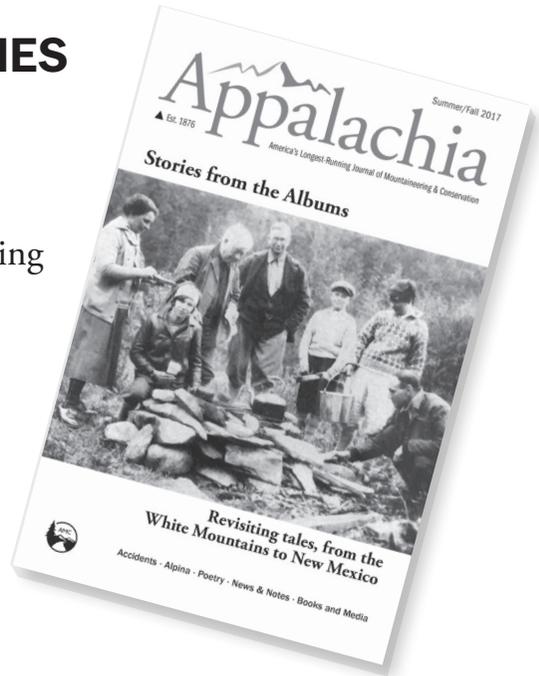
JOHN SMELCER is the last living member of the Ahtna tribe of Alaska who can read, write, and speak the tribe's severely endangered language. He is the author of 50 books, including his poetry book *Indian Giver* (Leapfrog, 2016).

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