

Appalachia

Volume 68
Number 1 *Winter/Spring 2017: Glaciers Melt,
Mountain Goats Cope*

Article 24

2017

Incident at the Lakes of the Clouds

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Recommended Citation

Sisson, J. B. (2017) "Incident at the Lakes of the Clouds," *Appalachia*: Vol. 68: No. 1, Article 24.
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.dartmouth.edu/appalachia/vol68/iss1/24>

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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

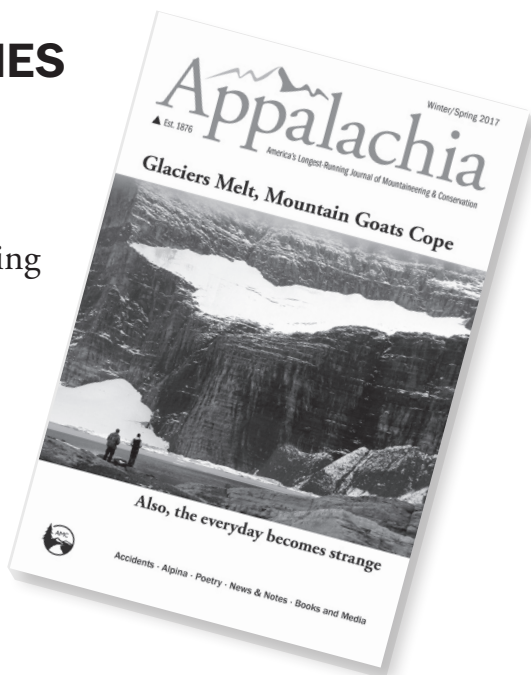
J. B. Sisson has been hiking in the White Mountains since 1950; he worked at Lakes of the Clouds Hut during the summer of 1960. He has published poems in anthologies and literary magazines such as *Antaeus*, *The Paris Review*, and *Poetry*. He has also published poems in previous issues of *Appalachia*.

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