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A Cold Front Settles in the Valley

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A Cold Front Settles In the Valley

Twenty below zero all week.
The truck won't start,
dogs won't go outside,
and even the sharp-pointed stars
are too cold to move.

All we do is sit
inside the candle-lit cabin
counting long winter nights
in our dreams
and waiting along
with the bears and trees
for spring.

John E. Smelcer

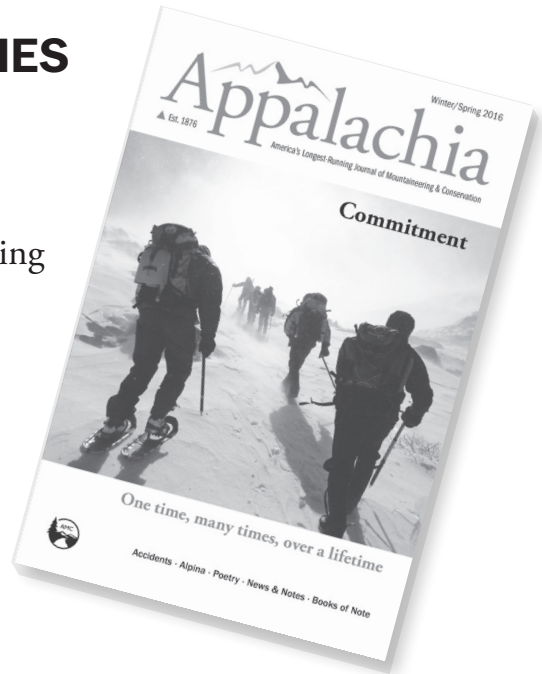
JOHN E. SMELCER, an Alaska Native American, is the author of 50 books, including *Beautiful Words* (Truman State University Press, 2011) and *The Indian Prophet* (Cross-Cultural Communications Press, 2012).

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