CutBank

Volume 1
Issue 19 CutBank 19

Fall 1982

Aleutian Stare

Jerah Chadwick

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.umt.edu/cutbank

Part of the Creative Writing Commons

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Recommended Citation
Available at: https://scholarworks.umt.edu/cutbank/vol1/iss19/16

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in CutBank by an authorized editor of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.
ALEUTIAN STARE

All night the cabin shook
repeating its refusal to a wind
that wanted everything. Now
birds circle the false calm,
squawk and squeal; ravens
among settling gulls like shadows.
Looking out I practice
the scavenger's habit: trawlers
on the sheared sea, cliffs,
quonset ribs—reference points
in the merged scenery. I've heard
what these islands can do
to a man's eyes. Stares of water and weather,
as if the barrenness
were echoing. Beside the hut
tires, stacked and brimmed
with soil, absorb enough sun
for heat. Within them seedlings:
beets, carrots, a single pea
still thriving in the storms' interim.
I've known the land
by what it lacks, a kayaker
watching the shore, sky,
the wearing trail of a fishline's wake.
Beneath this surface seeds
I've cast drift
baited and barbed with roots.