

November

they started making snow
at the mountain this week

from the clearings and hills around town
the white seems painted
two strips of winding cold
down the front of the mountain

the sun sets at 4:30 or 5 now
the plants in the greenhouse
don't need so much water
and what drips to the floor
doesn't evaporate in minutes
but hours

the sun paints
gold into the sky
the poinsettias
are reveling in its departure
blushing to their levels
of Yule-time color

there is a promise of snow
that will stick to the ground

there is a promise of sun
returning with summer

but for now it gets dark early
earlier still when clouds linger

snow tires
roll out from behind the garage
snow is being made
at the mountain