

Serendipity of Saint Paul

Joe Lipka

Fred Picker defined "Cruisin' fer Snaps," as a leisurely drive through the countryside (with the sun always behind you) searching for the Great Photograph. This is a particularly wonderful way to (photo) safari when properly supplied with a Godzilla sized tub of red twist candy and a photo-buddy to help share conversation and expenses.

Cruisin' is not a high percentage way to create photographs because it vacillates between great subject matter at the wrong time of day (Oh, look, a great "morning shot"!) and incredibly wonderful light searching for a subject. The variables of time, place, light, weather and mental preparedness must coincide in order to create a photo worthy scenic opportunity. With that many variables involved it is a rare and wonderful thing when the Gods smile, the planets align and you can find a working cable release. If not, you have memories of pleasant conversation, a drive in the country and an empty tub of red twists - but no photographs.

When you experience this photographic serendipity you get your gear out of the truck (Successful Cruisin' does not happen in the family sedan) you have answered the question, "What will I photograph?" in the most positive fashion. I like the old, the hand crafted, the authentic; anything that stands on its own merits and does not rely on posturing, theorizing or convoluted explanation.

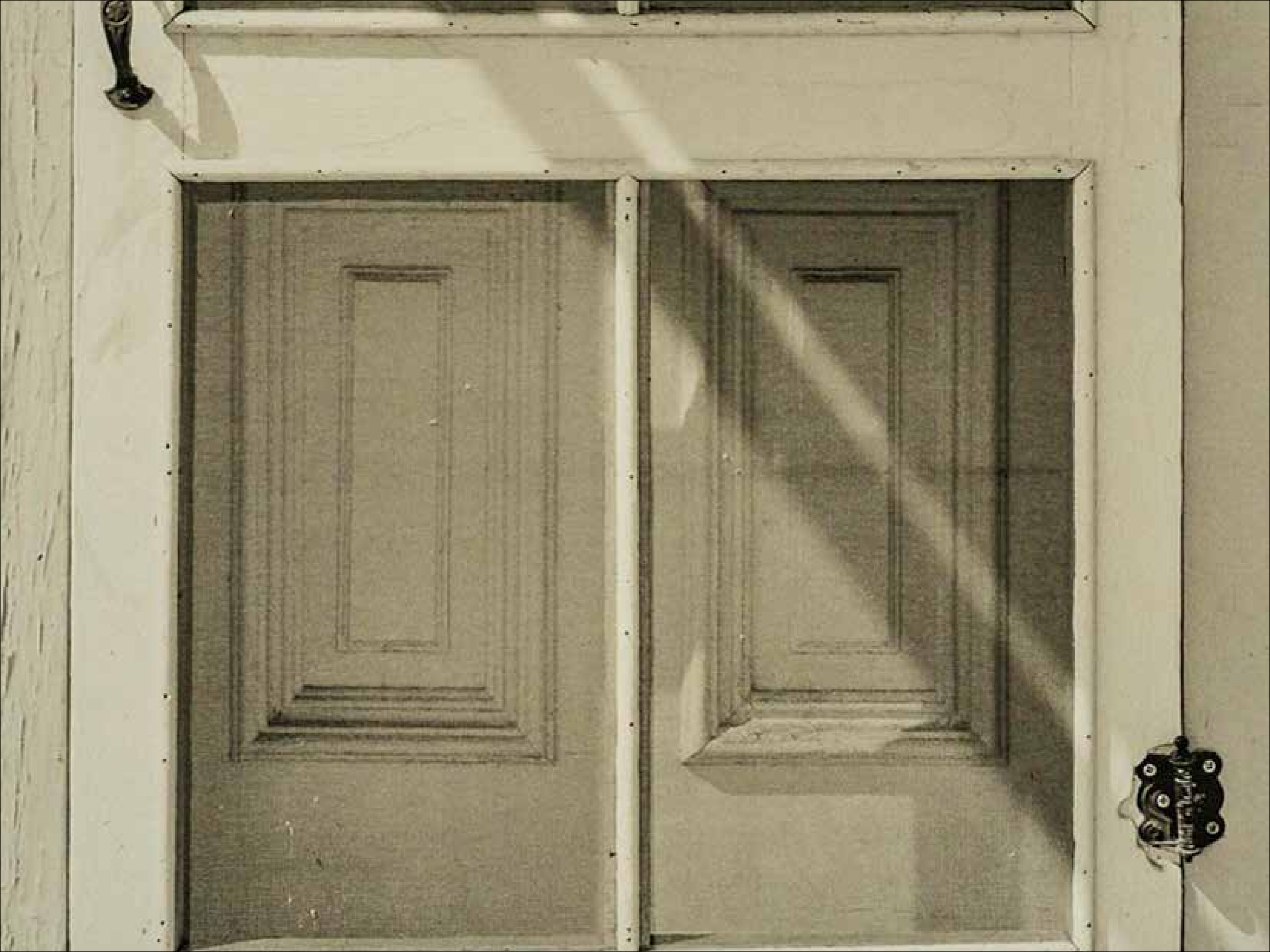
This place withstood the test of time. To find such a place at the right time and have the access to create photographs is true serendipity. Enjoy that moment in St. Paul, Oregon.



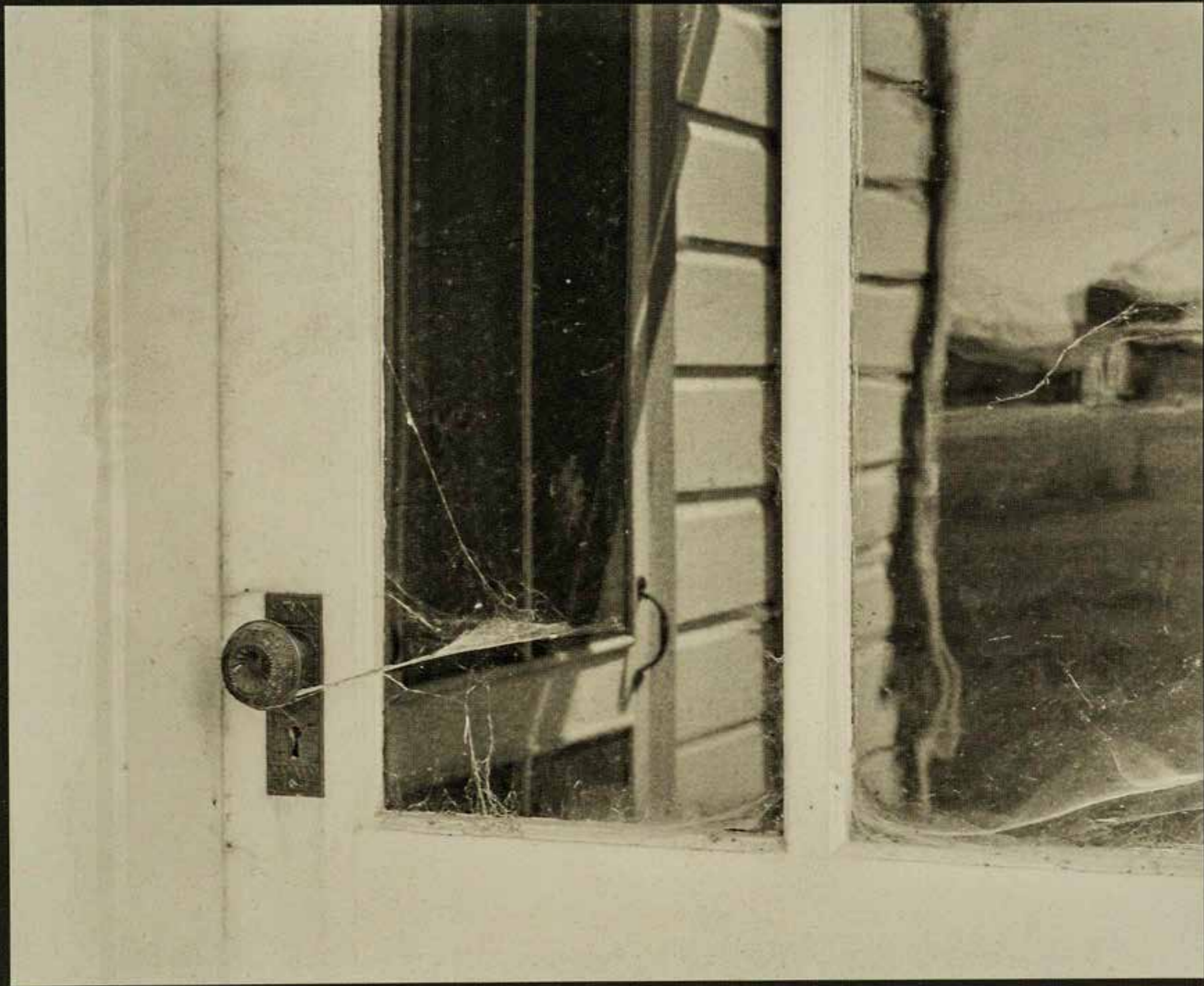


















Joe Lipka has shared his vision since he began photographing.

In the last thirty years, his photographs have appeared in over one hundred juried exhibitions, more than twenty solo exhibitions and have been printed in both *LensWork* and *Black & White Photography* (UK) Magazines.

His website www.joelipkaphoto.com has continuously evolved since it was launched in 2004. His blog *Postcards from the Creative Journey*, published weekly since 2010, feature a photograph and a (very) short story.

COLOPHON

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*The images in this portfolio
were made in Saint Paul, Oregon
in September 1997 and 2000.*

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Web site: www.joelipkaphoto.com

Blog: <http://blog.joelipkaphoto.com/>

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