

THE LIPKA JOURNAL

PHOTOGRAPHS / STORIES / OBSERVATIONS

JOE LIPKA

DECEMBER 2024



WELCOME TO THE JOURNAL DECEMBER 2024



Road Trip for the Holidays!

We're gonna have a tank and tummy fill 'er up at the Edison Café, then head out cross country and see what isn't there alongside the road. Our road trip ends at Colonial Williamsburg because it's Christmas and time for the annual Christmas wreath contest.

7-UP
Edison CAFE

5797

EAT

CLOSED



Edison Cafe

They are still around, mostly on the old rural routes that were bypassed by US routes and then bypassed again by the interstates. Old service stations were built about every twenty miles because the Model T's weren't all that reliable but easy to fix. Families built their one pump service station; Momma made soup and pie and sold them to the folks that broke down while Dad fixed the car or pumped gas.

The interstates cut down on the traffic, the cars got more reliable, but Momma's soup and pies were good enough to keep the family business afloat.





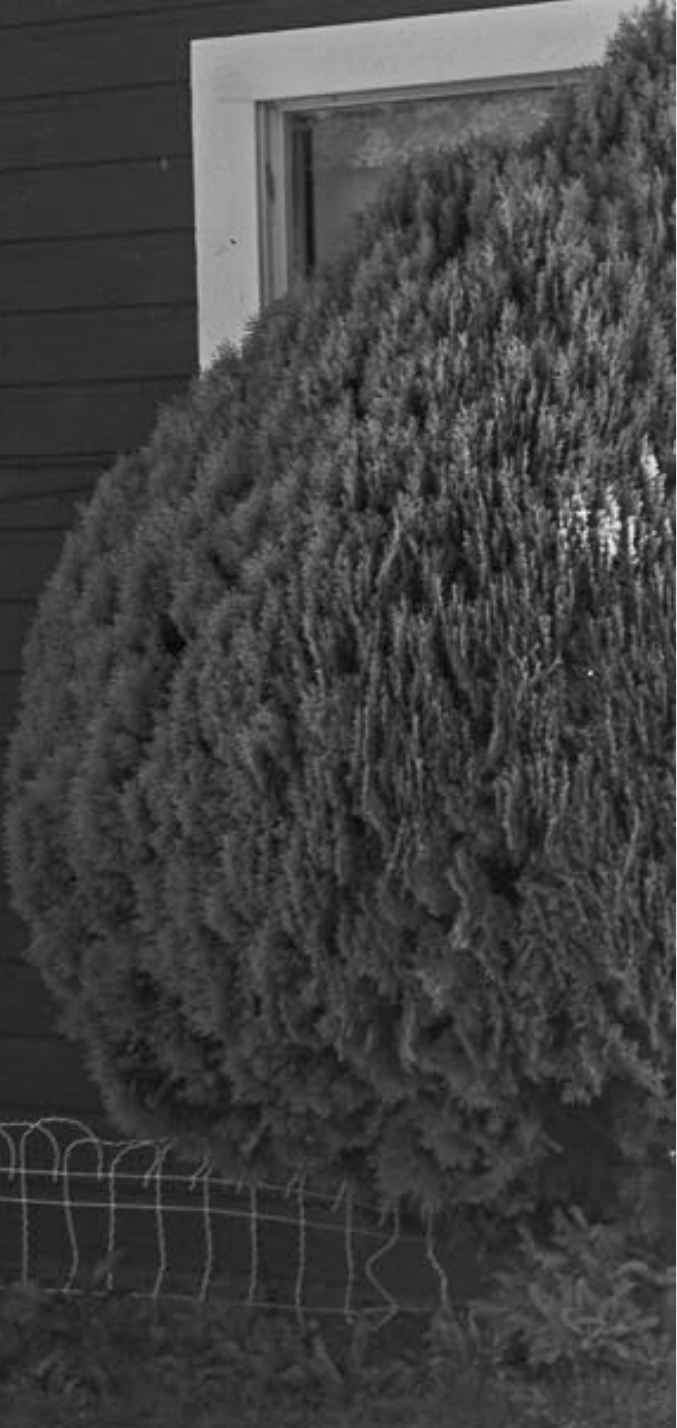
HOME MADE PIE
& SOUP

WONDER BREAD
IT'S LO-BAKED
WONDER BREAD
Builds Strong Bodies 8 Ways!

Carnation
FRESH MILK

Edison
CAFE
OPEN DAILY

RESTROOM



5797

EAT

CLOSED
Squirt

MUG
HOURS
MON-FRI 6:30-3:00
SAT 6:30-2:00
CLOSED SUNDAYS

NO SMOKING

DAY
DO
PLAY



7UP
Edison CAFE

EDISON SCHOOL RD

STOP



Prologues



Miss Ada played every Sunday service

Nothing and There



Nothing and There

Gertrude Stein's famously quoted about her hometown of Oakland, California, "There is no there there." Her lament was of loss. "There" is where I often find myself, looking out over the landscape and saying, "there's nothing out there." Early Americans viewed the middle of the country as "The American Desert." But there is there there. The there is quite different from the rest of the United States and the open spaces have their own aesthetic.





























A Mostly True Story



We stopped to bury Jebediah under a tree. Captain Meyersmith read a few words from the Bible. We said the Lord's prayer together and continued our journey to Oregon. We were four days from water and only carried enough for three.



Merry Christmas!

Merry Christmas

We Americans love to celebrate Christmas in a typically American Over the Top fashion. Christmas decorations and assorted paraphernalia magically appear in stores in early September. We also like to believe Christmas decorations appeared in Williamsburg about seventy years before Americans began decorating for the Holiday.

None the less, it is nice to see non-plastic, non-electric and non-inflatable Christmas decorations in Williamsburg.









from 4:00 p.m.
as posted below

dining pleasure of all our guests.
enough to turn off cellular phones
and refrain from smoking.













Postcards from the Creative Journey

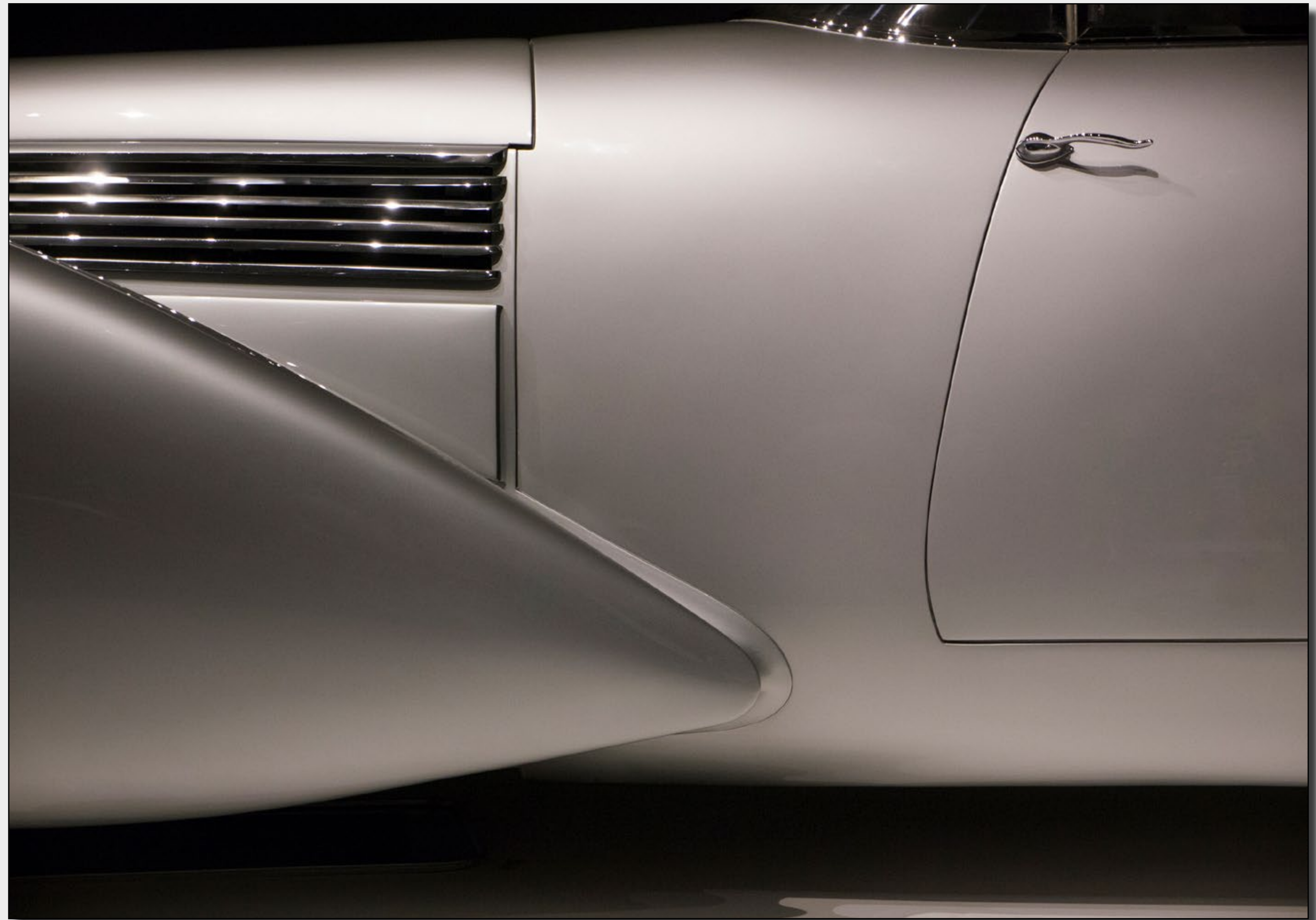
February 12, 2023

Marinating Your Project

We marinate meat to add subtlety, flavor and richness. I have a similar process for my photographic projects. When I think I have completed the work on an issue of The Lipka Journal, a blurb book, or a blog post I walk away from it for at least a few days, or if I have the time a week. This absence allows the work remove itself from my mind. When I return, I see the work with “fresh eyes” to discern weaknesses and think of improvements to make the Project more successful.

After leaving this post to marinate for a week, I came back, read what I had and then added this:

Walking away from your Project for a week or two to let it marinate means that you didn't stay up all night the night before the deadline completing the work. It meant that you planned and executed your Project to allow time for the marinating to commence. You built time for marination into your project schedule.



A FEW WORDS AT THE END OF THE JOURNAL



Edison Cafe

Here's one of those little projects that make up so much of my early photographic life. A few images made along an unremembered Oregon back road decades ago. It's part of the More Memories Than Dreams Project, a look back at what I was doing when I was learning how to be a photographic artist.



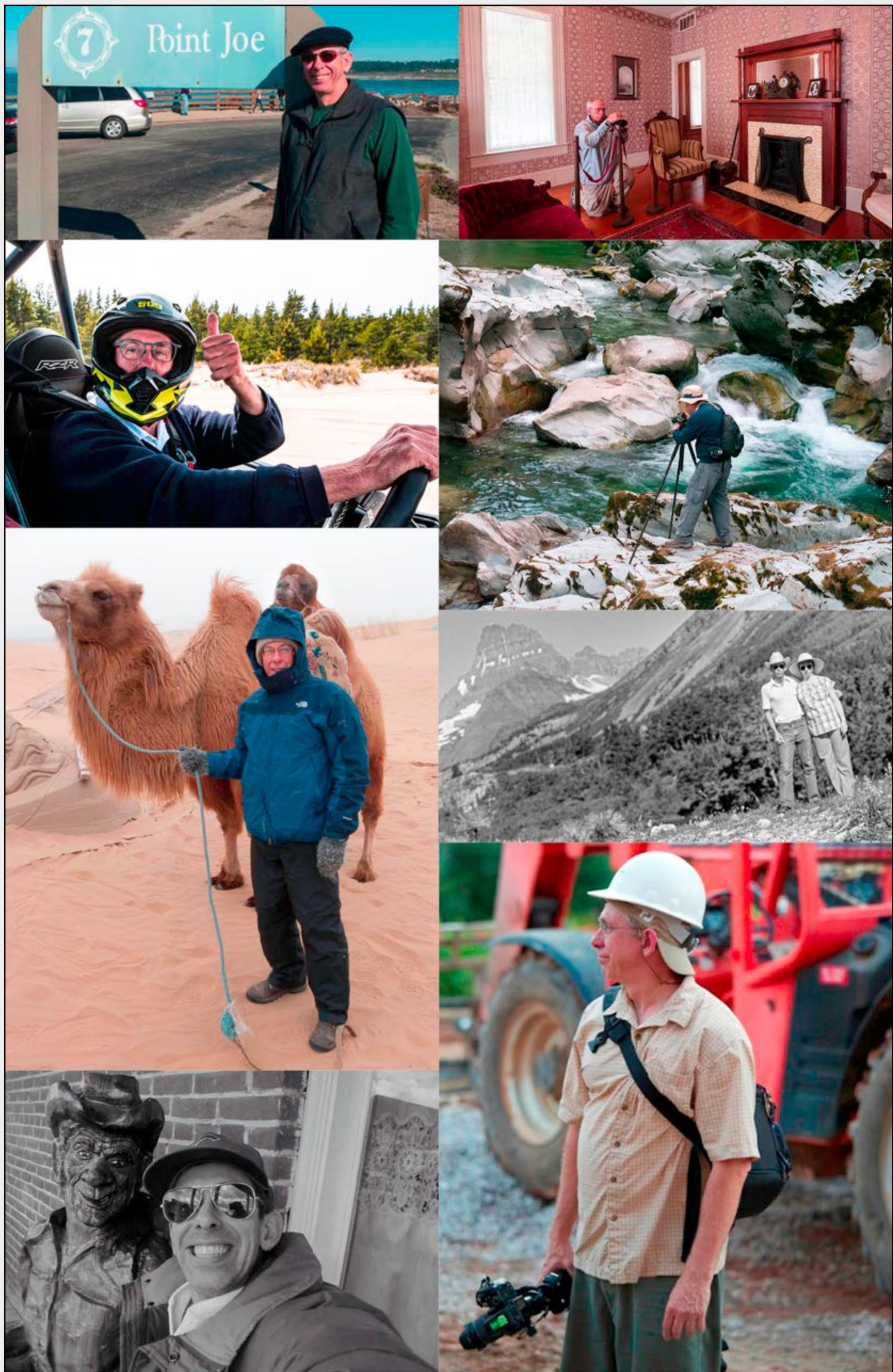
Nothing and There

Back in the October Lipka Journal I had an image suite titled, "On the Way There," minimalist landscapes from an afternoon drive in Wyoming. It got me to thinking about a project that was not time and place specific. I began researching the Lipka Photographic Archives and found many more photographs of Nothing and came up with another project that evokes the many hours spent driving across the open spaces of the west.



Merry Christmas!

Let's put aside the thought that Colonists celebrated Christmas the way we do. Let's just go have a good time and see what the folks in Williamsburg can assemble for their annual Christmas Wreath competition. Yes, they do have a competition for Wreaths. Each year, the wreaths are different and the competition is fierce.



Joe Lipka has shared his vision since he began photographing.

In the last forty years, his photographs have appeared in over one hundred and twenty juried exhibitions, and twenty five solo exhibitions. His images have been published in *LensWork*, *Black & White Photography* (UK) and *F-Stop Magazines*. His recent book project, *Mostly True Stories*, was featured as a LensWork Bonus Edition Publication in February 2024.

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, features a photograph and a little bit of writing.

His newest blog, *The Daily Photograph*, is simply that. A new and interesting image is posted every morning at 8:00 AM.

The Lipka Journal, December 2024

Joe Lipka

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Web site: www.joelipkaphoto.com

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

Blog: https://joelipkaphoto.typepad.com/the_daily_photograph/

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