

THE LIPKA JOURNAL

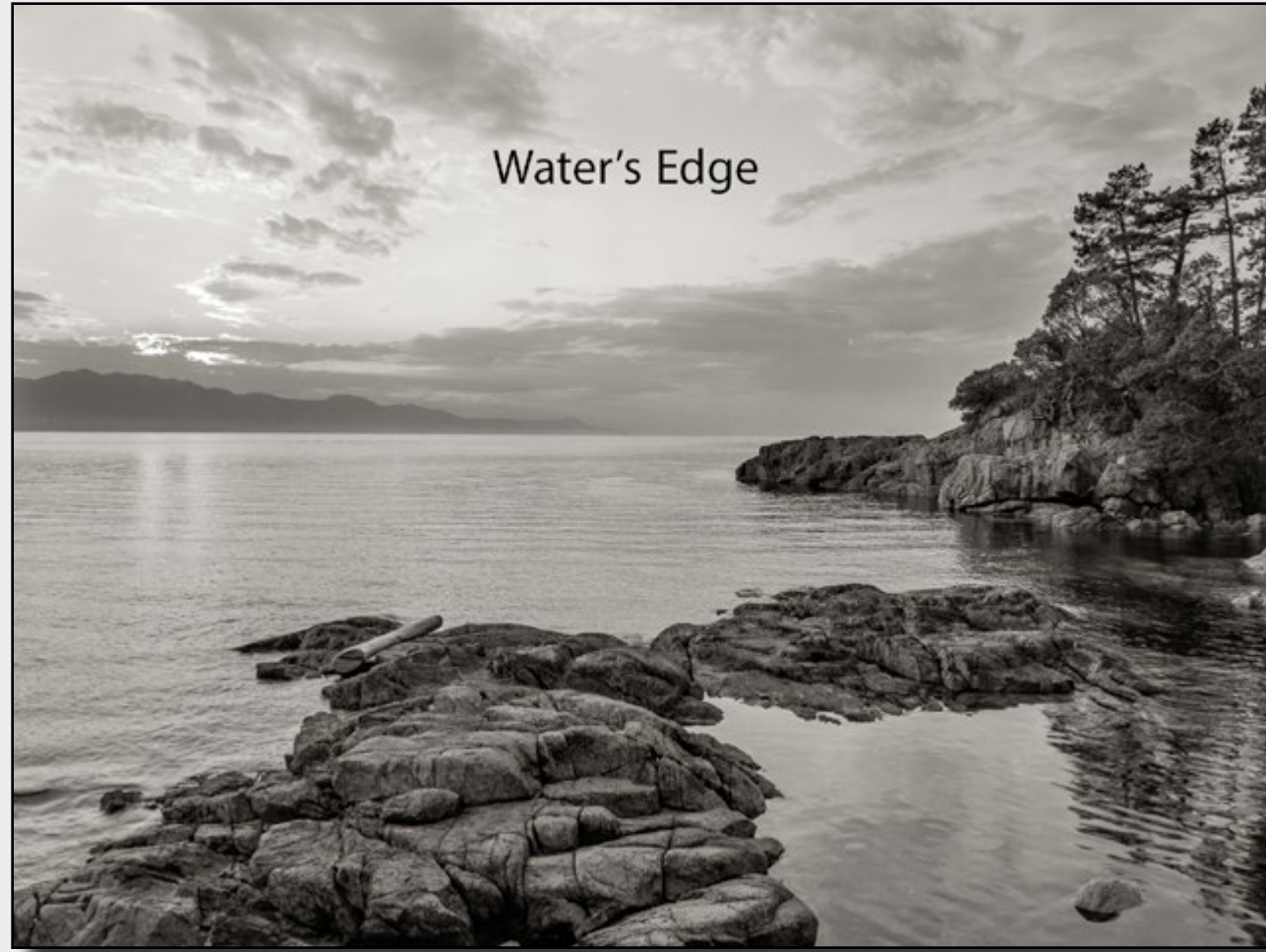
PHOTOGRAPHS / STORIES / OBSERVATIONS

JOE LIPKA

MARCH 2025



# WELCOME TO THE JOURNAL MARCH 2025



This month, the lost, found and a little bit of “how did that happen?” make up this issue of The Lipka Journal. Water’s Edge images were rescued from “the land of misfit negatives.” Taken in Context, the panoramic photographs fill the screen to show how the world fits together. Finally, I went back to the Vedauwoo expedition to wonder how all those rocks got stacked up.

It’s near the end of winter, and images of the landscape will help get us psyched up to head back out into the world to make photographs this Spring.



# Water's Edge





## Water's Edge

The envelope said, "Water's Edge." I opened it and found some large format negatives inside. I can't remember when or where they were created. They were buried in the bottom of a box of photo projects that never had a chance.

So, it is with other projects in our life. The fabric purchased for drapes, the tools purchased for that project that never got started, and do I even have to mention unread books?

I've recovered the images of that afternoon. The evidence is irrefutable, but memories of when and where are currently lost in the jumble of thoughts that make up my life.





















## More Memories than Dreams

The Water's Edge image suite is the latest addition to the More The Water's Edge image suite is the latest addition to the More Memories than Dreams Project.

When you are young you have a lot of dreams and few memories. When you reach a certain age, the balance changes and you have more memories than dreams. I'm beyond that point right now. It's time to enjoy memories of a photographic life.

I dove into the Lipka Photographic Archives in search of images to support this new project. I found a lot of memories and a surprising number of passable images. Image suites of my early photographic efforts are a semi-regular feature of The Lipka Journal. The first ten years of my photographs are collected in a single publication on my [website](#).







## A Mostly True Story

It was cold. The heavy clouds hid the shadows. I couldn't feel my toes. The compass needle rotated wildly; it was useless. It hurt to breath. We thought we were only a half mile from camp, but who knows. I have icicles dripping from my nose. There are only three of us left. My legs are getting heavy. I hope we can make it back.



Taken In Context







## Taken In Context

Curious people are interested in “getting to the bottom of it” and discovering the essence of what they are looking for. Finding that kernel of knowledge gives them the satisfaction of acquiring the exact knowledge they sought. Specific knowledge is good, but it can be made even better when taken in the context of a broader view of knowledge or circumstance.

So it is with the panoramic photograph. We do have a center of interest in a photograph, but with a panoramic photograph we also get to see the context that completes the composition.

























































He gasped, "The Fountains of Jupiter."

Prologue: A photo and six words.



# Balancing Act





## Balancing Act

We live in a world of competing priorities, activities and pastimes. We stack these activities up like so many dirty dishes on a crowded countertop at Thanksgiving. When it comes to stacking, Mother Nature has us beat by a country mile. Huge rocks are stacked, sometime solidly, sometimes precariously in a process that has taken tens of thousands of years. Have larger rocks splintered, have individual rocks been pushed together? We want to know but can only guess. Our short lives cannot comprehend either the time or the forces it took to create this balancing act.











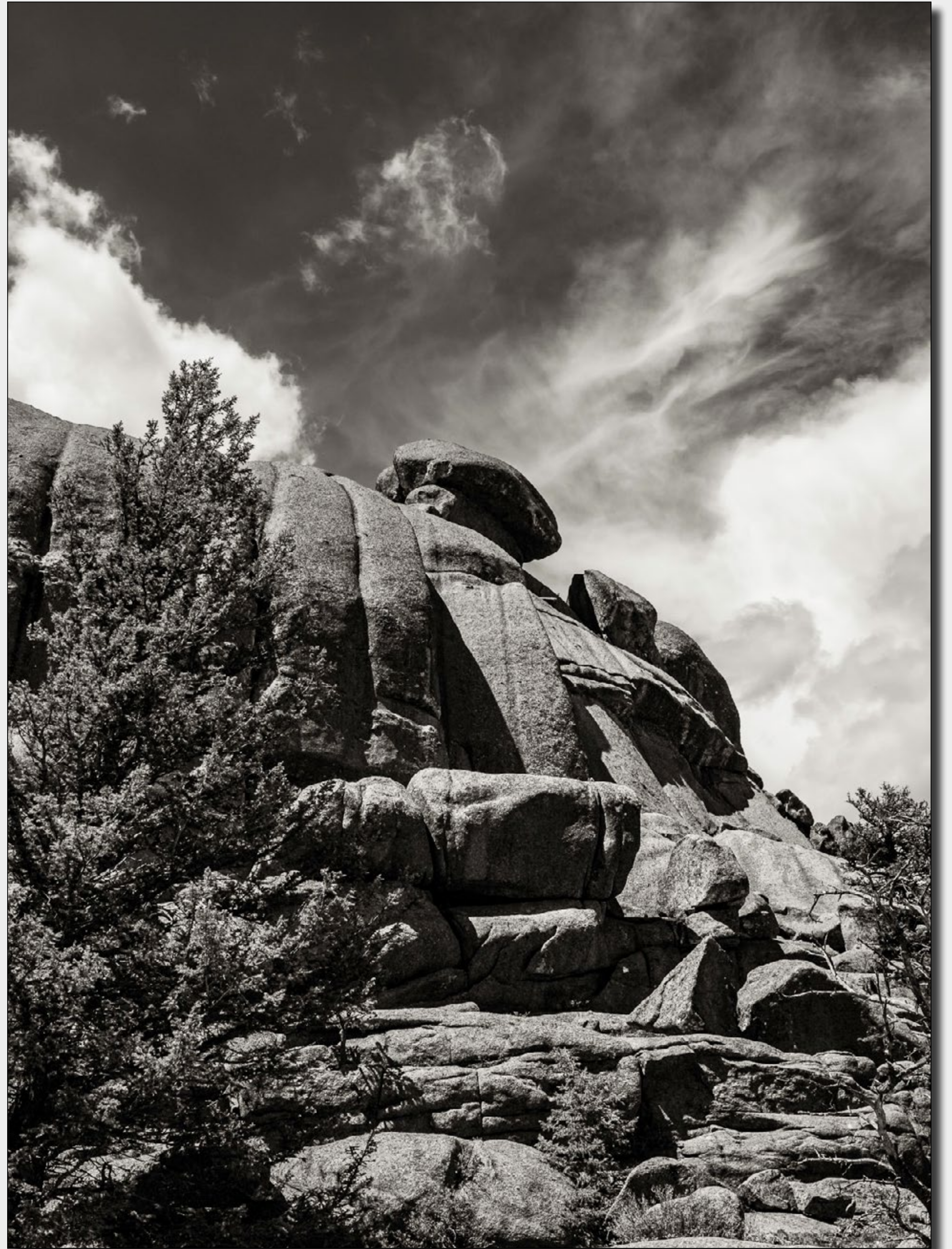
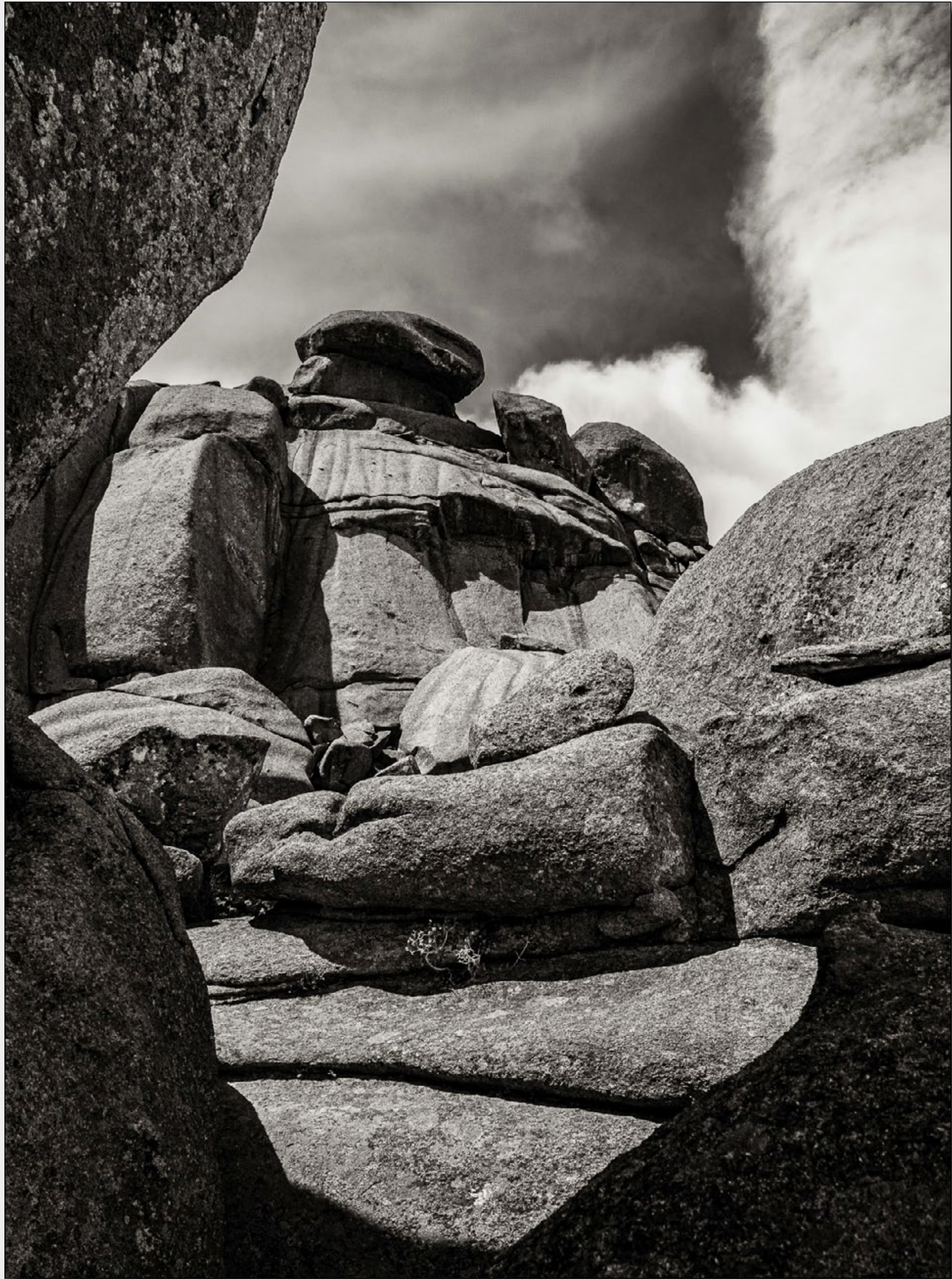




















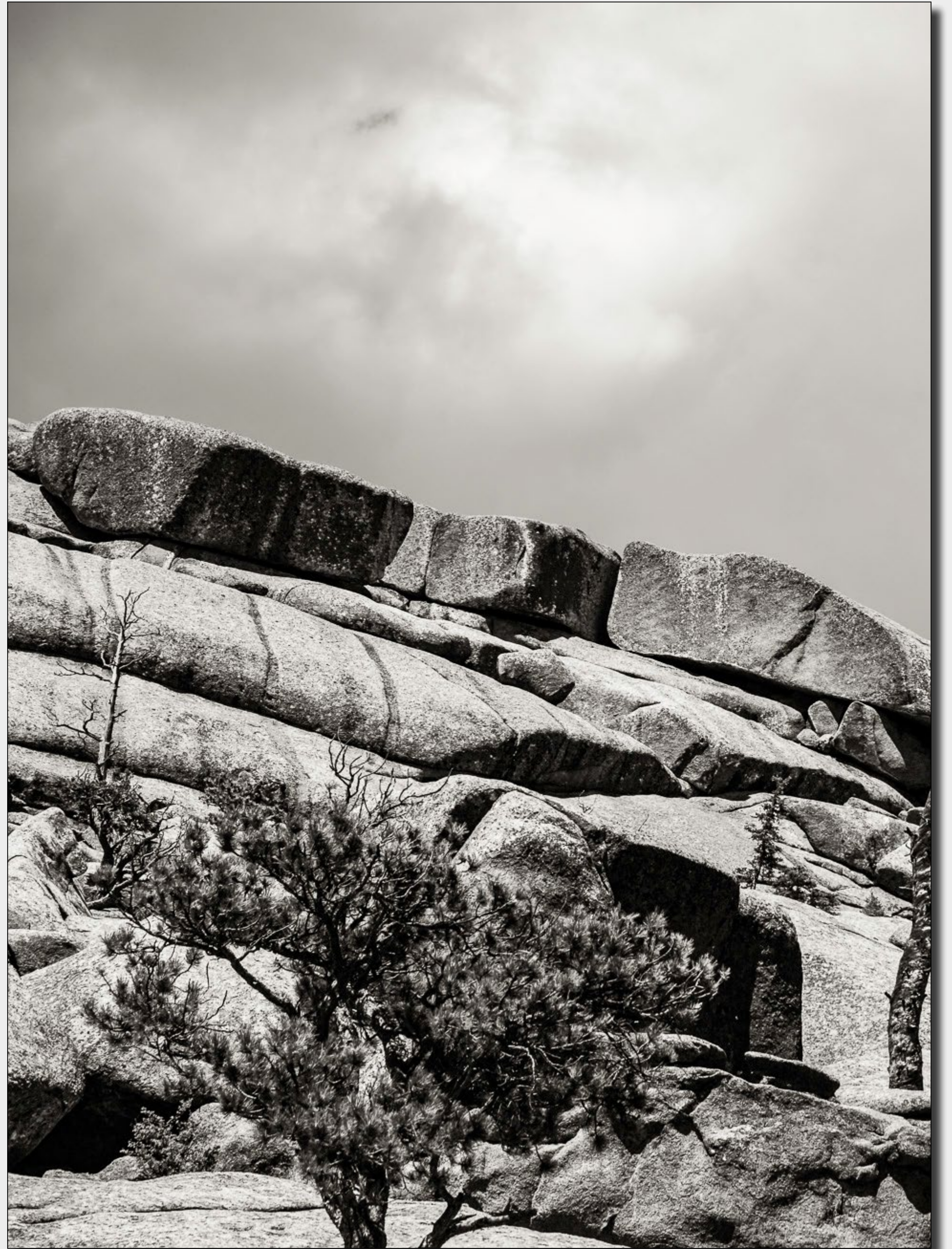
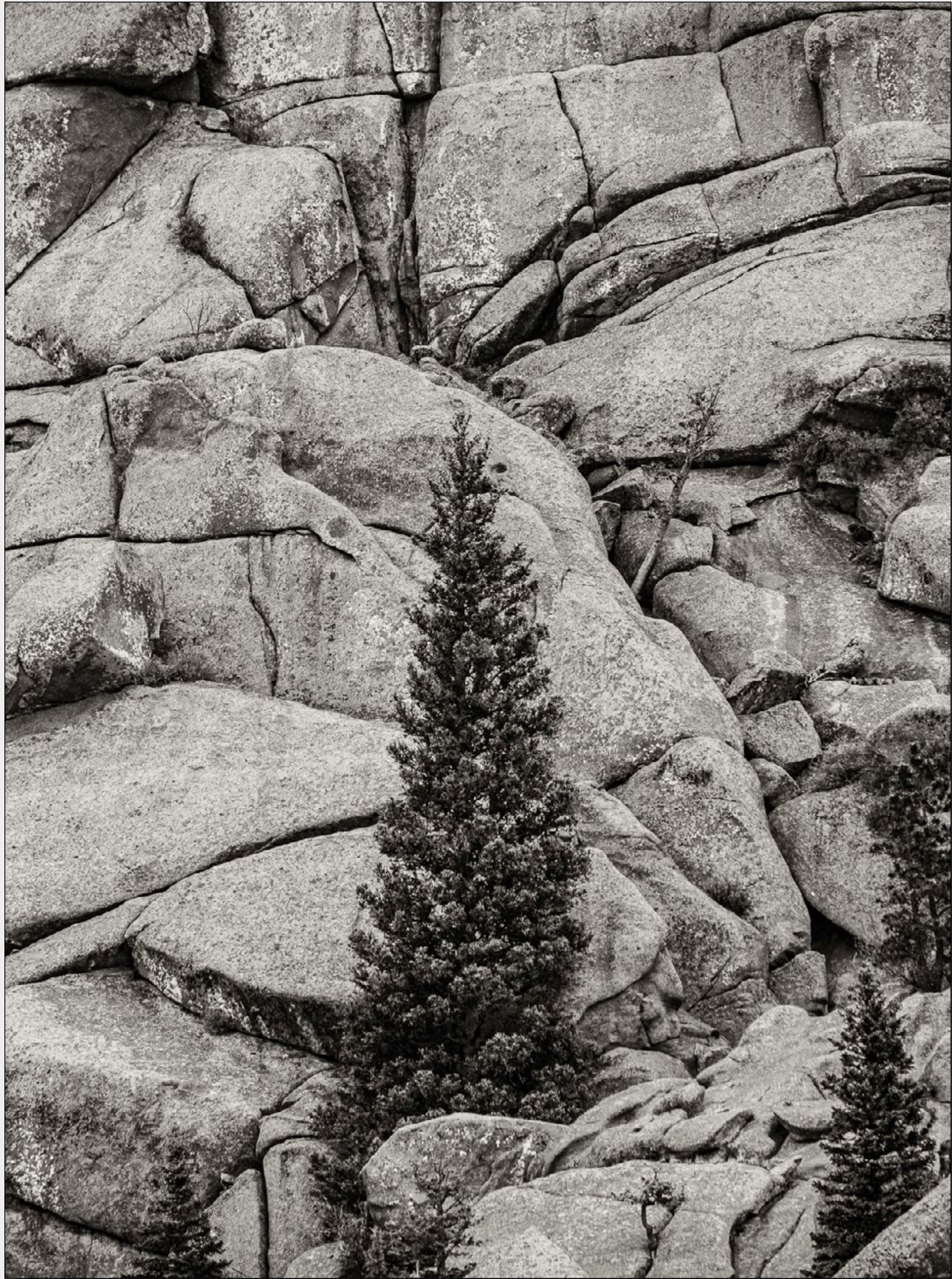














## Postcards from the Creative Journey



Many years ago, I learned proper composition and exposure of the negative were necessary to make a great silver gelatin print. A lot of darkroom effort was required to gain a marginal improvement of a poor negative. Most of the time this effort was readily apparent in the print.

In the digital realm we can change, modify, add, subtract at a level we could not even begin to imagine thirty years ago. With minimal effort required to create massive changes in the original digital capture, we can "afford" to be much more approximate with our photography in the field. I'm not sure this level of computing power is a good thing for photography.

**JOE**



The Dursleys

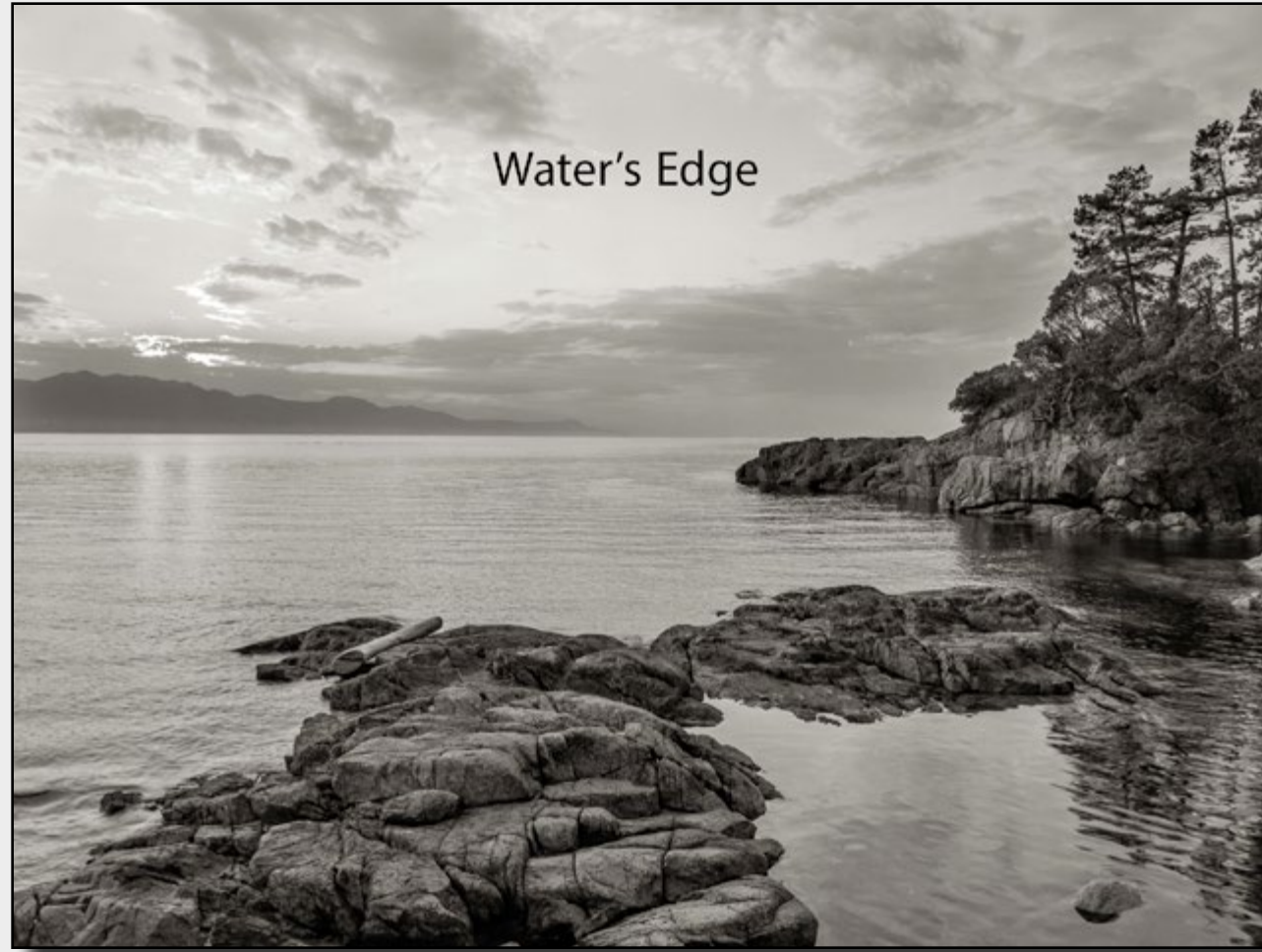
4 Privet Drive

Little Whinging

Surrey



# A FEW WORDS AT THE END OF THE JOURNAL



## Water's Edge

The intro said it all. An envelope of big negatives that languished for several decades. The best I can surmise is that these negatives were going to be used for platinum prints, but they never rose to the top of queue. Quietly forgotten, they lay in the box until I came across them a few months ago. This was one of the problems with platinum printing. Only the most appealing images became worthy of printing because making platinum prints is time consuming. Digital processing is more egalitarian and these very nice images are finally seeing the light of day.



## Taken In Context

I rarely discuss cameras, but...

The first accessory lens I purchased for my 35 mm camera was a 17mm wide angle lens. It had a 104-degree angle of view. Later, I put a Fuji 90 mm large format lens on my 5x7 view camera. Some of those images included the bed of the camera in the frame. Now, digital photography allows me to make panoramic photographs with very little extra effort.

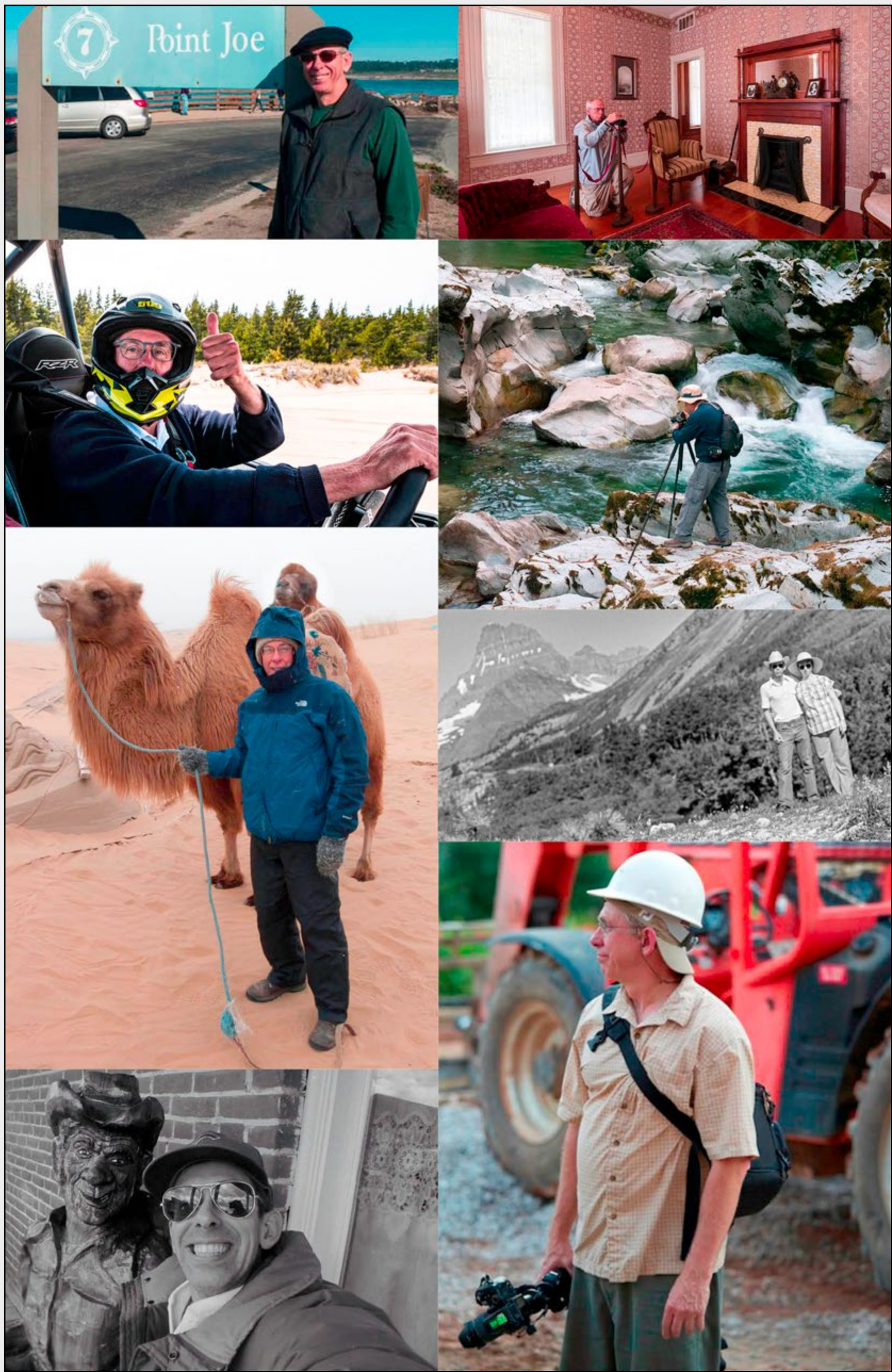
I wanted to replace those insipid Microsoft desktop photos with my own. It turned into such a fun project I had to share these images with you.



## Balancing Act

Back to Vedauwoo, Wyoming for a third image suite. (Other image suites are [October 2023](#) and [April 2024](#).) Vedauwoo is officially described as a "rather secluded rocky oasis in Southeastern Wyoming." Secluded is the nice way to say that the place is pretty much ignored by photographers who would rather go to more accessible locations. I'm happy I was able to spend a few days there.





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](http://www.joelipkaphoto.com) has continuously evolved since it was launched in 2004. His blog *Postcards from the Creative Journey*, published weekly since 2010, now publishes new content as part of *The Lipka Journal*.

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, March, 2025

*Joe Lipka*

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Web site: [www.joelipkaphoto.com](http://www.joelipkaphoto.com)

Blog: [https://joelipkaphoto.typepad.com/the\\_daily\\_photograph/](https://joelipkaphoto.typepad.com/the_daily_photograph/)

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