



THE LIPKA JOURNAL

PHOTOGRAPHS / STORIES / OBSERVATIONS

JOE LIPKA

JUNE 2022

WELCOME TO THE JOURNAL

JUNE 2022

There are places and then there are *Places*. We can walk along a beach, or take a walk on some slick rock, find an abandoned town, or pull open a door to an old machine shop. What makes these *Places* any better or different than any other place you might happen to be?

Places are special because people made them special. Sometimes the people are heroic, sometimes ambitious, plain hard-working farmers or a just out exploring for photographs.

Finding *Places* can be easy, difficult, or just lucky. It depends on how well you look, feel, and understand the places around you. It won't happen unless you begin by looking.



Monument Les Braves



Mining Camp



Found Images: Durffey's Mesa



Melvin's Shop

Monument Les Braves



Monument Les Braves

When you walk on the beach it looks, feels, and smells like any other beach you have walked on. The sand sticks to your shoes, the breeze is salty, the sound of the waves is just like every other beach you have walked on. Teen-agers romp on the beach, dogs play in the surf and fetch driftwood sticks thrown by their masters.

It seems common until you encounter Monument Les Braves. It rises from the sand balancing precariously on hidden foundations. This spectacular sculpture tells you this is not an ordinary beach. This is Omaha Beach, and the Monument honors the young men who landed here June 6, 1944.

Common places become special because of the actions that occurred there.











Six Word Project

Fried eggs and chopsticks. A challenge.



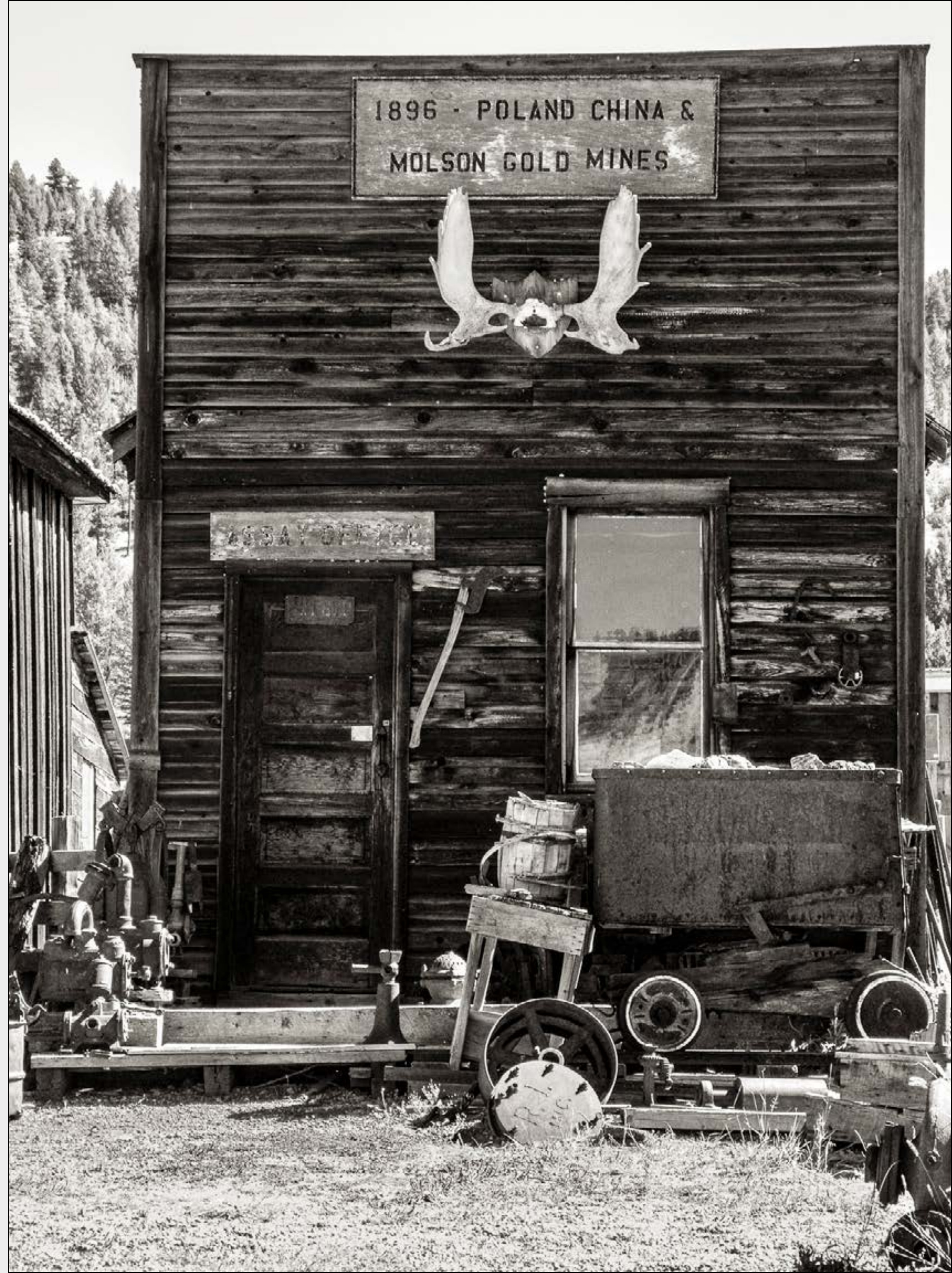
Mining Camp

Mining Camp

Man has always had dreams of striking it rich. Today it's an elusive combination of digits to win the lottery. Odds of winning are in the hundreds of millions to one. But we run to the local convenience store and pony up a few dollars to play the "what can I do with unlimited wealth" game. We hope we will strike it rich, twenty first century style.

In the past, this dream was not cerebral, but very, very physical. It involved digging ore out of the earth in the hope of striking a vein of gold. Alas, the hope of striking it rich with a gold mine is probably a little bit better than hitting the Lottery Jackpot, but it is still a long shot.

Losing the lottery means the useless ticket is deposited in the trash. Losing a gold mine means abandoning the mine with everything you can carry and leaving the rest behind. The artifacts of that failing are longer lasting than a little piece of paper.









Postcards from the Creative Journey

February 21, 2016

Behind the Scenes Effort

Are you interested in the subject of the photograph or does the making of the photograph excite you? Does it make a difference to you how much work went on behind the scenes of the photograph when it was made? The photograph you see is the result of the photographer's efforts. It's quite obvious what went on in front of the camera, but what about what went on behind the camera? Does the work the photographer put into making the physical artifact important to you? Would you go to an exhibition of photographs based on the choice of media or size of the image? Is the artifact the thing you go to see or is the artifact the beginning of a conversation?

If you are there just for the artifact, the discussion seems to be fairly short. Did the artist do a good job? If you are there for the ideas behind the artifact, then the discussion can be never ending. The discussion can branch out to many more.

Only photographers are interested in the journey. Everyone else sees the destination.



Found Images: Durffey's Mesa

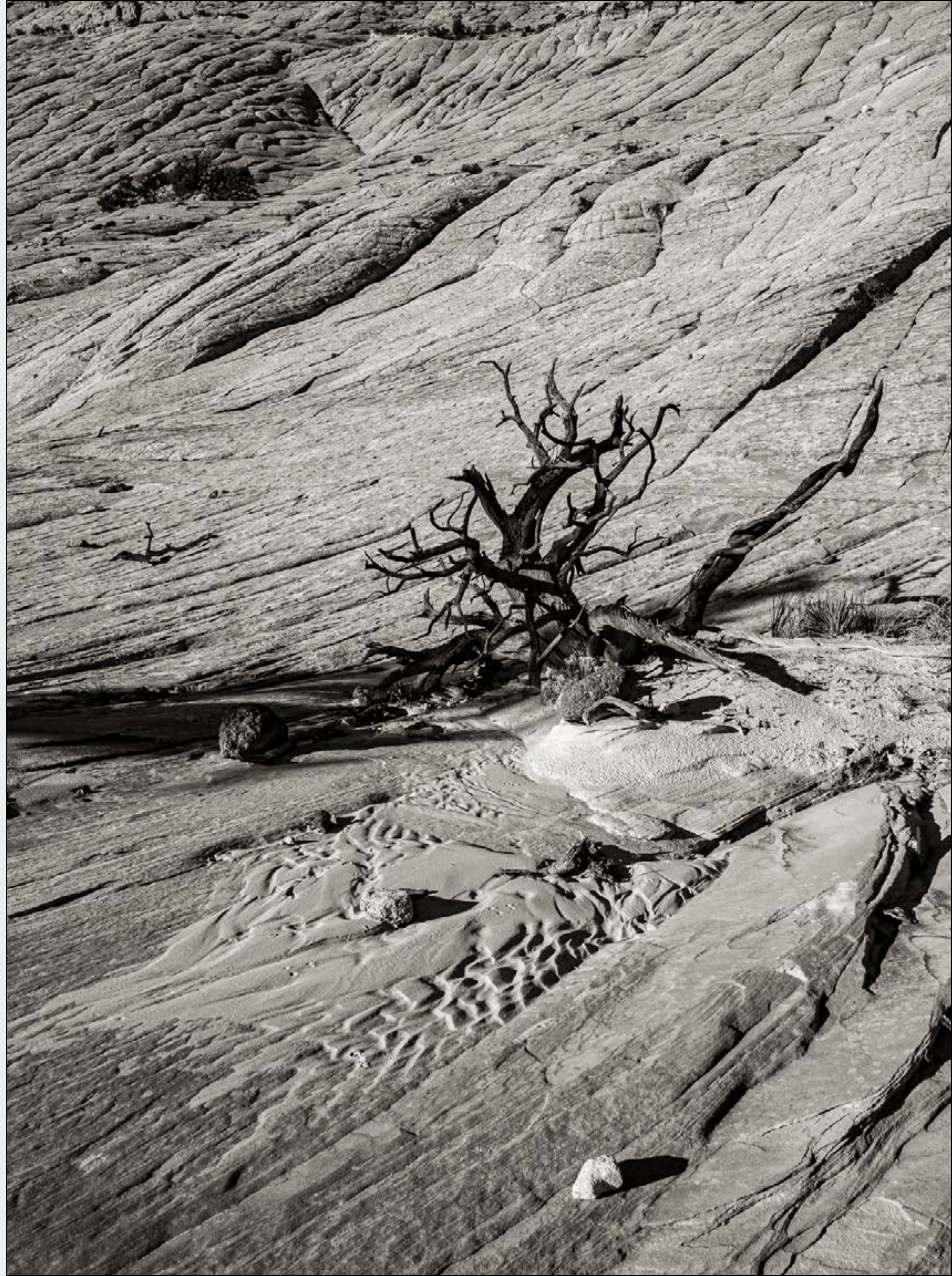


Found Images: Durrfey's Mesa

"Just head down the Burr Trail Road a bit and you'll find a flat spot with big pine tree in the middle. You can camp there." That's what we did and boondocked there for a couple of days. One morning, we got up and began a photo journey with nothing particular in mind. We found a trail and followed it for a while making photographs along the way.

What turned up were these images.

Enough to Be on Your Way, a song by James Taylor, has the lyric, "I walked out along the Mesa and I stumbled on this song." I shared a similar creative experience, except I stumbled upon some photographs instead of a song.



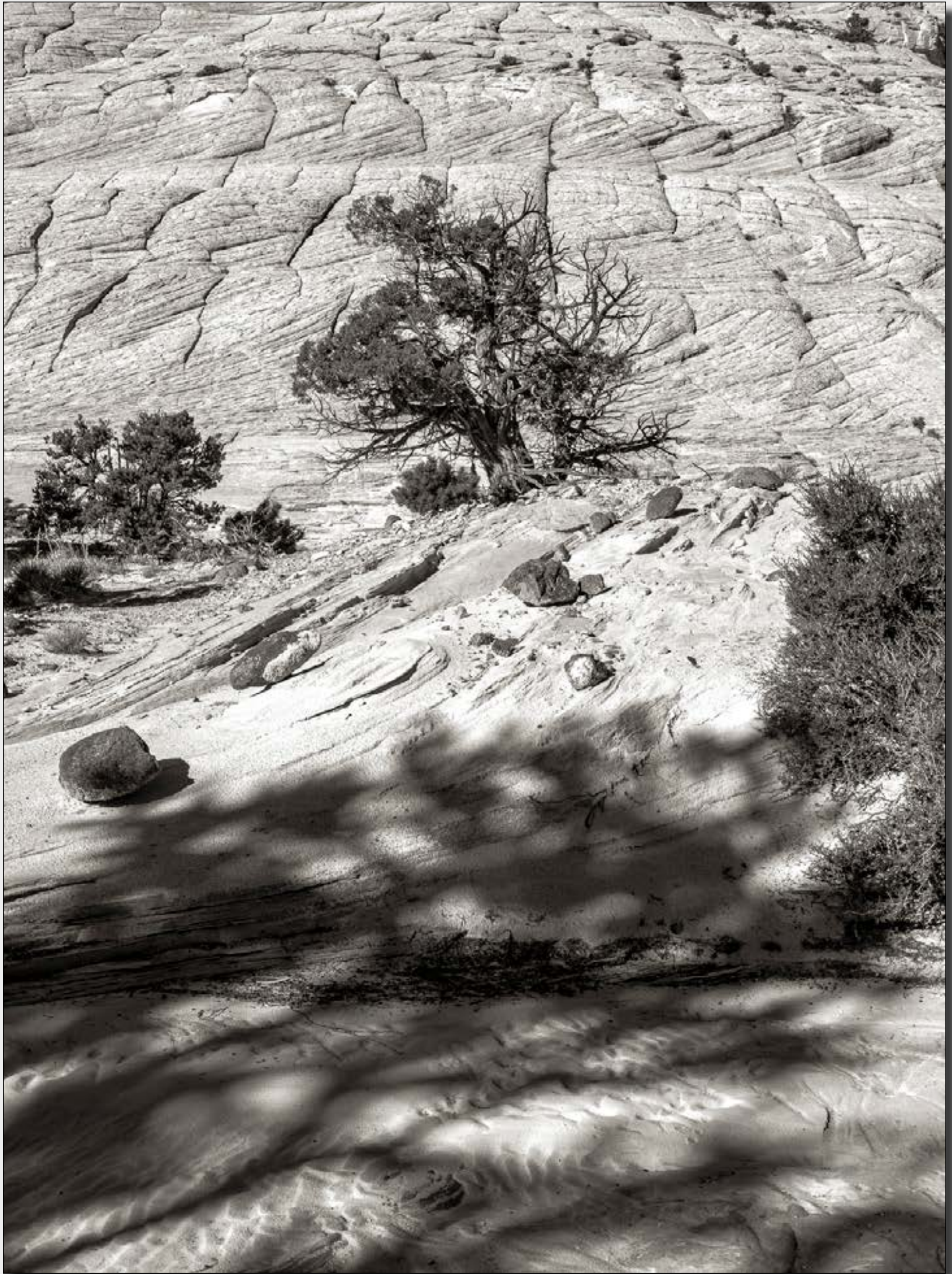
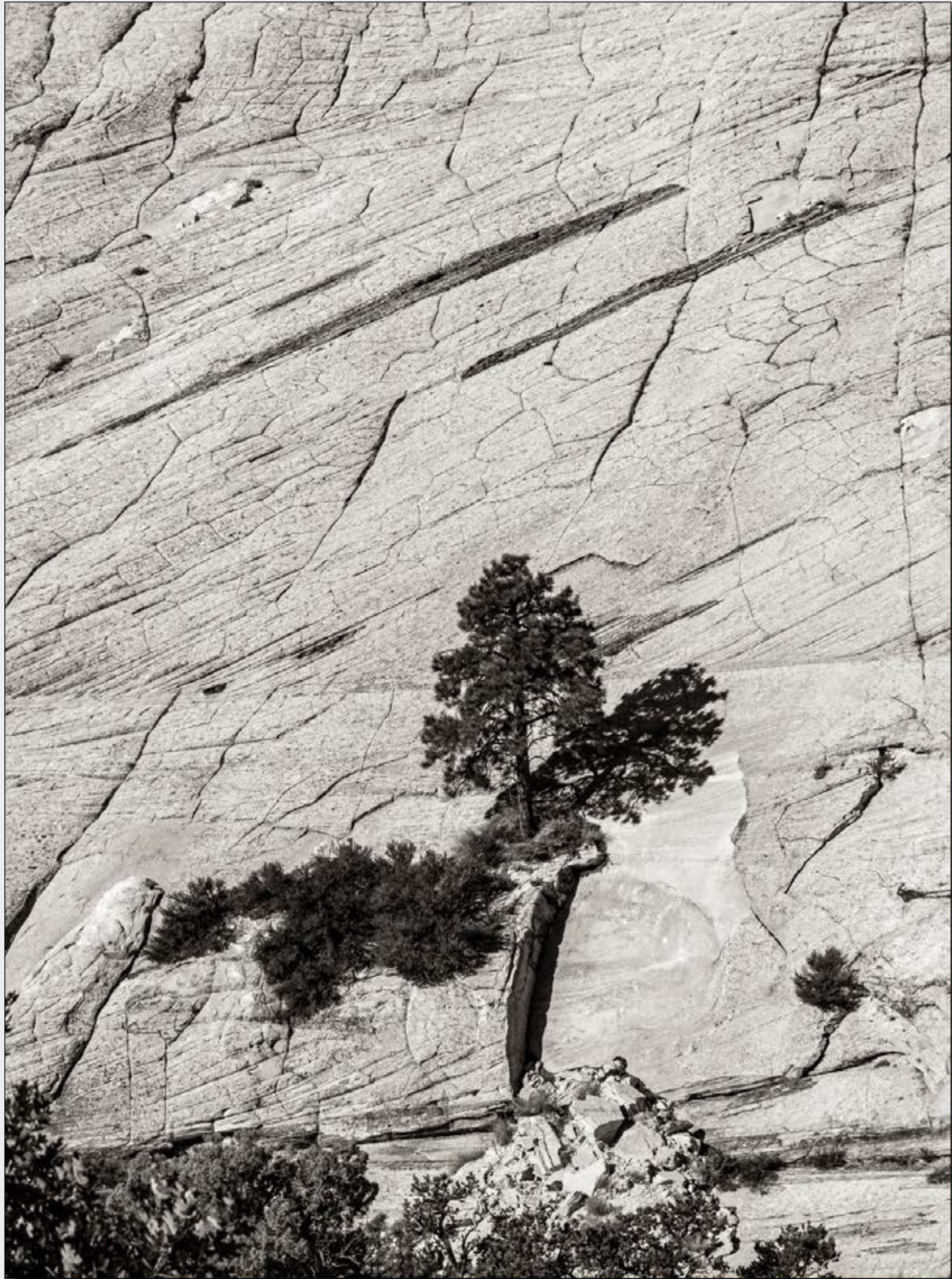










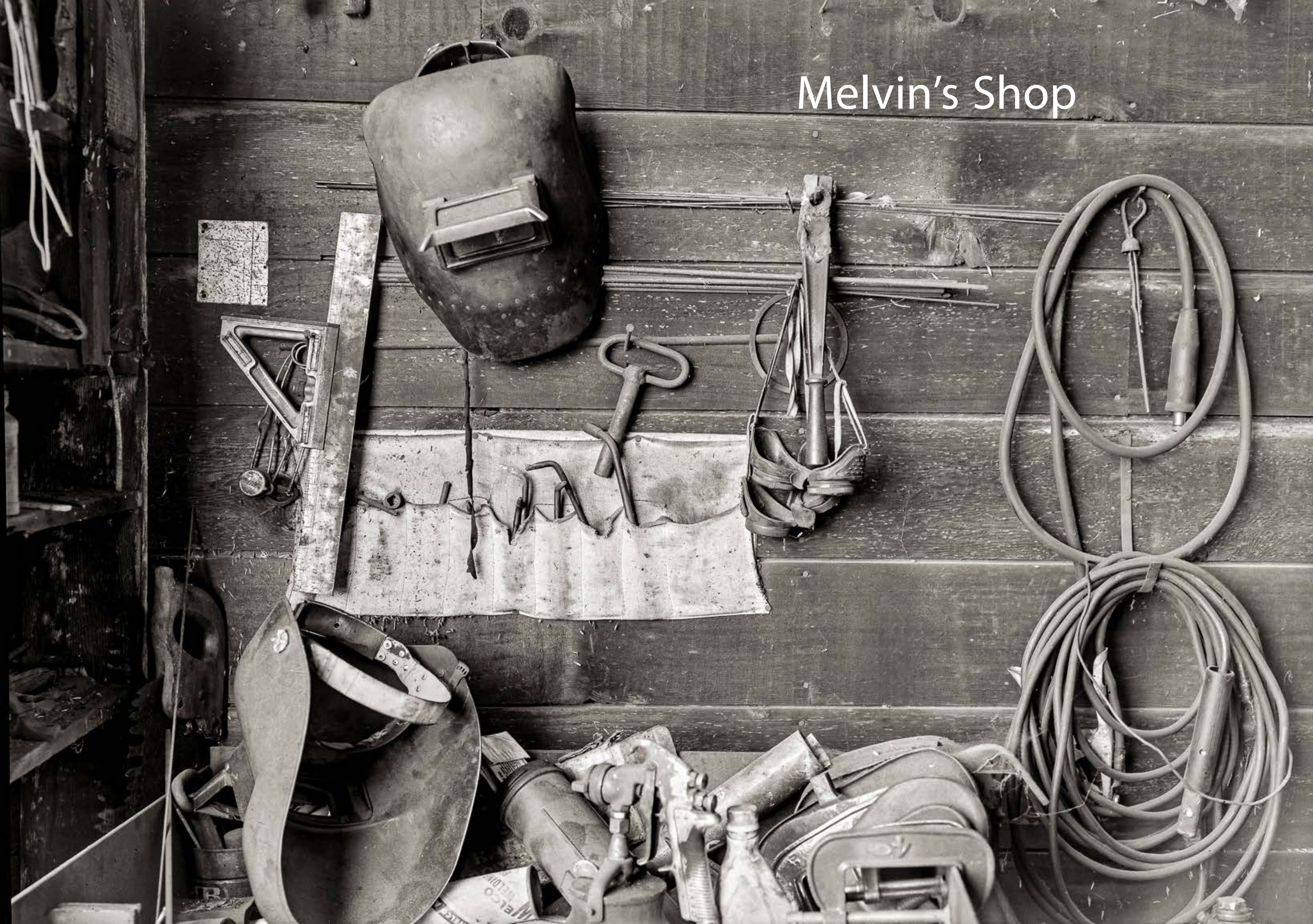






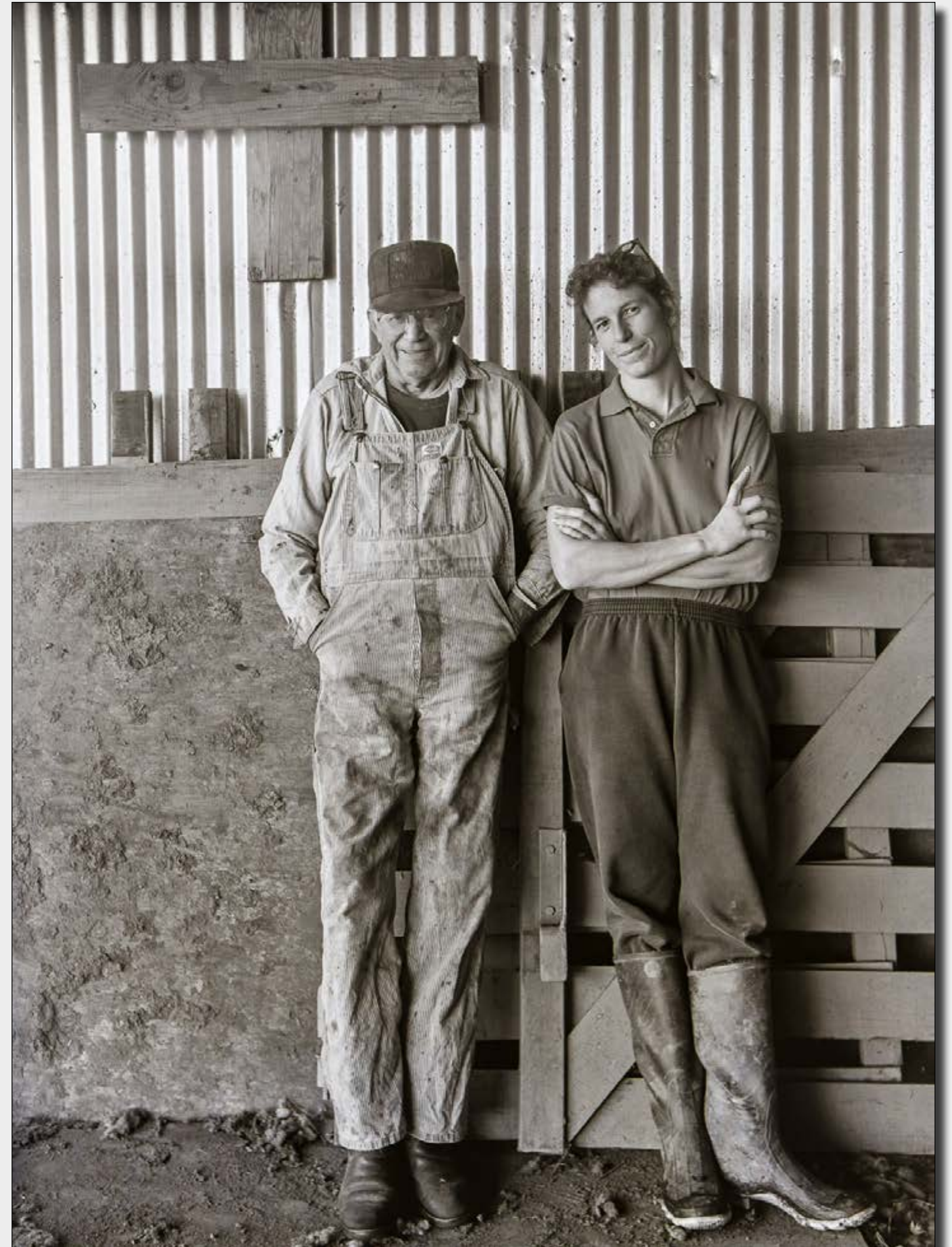


Melvin's Shop

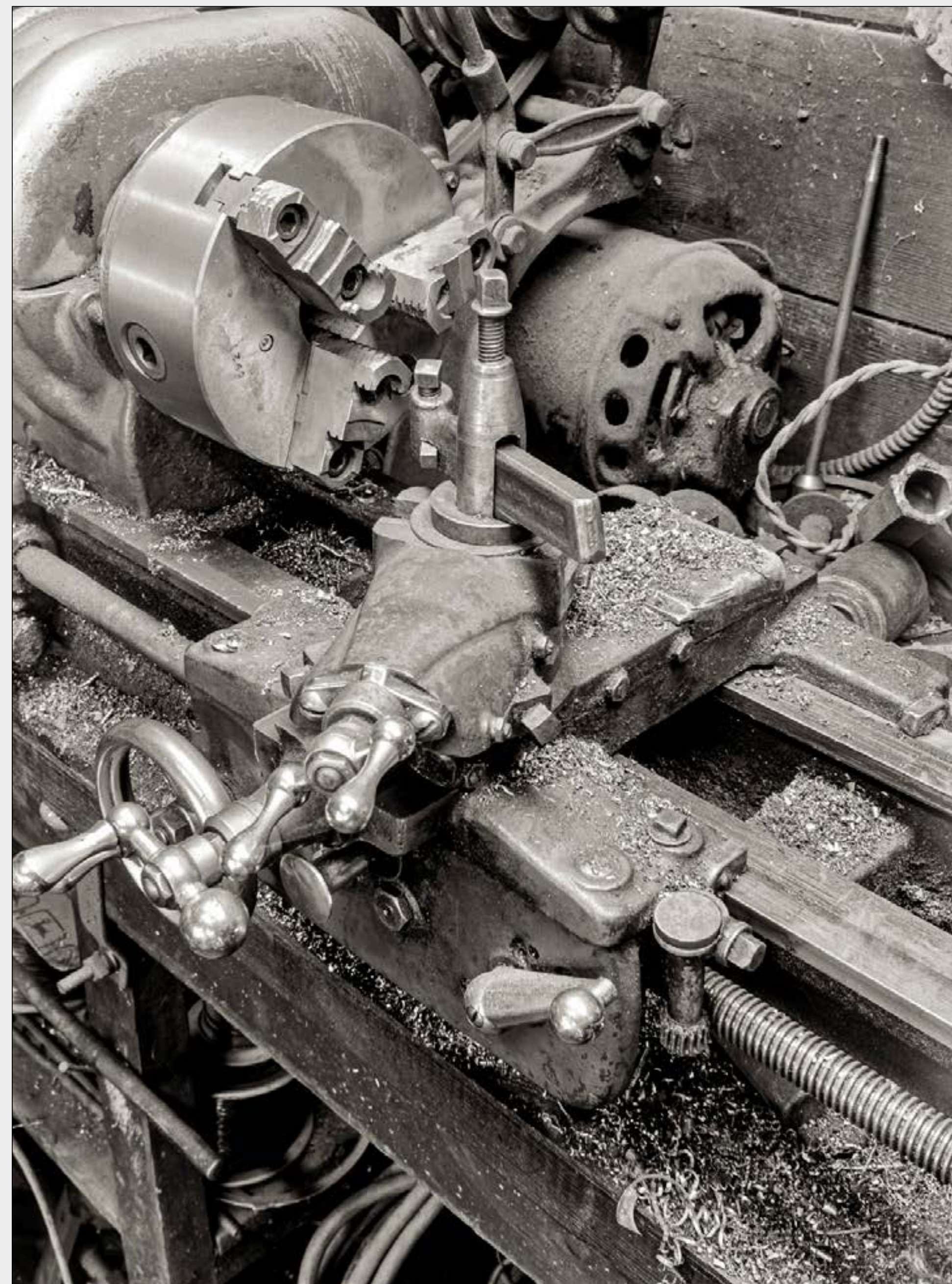


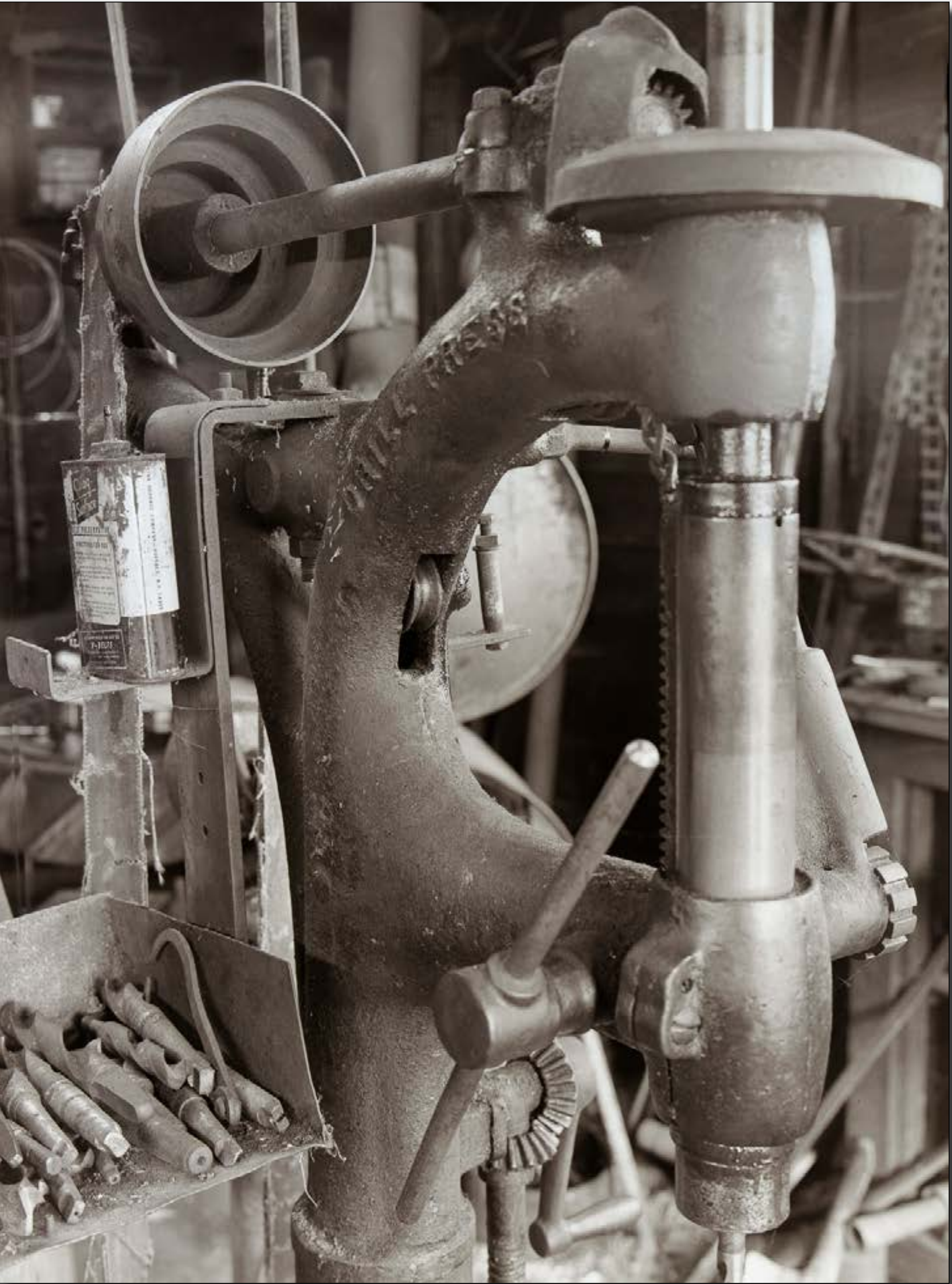
Melvin's Shop

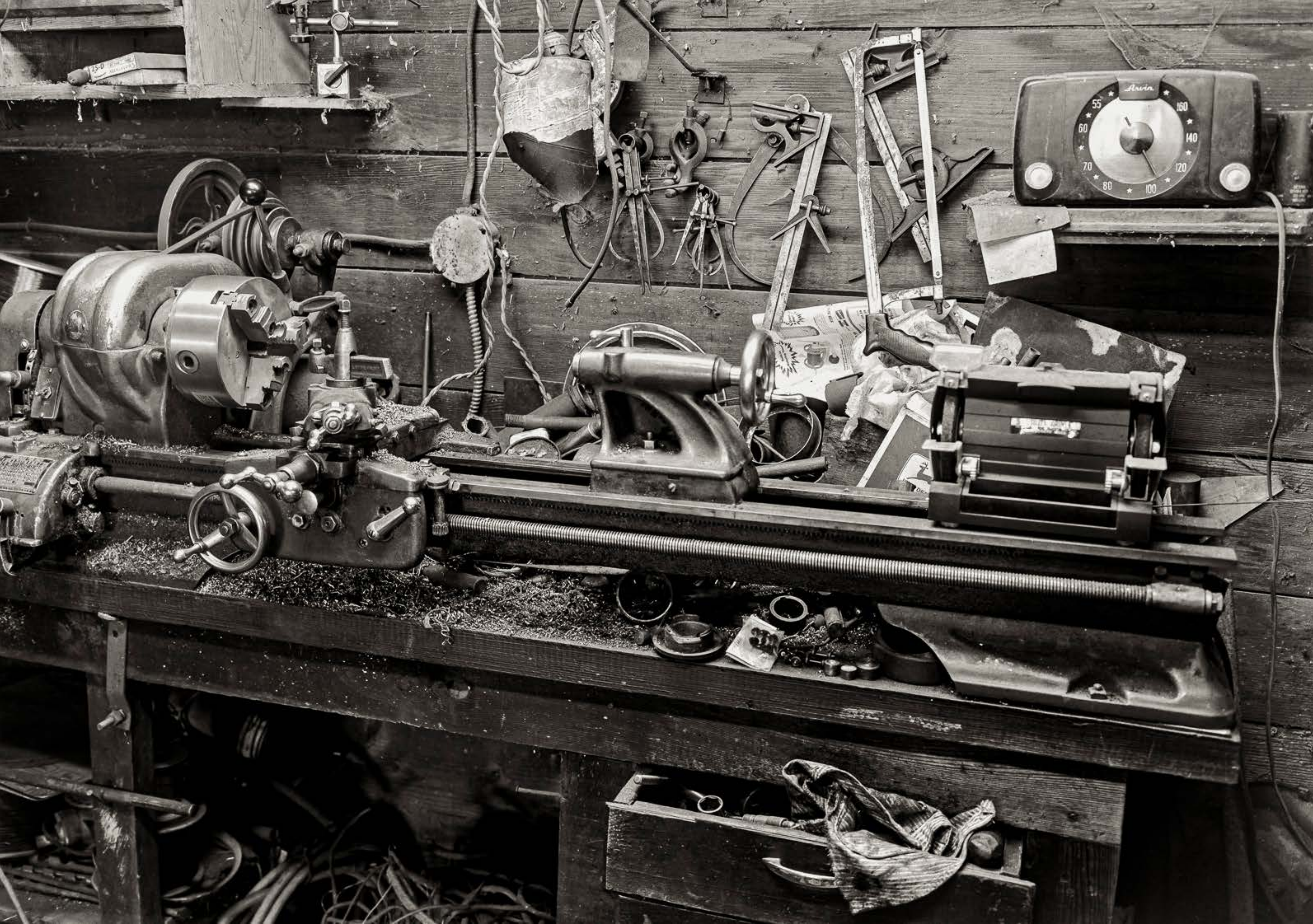
Brooks Jensen and I were visiting Susie at her farm during our 1990 photo safari. One day she made a phone call and shortly thereafter we were at Melvin's Farm. While Melvin was occupied shearing sheep, we had free run of the farm. I found Melvin's Shop, and being the engineer I am, spent the morning wrestling with my old fashioned 5x7 view camera in the tight confines of an old-fashioned machine shop. The struggle was great and the images few and hard won, but the experience was worthwhile.



Melvin and Susie







One Image Project

Every Picture Has A Story

I don't make many portraits so portraits are special. We spent a day photographing Melvin's machine shop while Melvin, Kenny and the sheep shearer (and his sheep dog) took care of shearing Melvin's sheep. When we accomplished our photographic mission for the day, it came time to take our leave of Melvin's farm. Just before we left, the shearing was completed. The three men stood by the shed and were resting from a hard day's work. Melvin said that without the dog, it would have taken three more men to herd the sheep to the shearer. It was at that point I asked the men if I could make their photograph. Fatigue played a role in their not wanting to move and being able to sit still for a long exposure.

After I put my camera gear away, I came back to shake hands with Melvin and wish him well. He stuck out a huge mitt of hand and I gave him my best firm grip, double pump, look 'em in the eye handshake. I have shaken hands many times, but this was the most memorable in my life. Melvin's hand was huge, strong, and covered with lanolin from a day's handling of wool. The combination of a muscular hand hard and strong from a life time of farm work made incredibly soft by the lanolin was a tactile experience that transcended an afternoon of photography.



A Few Closing Words

Monument Les Braves

The sculpture, created by Anilore Banon occupies the center of Omaha Beach, one of the landing sites of the Normandy Invasion on June 6, 1944. It was part of a tour my wife and I made in 2021.



Mining Camp

Wandering around the northern end of Okanagan County we found a county park that used to be the Poland China Molson gold mine. It was never very glamorous, big, or productive. Abandoned for over seventy years its preservation was most likely due to its lack of success and remote location. We spent a little time there recording what was left behind when the mine was abandoned.



Found Images: Durffey's Mesa

Guy Tal gave us the directions to the campsite and that's where we set up for a few days photographing up and down the Burr Trail through the Long Canyon and all the way to the south end of the Water Pocket Fold in Capitol Reef. It was a great few days of photography.



Melvin's Shop

There have been few photographic times in my life where so many wonderful things happen in a short period of time. The day at Melvin's Farm was one of those times. Memorable people, a photogenic place, a good story and good photography.





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 has been printed in *LensWork*, *Black & White Photography* (UK) and *F-Stop* 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 little bit of writing.

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

COLOPHON

The Lipka Journal, June 2022

Joe Lipka

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Web site: www.joelipkaphoto.com

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

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