

# THE LIPKA JOURNAL

PHOTOGRAPHS / STORIES / OBSERVATIONS

JOE LIPKA

MAY 2023



# WELCOME TO THE JOURNAL MAY 2023



Elk Creek



Leap of Faith



Everyday Things

We have Magic, Faith and the things we see every day. A beautiful, quiet place magically appears, and we are drawn into its photographic spell. A leap of faith is made when we jump out of a truck to begin photographing a location we think has its own type of charm. Then there is the magic of the everyday things of the past. It's the little things that remind us of the faith and magic that our ancestors relied on.





Elk Creek



## Elk Creek

Finding a spot that has been “untouched” photographically is a highly unlikely endeavor. When we happen upon a special location, we can only fantasize about being the first to discover a wonderful place to photograph. The fantasy is often quickly betrayed by cigarette butts, empty beer cans or plastic bottles found underfoot. Our dreams of being the “first” to photograph that spot, are just as disposable as the plastic bottles left by the last careless visitor.

## *More Memories Than Dreams*

This image suite is another part of the More memories Than Dreams Project, revisiting projects and images from early in my fifty years of photography. At the end of this image suite there is a listing (and links to) other suites in this project.



























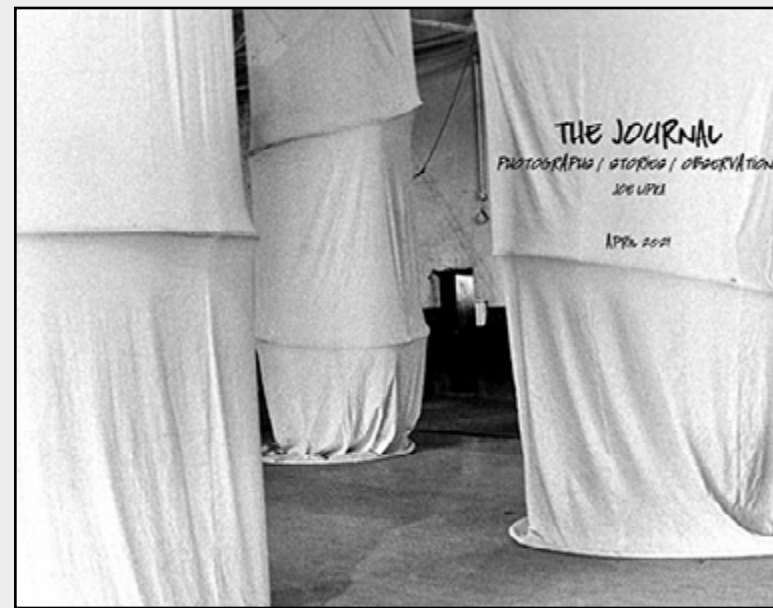


# More Memories Than Dreams

I started developing and printing my own photographs in 1972 while in college. In 2022, I decided to create my own “Fifty Years of Photography Book”. (It took Google .75 seconds to return 126 MILLION results for the search term “Fifty Years of Photography.”) Rather than concentrate all that effort at one time to do something millions of others have already done, I decided to make More Memories Than Dreams a feature in the Lipka Journal.

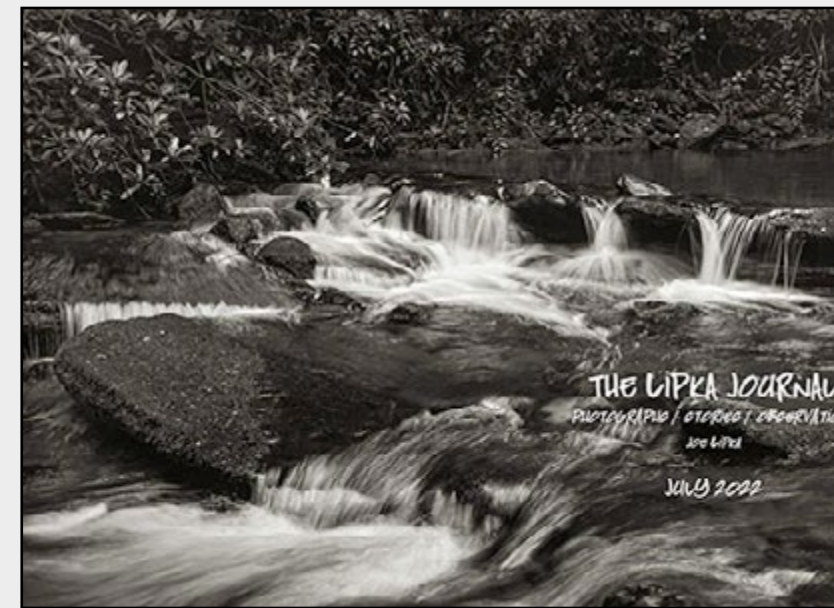
The first decade 1973-1983 is filled with the struggle to master the technical aspects of developing and printing photographs. Technical learning was the foundation of photography because without technical skills the aesthetic vision could not be brought to life.

Below are links to the Journals with More Memories Than Dreams Projects. The title of each Project from More Memories Than Dreams is below the linked image.



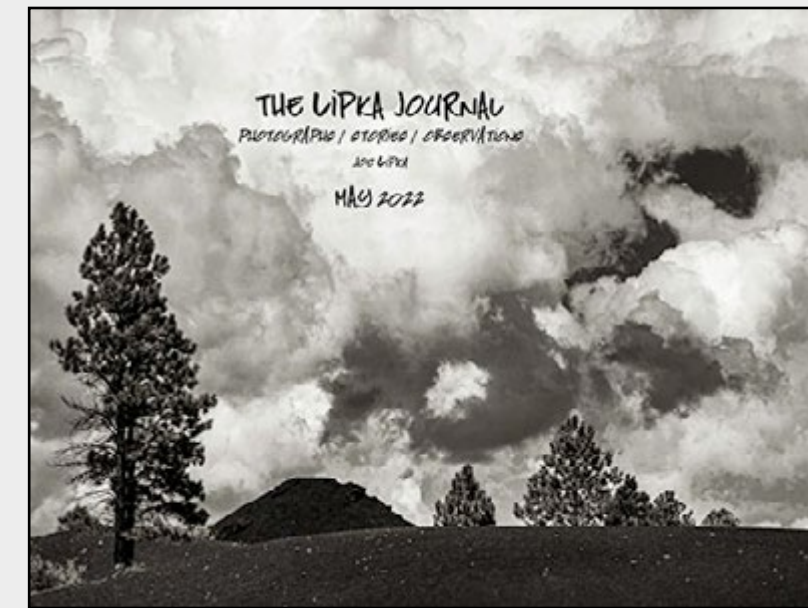
The Fieldhouse Project

page 13



A Place to Fish

page 28



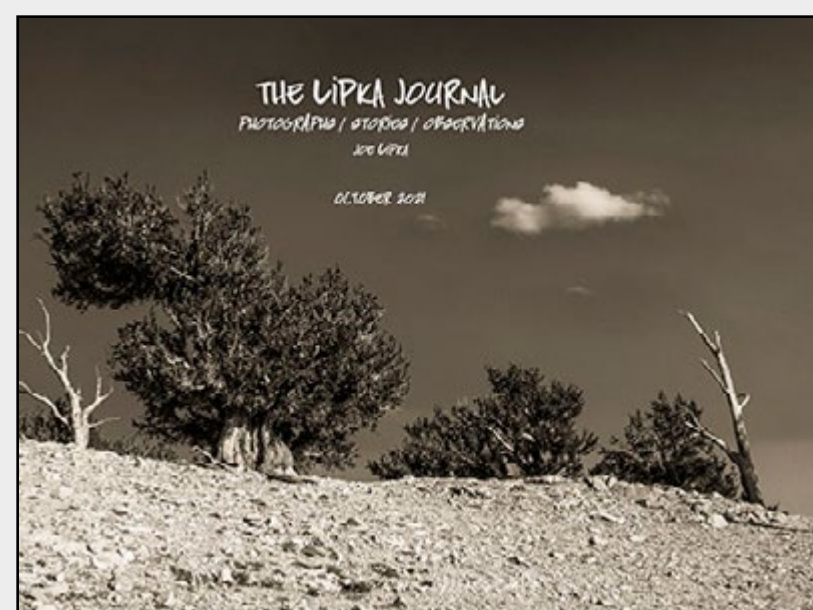
Geometry Games

page 14



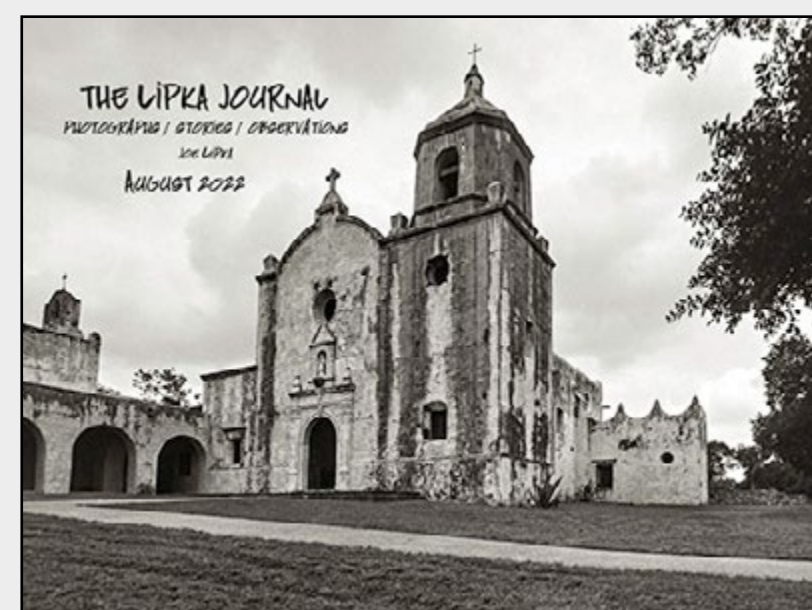
Waiting for the Ferry

page 23



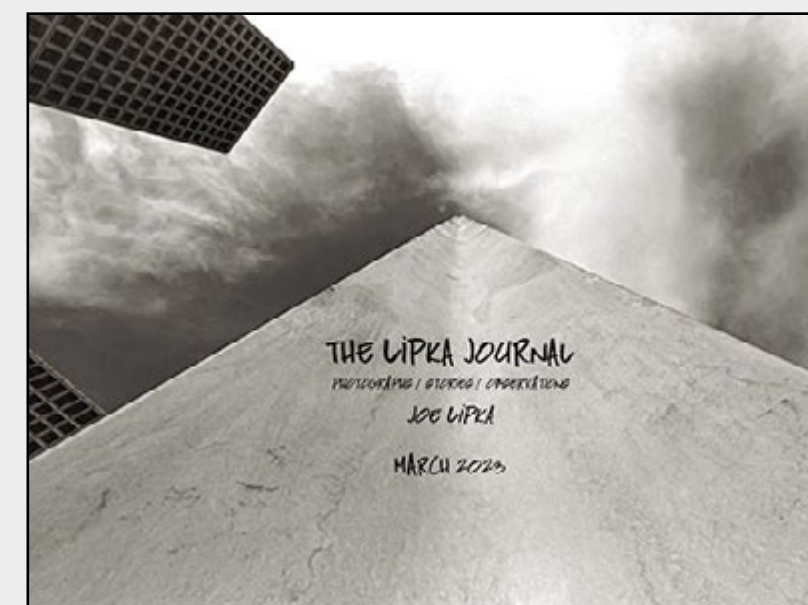
Reflections on a First Love

page 12



La Bahai

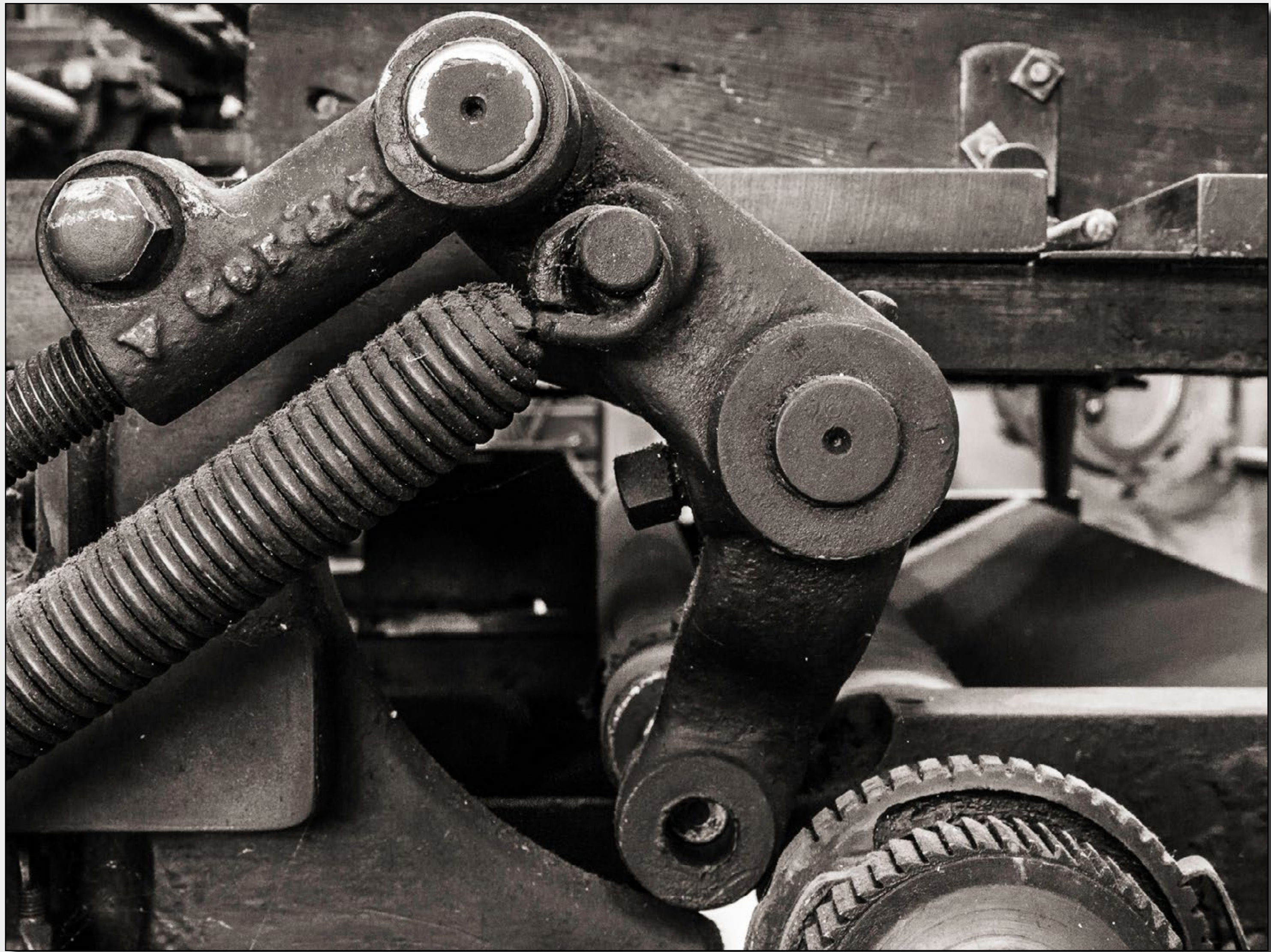
page 12



Familiar Ground

page 14





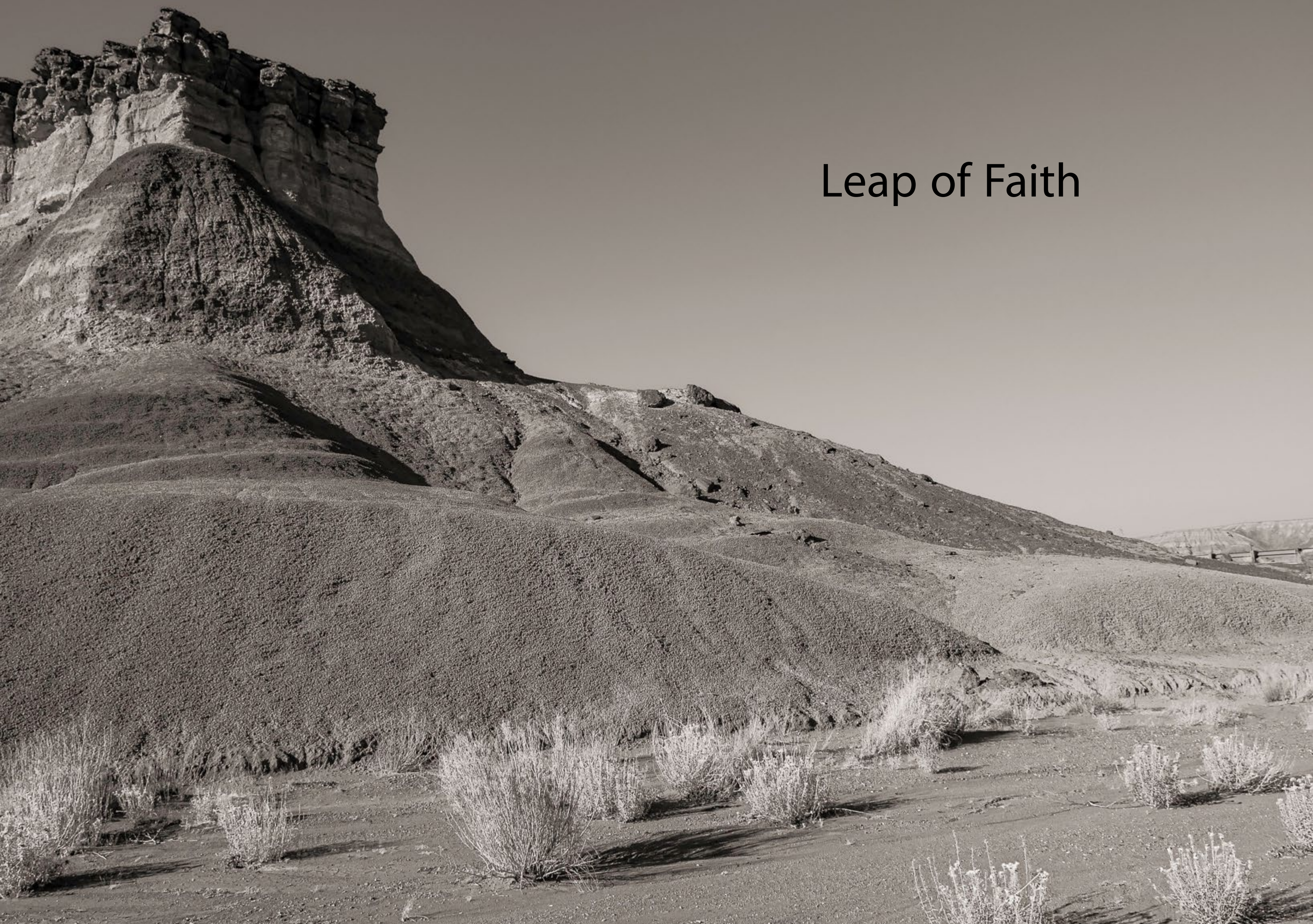
## Single Image Project

When he was young, an old German machinist told him, "The Devil is in the details.  
When something doesn't work it's always because the Devil is in the details."

But, if the Devil in the details causes something to not work, then it stands to reason that when something does work, the Angels must be in the details.



# Leap of Faith





## Leap of Faith

A creative leap of faith is taking a chance. Sometimes the leap is a calculated decision, sometimes it is not. We make intuitive decisions every day. Sometimes the decisions are important and life changing, other times they can be relatively mundane.

Driving along the highway our interest can be piqued by a scene, a landform, a structure or maybe just a nice foreground for a gorgeous sky. The leap of faith is the leap down from a pickup truck and extended with a hop over a small drainage ditch. Will the scene “work” and will it yield some nice images and provide some insight into the human condition? We don’t know, so we proceed without knowing the result.























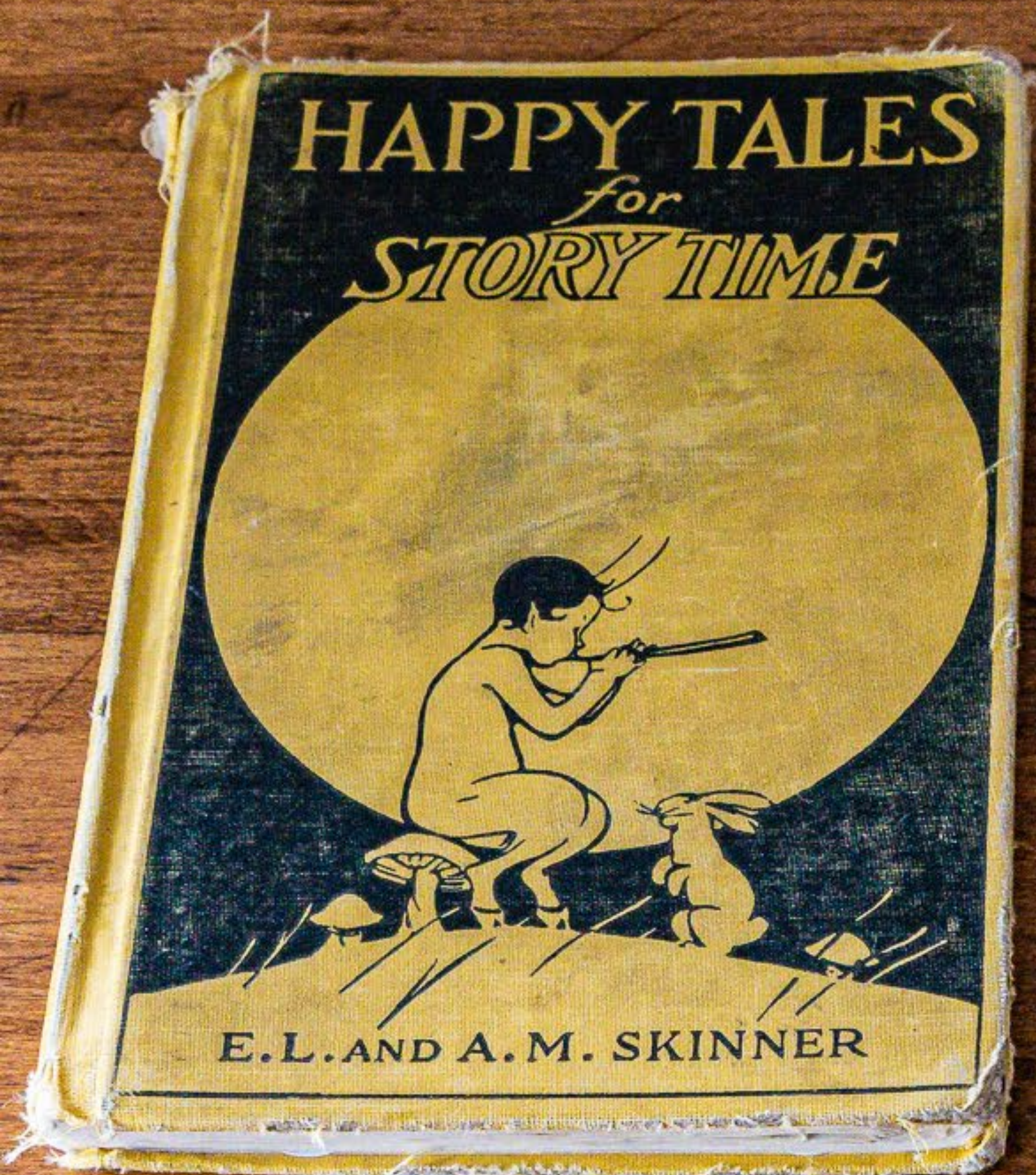


# Six Word Project

Meditating on the nature of photography









## Everyday Things

We think of history played out on a large stage; The Pyramids, The Eiffel Tower and the Washington Monument. The fascinating history is at the other end of the spectrum. We can relate to the small everyday things our ancestors, used and left behind. It is much easier to do that than attempt to comprehend the complexity and grandeur of architectural monuments.







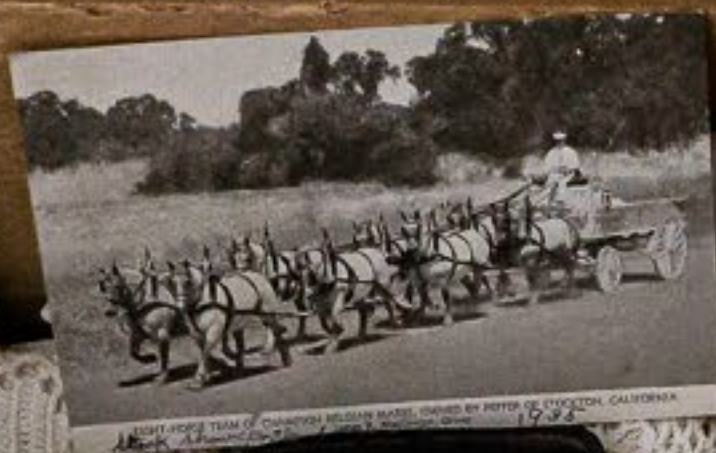
























THE E  
February 1938  
music m



"SMART ATTIRE FOR CONCERT A

THE ETUDE  
June 1939  
Price 25 Cents  
music magazine



Kirsten Flagstad on "THE ART OF SINGING"



**U THE BEST S**  
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43176  
**IN THE SHADE  
 OF THE ALAMO**  
 Fox Trot  
 Pianist, Carl Ober  
 Buck and Hubbel  
 Copr., Harms  
 75 c

**WORD ROLL**

**U THE BEST S**  
 PLAYER MUSIC ROLLS

42585  
**WHEN THE ONE YOU  
 LOVE LOVES YOU**  
 Waltz  
 Whiteman, Friend and Baer  
 Copr., Feist  
 75 c

**WORD ROLL**

**U THE BEST S**  
 PLAYER MUSIC ROLLS

42879  
**LOVELY LADY**  
 Waltz  
 Wood, Terriss and Rupp  
 Copr., Feist  
 75 c

**WORD ROLL**

EIGHTY-EIGHT NOTE

19863

**GOBBLER'S GAMBOLE**  
 Turkey Trot  
 (One-Step)  
 Grooms

3 D

**U THE BEST S**  
 PLAYER MUSIC ROLLS

42690  
**PETER PAN**  
 (I LOVE YOU)  
 Fox Trot  
 Pianist, Lee Sims  
 King and Henderson  
 Copr., Shapiro, B.  
 75 c

**WORD ROLL**

**U THE BEST S**  
 PLAYER MUSIC ROLLS

43055  
**CAROLINA  
 SWEETHEART**  
 Waltz  
 Pianist, Harold Wansborough  
 Billy James  
 [Copr., Stasny  
 75 c

**WORD ROLL**

**U THE BEST S**  
 PLAYER MUSIC ROLLS

4137  
**SALUTE A PESTH**  
 Hungarian March  
 H. Kowalski  
 R - .75

**REGULAR**

**U THE BEST S**  
 PLAYER MUSIC ROLLS

44868

628 .75

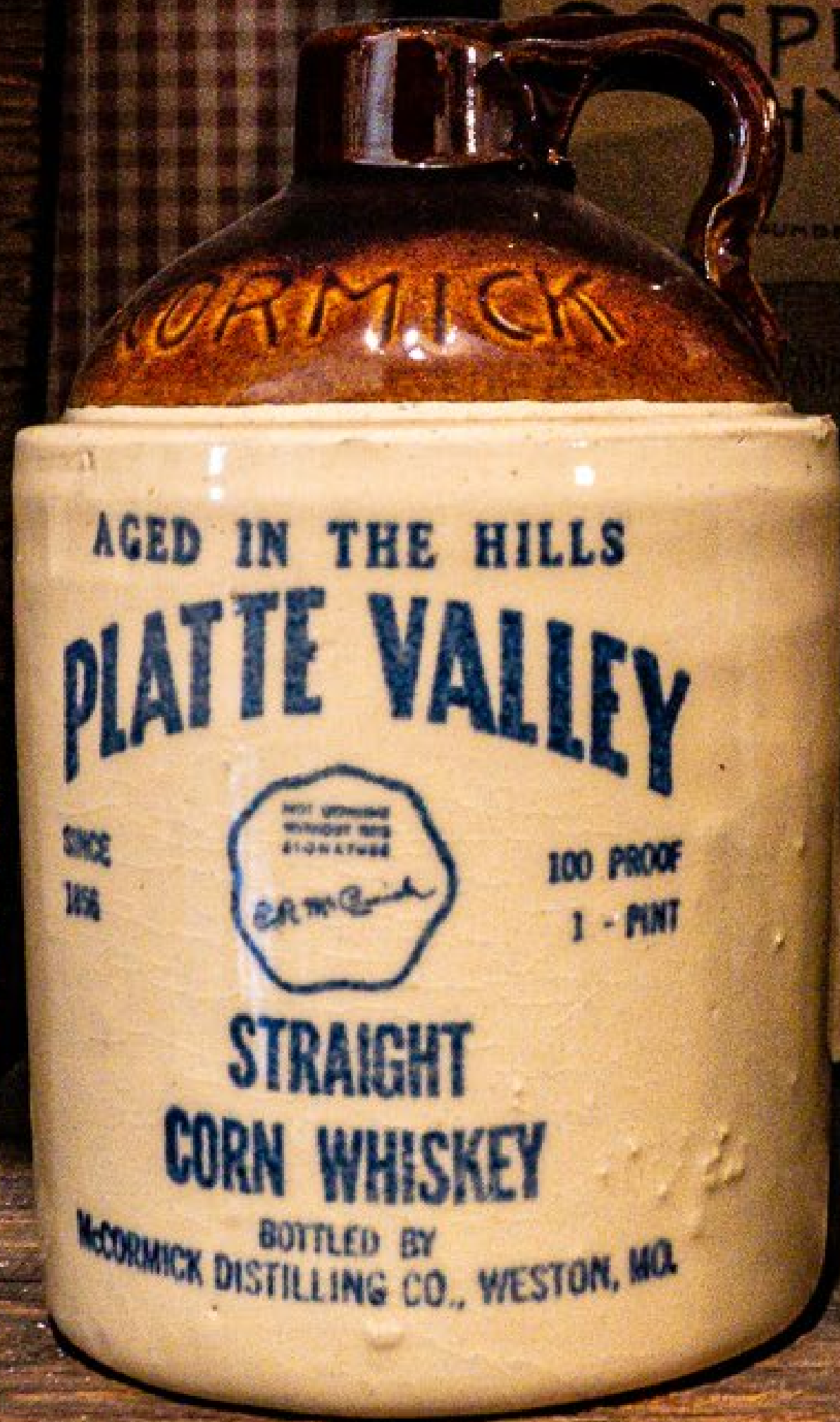
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 Pianist—Fred Parsons  
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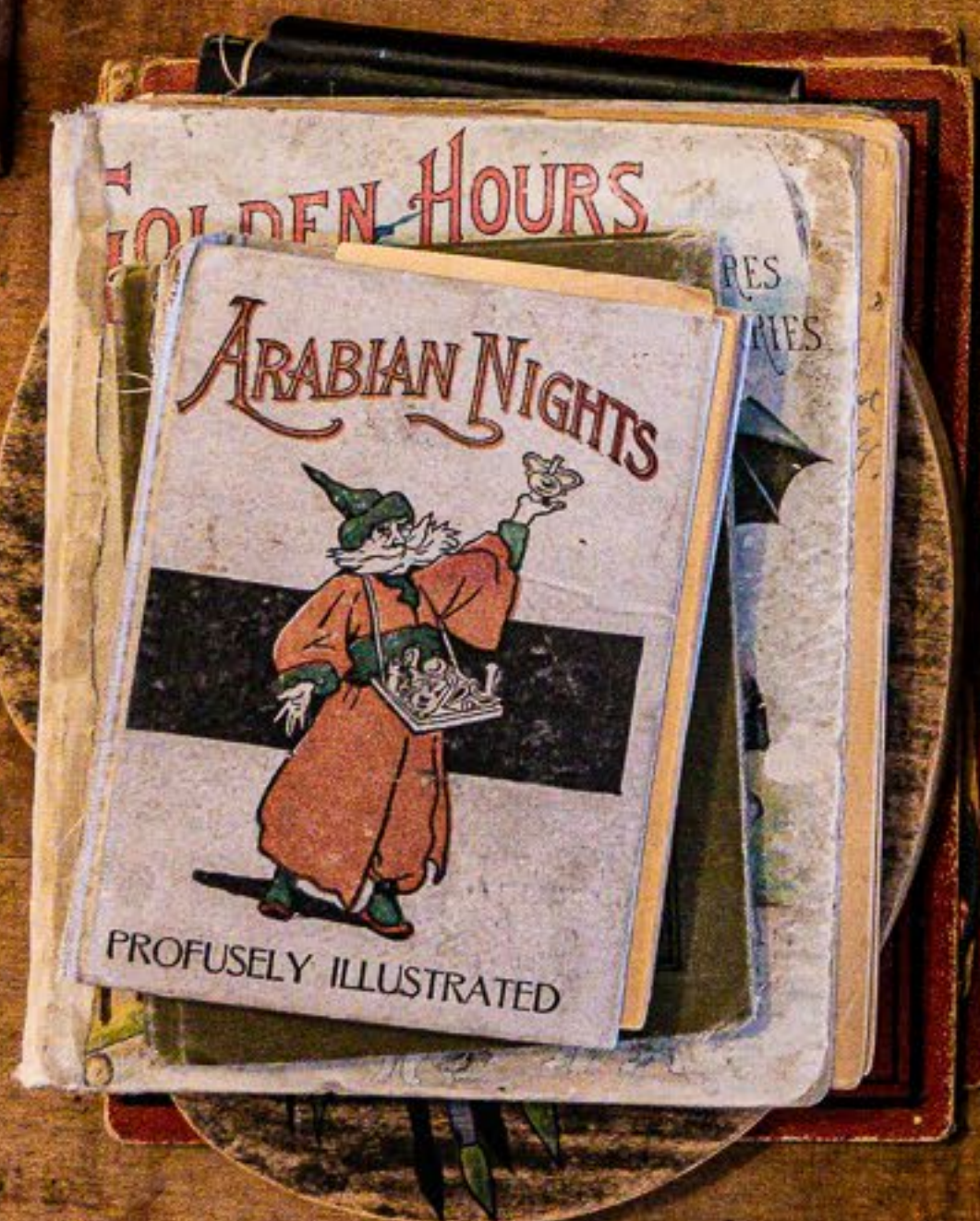






(III)

One day Tommy's father took him to the barn to see a little new calf. The calf was lying on a bed of soft straw by the side of its mother. When his father asked the old mother cow to let Tommy see her baby, she was afraid he might hurt it, so she said no. (Teacher writes *no* on the blackboard in several places as she gives the sound.) This is a picture of what the mother cow said. She tried to say *noo*, but Tommy heard just *no*.



Third Grade  
Seatwork  
For Silent Reading

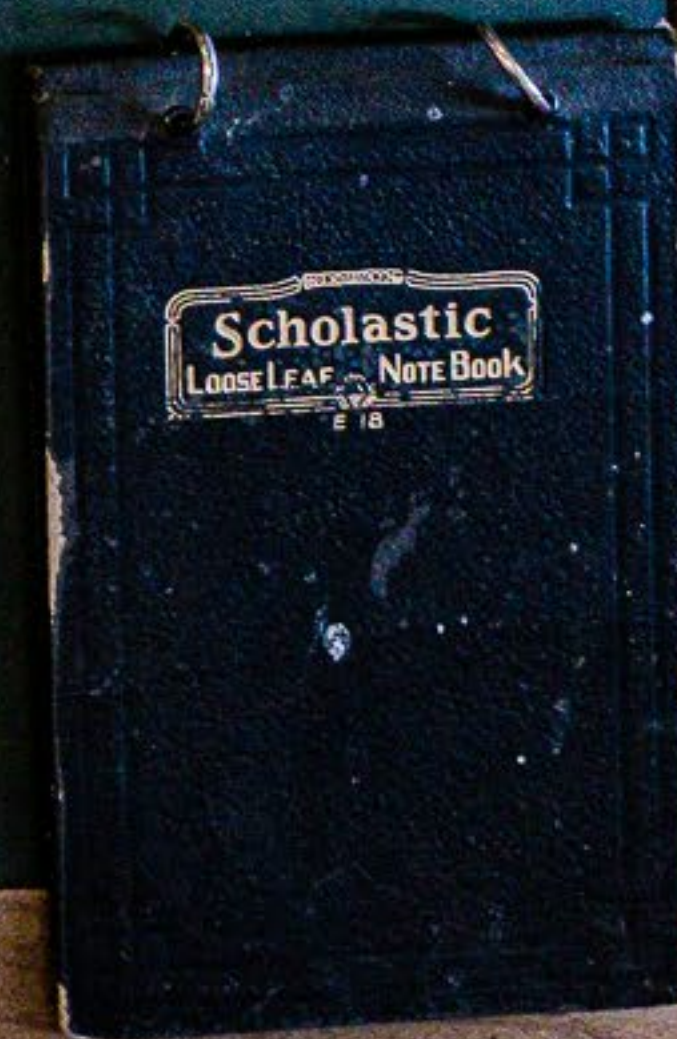


THIS BOOK BELONGS TO

Charles Townsend

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# Postcards from the Creative Journey

October 25, 2020

## What to Do with the Rest?

Most of the images photographers make are forgettable. That's not a bad thing. Forgettable images are doing just what they are supposed to be doing; not making an impression and being forgotten. Not every photograph is a winner. Some rise to the level of art, some are just visual clues for some great memories and some are questionable. That would be questionable in the manner of "Where was I when I took that photograph?" not the questionable that was a breach of good taste.

The trouble with selecting these days is purely a question of volume. In the past, if I would go out with my view camera for a week of photography, I would be happy with forty exposed sheets of film. Selecting and editing with that quantity of images was fairly easy to do. With my digital camera it would be easy to get about two thousand images after a week. Then the problem becomes one of selecting and editing. A much more complicated and time consuming process just because of the number of images is so much larger.

And then once you have figured out how many images are "good enough" what is going to happen to the rest?





# A FEW CLOSING WORDS



## Elk Creek

We thought the name of the location was Elk Creek and continue to think of it to this day, but we've not been lucky enough to find it again. We photographed another creek at another time, "[Jump Off Joes](#)," but it's not the same place. I think that these wonderful little creeks magically appear and disappear with Brigadoon like regularity. Should you find your very own Elk Creek, photograph it well because you only get one chance at a place like that.



## Leap of Faith

Driving back from the Grand Canyon the light was just "getting good" so I called out for a "Stop Here" to photograph one of the many rock formations along an Arizona Highway. It was a worthy stop. It did delay our return to base camp long enough so that Brooks Jensen decided to make another stop at another spot to record some podcasts. I made photographs at that location, too. They are in the [February Journal](#) in the "To Each His Own" image suite.

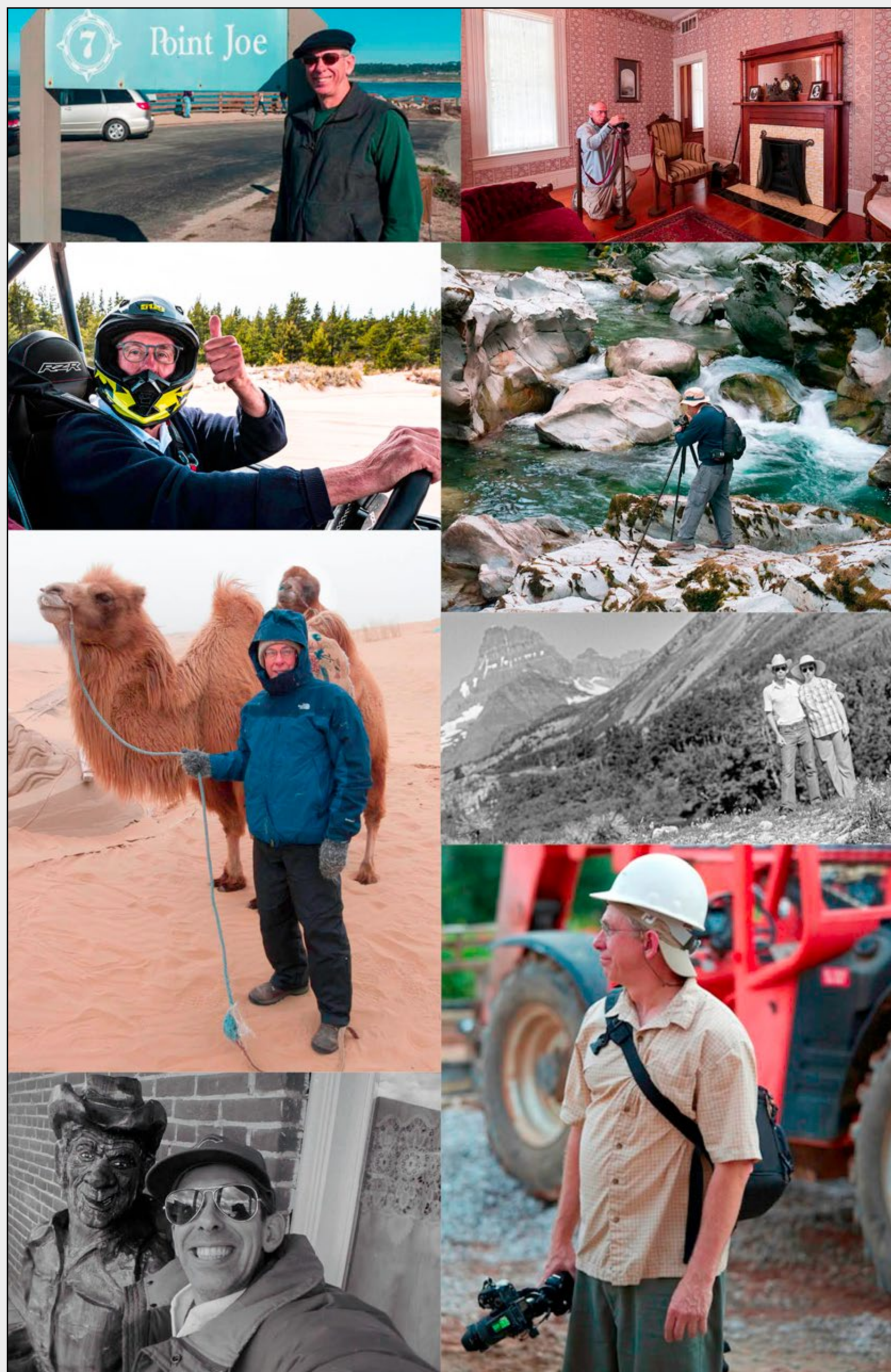


## Everyday Things

One of my crusades is "Recent History." Recent History is life between nostalgia and the forgettable past. My projects on Academy Street typify this genre. On Photo Safari XXXVIII, the Presby Museum in Goldendale, Washington was the star of the show. It was jammed with mementos, artifacts, and records of Recent History from that town in Eastern Washington. The everyday things that fill in the gaps of dry historical records show us what life was really like in the not-so-distant past.

P.S. The text on the slate was added in Photoshop.





Joe Lipka has shared his vision since he began photographing.

In the last forty years, his photographs have appeared in over one hundred twenty juried exhibitions, more than twenty solo exhibitions and his images have been published in *LensWork*, *Black & White Photography* (UK) and *F-Stop* Magazines.

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, 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.

## The Lipka Journal, May, 2023

*Joe Lipka*

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

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

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