

THE LIPKA JOURNAL

PHOTOGRAPHS / STORIES / OBSERVATIONS

JOE LIPKA

JULY 2024

WELCOME TO THE JOURNAL JULY 2024



Feed and Seed



Unexpected



Handmade



Levels

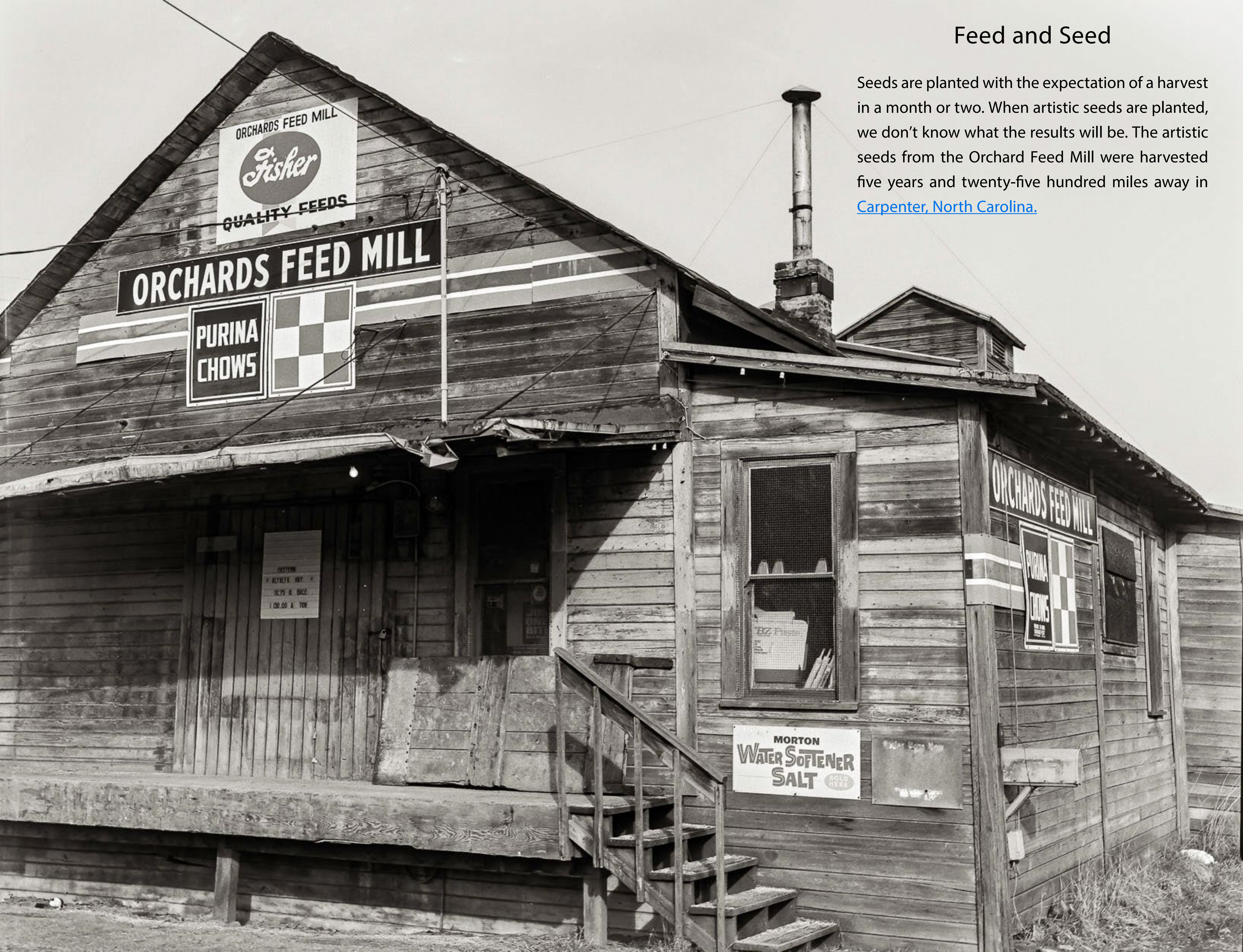
We never know, do we? Life is full of uncertainty and ambiguity. We don't know when and how inspiration strikes and what the result of inspiration will be. That depends on which way we decide to go. Up or down? At least we know tides are predictable, but we sometimes forget about where we are when that happens. At least we have the predictability of making a jug to ground us in our life.

Feed and Seed



Feed and Seed

Seeds are planted with the expectation of a harvest in a month or two. When artistic seeds are planted, we don't know what the results will be. The artistic seeds from the Orchard Feed Mill were harvested five years and twenty-five hundred miles away in [Carpenter, North Carolina](#).









A Mostly True Story

Peter and Samuel were twins and rivals throughout their lives. The only thing they ever agreed on was to abide by their mother's dying wish. She expected them to be buried in the Family Reserve with the rest of the family and with equally sized monuments. They did just that, with the monuments facing in opposite directions.

Unexpected



Unexpected

Why is it that the expected always shows up unexpectedly? We know that annual events show up at the same time every year, but we are always caught unawares the week of Thanksgiving or rush out to purchase Christmas gifts on December 23rd.

We know the tide goes out and returns with a natural predictability, but yet we venture out on the Tidal Flats and hope we don't get caught in the rapidly rising tide before we make our best photograph of the day.























Just a Whisper of the Truth.

Her sketch was all that remained.

Handmade



Handmade

Creators create. It's circular statement of course and so is most of the world of making jugs and pots. In the hands of a skilled potter a lump of clay becomes a work of art.

With a camera in hand we make images that become art that tells the viewer something about the world and themselves.





Postcards from the Creative Journey

February 14, 2021



Photographs With And Without Memories

There are some photographs you remember, there are others you do not remember. I like to think the photographs you don't remember are the best ones because they come from a place free of thought, planning and rationality. This is the place we all try to get to when we are out there in the world camera in hand. These photographs just happen and when we find them in our LightRoom catalogs or contact sheets (remember those?) and we are happy because we have come upon something of great value.

Levels



Levels

We live in a three-dimensional world. Most of our lives we spend on the horizontal plane. We move right, or left, forward or backward. Moving up or down is not something we do consciously. We need to decide to leave the level and move either up or down. When presented with steps or ladders what alternative do we choose to do and why?





















A FEW WORDS AT THE END OF THE JOURNAL



Feed and Seed

I can't remember if it was my wife that told me about The Orchards Feed Mill, but I went out one afternoon with my view camera and came home with four negatives. In those days, four negatives for an afternoon's worth of work was quite a haul. I never went back to the Orchards Feed Mill but the mental seed was planted. After we moved to North Carolina, I found the Carpenter Feed Store and I harvested that inspiration by creating the [Carpenter Portfolio](#).



Unexpected

The planet's surface is mostly covered by water. A landscape photographer can't help but make images at water's edge. (That's going to be the name of my next mega-project.) When the tide is out, there is more land to photograph, but only for a short time.

Of course, we act surprised when the returning tide curtails our artistic effort because we weren't done making that best photograph of the day.



Handmade

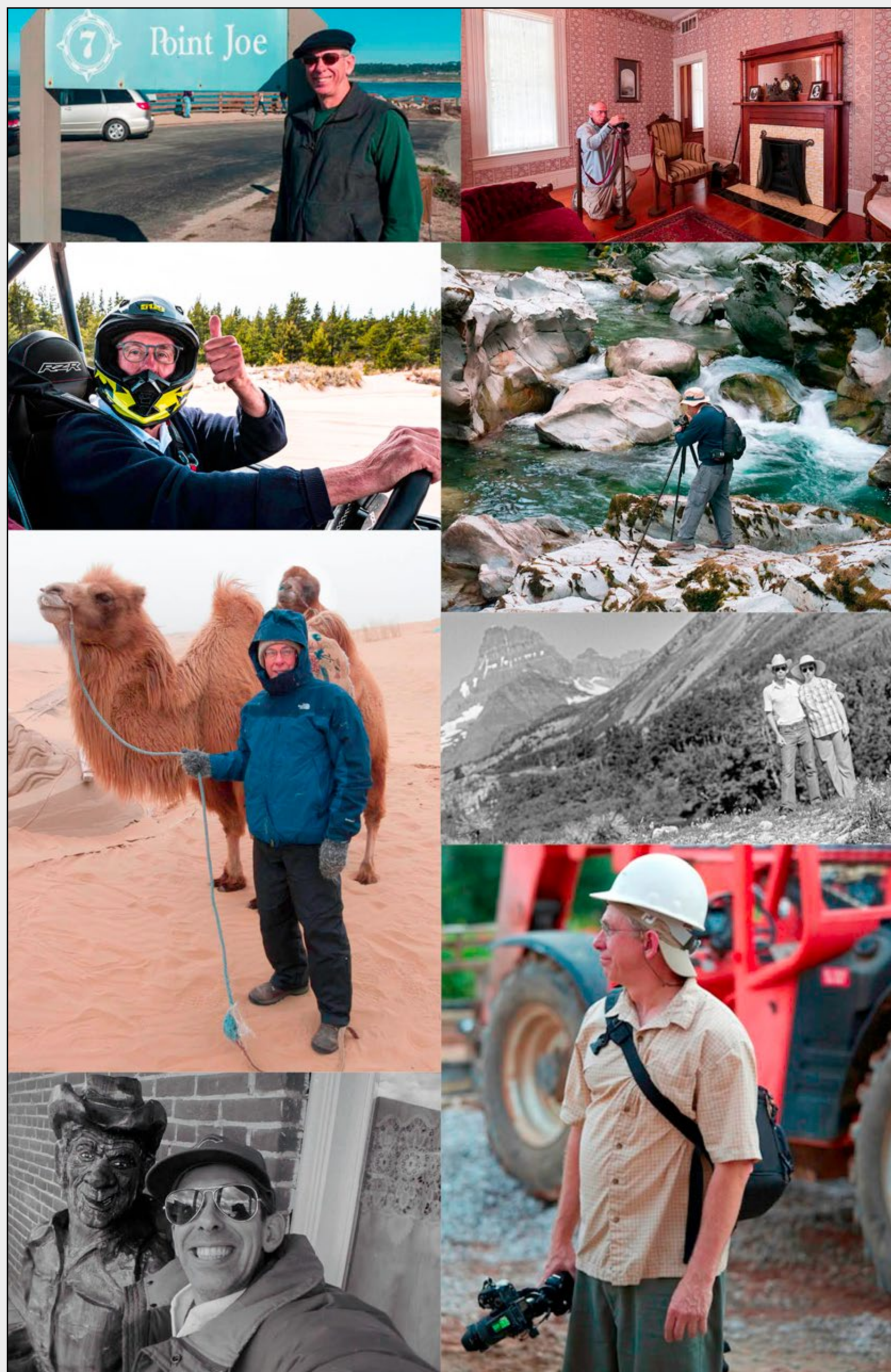
Central North Carolina is a great place for potters. That red clay that refuses to support my lawn is great for making pots, jugs and platters. We attended the annual celebration of North Carolina history and arts at Hart Square near Hickory, North Carolina. As I walked by a window, I saw a potter at work making jugs. I thought it would be fun to make a series of photographs showing the process.

The time between the first and last image in this series was almost exactly eight minutes.



Levels

Fort Worden State Park in Washington is an absolute wonderful place to go scrambling about, up and down stairs, ladders, hidden passages and paths through the woods. Usually there are groups of middle school students on a field trip doing just that, blowing off all the energy held in check during the bus ride to the Fort. This is a great example of the experience of the photograph and the experience of the place being completely opposite.



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, July, 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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