



THE LIPKA JOURNAL

PHOTOGRAPHS / STORIES / OBSERVATIONS

JOE LIPKA

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WELCOME TO THE JOURNAL JANUARY 2024



Overlook



Heidelberg Castle



Anonymous in Death

The month of January is named after the Roman god, Janus. Janus is portrayed with a face on the front and back of his head. He can look forward and backward simultaneously, thus his association with the first month of the year.

We can only photograph the past. We overlook the Grand Canyon of Colorado; we make a visual trip back through eons. We journey back a few centuries to a semi ruined Castle in Germany. We can see our own futures (in the manner of Ebenezer Scrooge) with gravestones so old the names are obliterated. In all cases, the constant is stone.

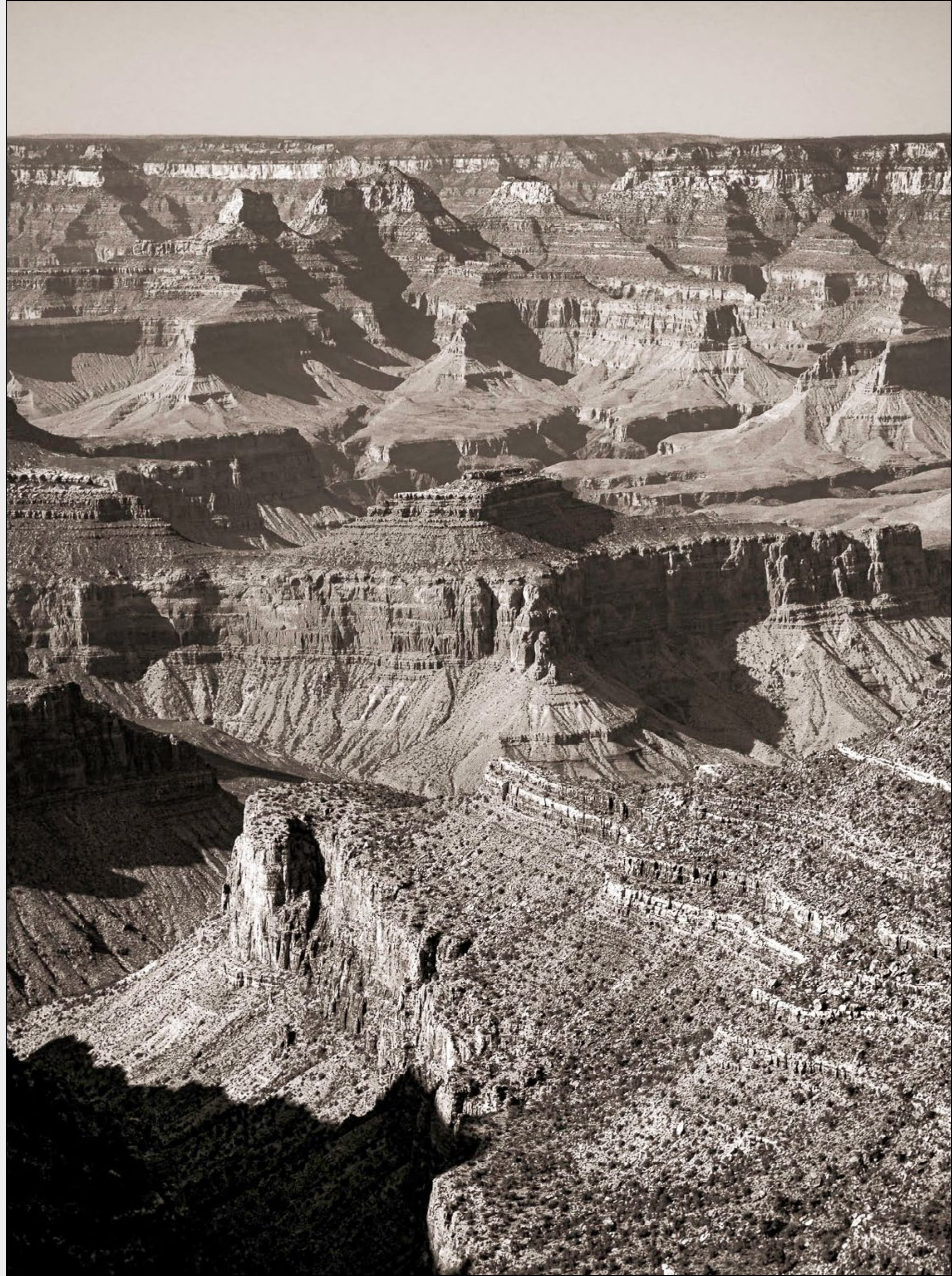
Overlook



Overlook

An overlook is all one can muster when first encountering the Grand Canyon of the Colorado. There is a feeling of impotence and helplessness when facing this wonder for the first time. We become painfully aware of our insignificance and powerlessness in the face of such grandeur. It is impossible to take in all at once and there is a shock one must overcome to begin to consider the vastness of the forces and time it took to create this space.

And then, we try to make images of the immenseness in front of us.





























Six Word Project

I saw music in the wires.

Heidelberg Castle



Heidelberg Castle

Begun in the thirteenth century, The Heidelberg Castle was built upon for several hundred years and then began its decay. I am at a loss for words about this place, but I rely on Mark Twain, the American author, who described the Heidelberg Castle in his 1880 travel book *A Tramp Abroad*:

A ruin must be rightly situated, to be effective. This one could not have been better placed. It stands upon a commanding elevation, it is buried in green woods, there is no level ground about it, but, on the contrary, there are wooded terraces upon terraces, and one looks down through shining leaves into profound chasms and abysses where twilight reigns and the sun cannot intrude. Nature knows how to garnish a ruin to get the best effect... The standing half exposes its arched and cavernous rooms to you, like open, toothless mouths; there, too, the vines and flowers have done their work of grace... Misfortune has done for this old tower what it has done for the human character sometimes – improved it.






















Single Image Project

We continued the drive down Scenic Route 12 to Escalante. When we stopped for lunch we chatted with an Australian couple while we ate. They said they could see why Americans were so religious, because after looking at the landscape of Utah you have to believe in God.

“Little Egypt”, about twenty miles south of Hanksville, Utah.

A photograph of a cemetery with several dark, weathered gravestones. The stones are set in a grassy area with fallen autumn leaves in shades of red, orange, and yellow. In the background, there is a dense wall of green and yellowing foliage. The text "Anonymous in Death" is overlaid in white on the right side of the image.

Anonymous
in
Death

Anonymous in Death

Gravestones so old the carvings have worn away struck me as something meaningful. We like to assign ourselves an inflated sense of self-worth based on what we thought we achieve in this life. In death, we are all equal, our earthly accomplishments mean nothing. We have no idea who these people were, what they did in their life, or even if their descendants even know of their final resting place. All we know is they lie beneath these headstones, anonymous in death.





POCK







Postcards from the Creative Journey

January 5, 2014

What Time Do I Have?

We are full of excuses about why we don't get done what we want to get done. One of my favorite excuses is "I don't have the time." Really now. Don't we all have the same amount of time? It's just a question of how we choose to spend the time we have. The excuse is more properly answered, "I chose not to make the time." Priorities, I know, priorities decide what we choose to make the time. We all have lists of things we need to do and things we want to do and these lists very rarely intersect. Even those lists have their own priorities.

Life is filled with choices and consequences, and we willingly (sometimes) make the choices and accept the consequences.



A FEW CLOSING WORDS



Heidelberg Castle

The Tour stopped at Heidelberg to see the Christmas Market and the Castle high above the city. My wife commented that the Christmas Market was right out of a Hallmark Movie. Well, that's what we found; a Hallmark Movie in production at the market. For photographers like me that love old buildings, I could have stayed there a week photographing the ruins of the Castle.



Overlook

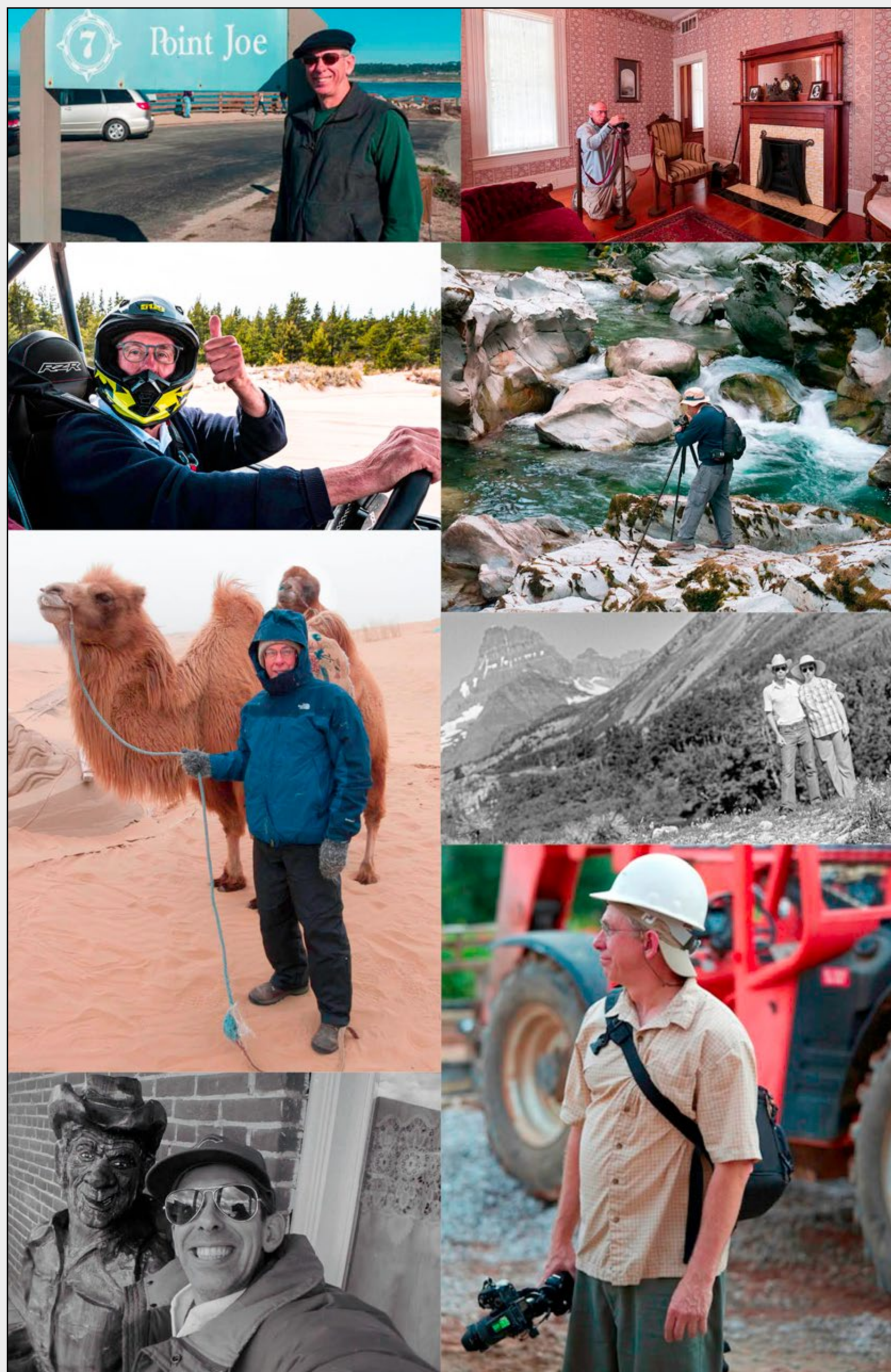
I don't think one could ever photograph the Grand Canyon of the Colorado completely. It is just too massive an undertaking to photograph unless one is prepared to devote years to the subject. It is huge and differs dramatically from day to day. One can only stand at the overlooks and be amazed at the scene. But, as photographers, we try to frame the image to make it not look like the photographs made by the other tourists next to you.



Anonymous in Death

The first few days of Photo Safari are filled with terms like "breaking the ice," and "getting warmed up" and "getting ready for the serious stuff." We stopped at a cemetery because it's "usable subject matter" to get ourselves in the creative mode.

It was one of those rare cases when a "warm up day" yields a project with real meaning. The images were simple, but the implications of these images is profound. It influenced the next few days of this Photo Safari as a source of conversation and inspiration.



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 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, January, 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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