



THE JOURNAL
PHOTOGRAPHS / STORIES / OBSERVATIONS
JOE LIPKA

FEBRUARY 2021

WELCOME TO THE JOURNAL FEBRUARY 2021

What is it about spaces that make them different? The wide open panoramic American West of the Snake River is the complete opposite of the chaotic, claustrophobic streets of Hong Kong. They are worlds apart; geographically, spatially and culturally. Even with this vast difference humans have found ways to organize themselves and thrive in two very different places. Take a journey to a Zen Temple and then travel the dirt roads of one of the least populated areas of the United States.

These are the big views of two different places. Finally, we head to Hart Square in rural North Carolina to take a much closer view of domestic life as it was experienced a hundred and fifty years ago. We often romanticize the past but life was hard, labor was unceasing and even a loaf of bread was the result of hand labor.

A Hong Kong Canyon



水坑口
選辦環球各類蔬菜瓜果
應酒樓酒店餐廳任選
伙上船團任選

A Journey to Shai Tin



A Journey to Shai Tin

Space and boundaries are quite different in Hong Kong. The city is vertical and one cannot see beyond the street you are on to get bearings and directions.

With most signs in Kanji, the realization of being illiterate is depressing and somewhat frightening. Sometimes the dual language signs help, sometimes they do not. A simple journey becomes an adventure replete with tourist maps and guidebooks to show the way.

The destination, once achieved is only a brief respite and offers a temporary sense of accomplishment and success.

There is still the return trip; and those familiar guideposts that were reliable on the outbound trip have disappeared.



2851 0118
AIR-CON. WATER & ELEC. WORKS

帝國

誠信

冷氣

水電

電

寶麗女子美容公司
POLY BEAUTY PARLOUR
群英大廈③字B室
3/F, B. KWAN YING COM BLDG

寶華行
批材鐘錄
發料

金湖海鮮飯店
GOLDEN LAKE RESTAURANT

Cluster
乳膠漆、雙玉磁漆、水晶地板漆
溢興五金油漆
電話：25456547

靠得
咖啡奶茶百搭

西北中發 一萬 九萬

GAME & FUN
新遊戲機中心

天天新款 緊張刺激











Six Word Project

Chen died.

His children sold everything.



Following the Snake River

The Snake River

I keep revisiting in my mind the spectacular views of the American West. I am impressed by the vastness and beauty of this part of the world. I try to photograph these places with an appropriate sense of awe and reverence, for something this beautiful must be a holy place. And yet, if I was to go back in time for a hundred a fifty years, these same places of beauty must have been terrifying and the cause of great despair for immigrants trying to make their way to a new life in the Oregon Territories.











Six Word Project

They stole everything
but the light.

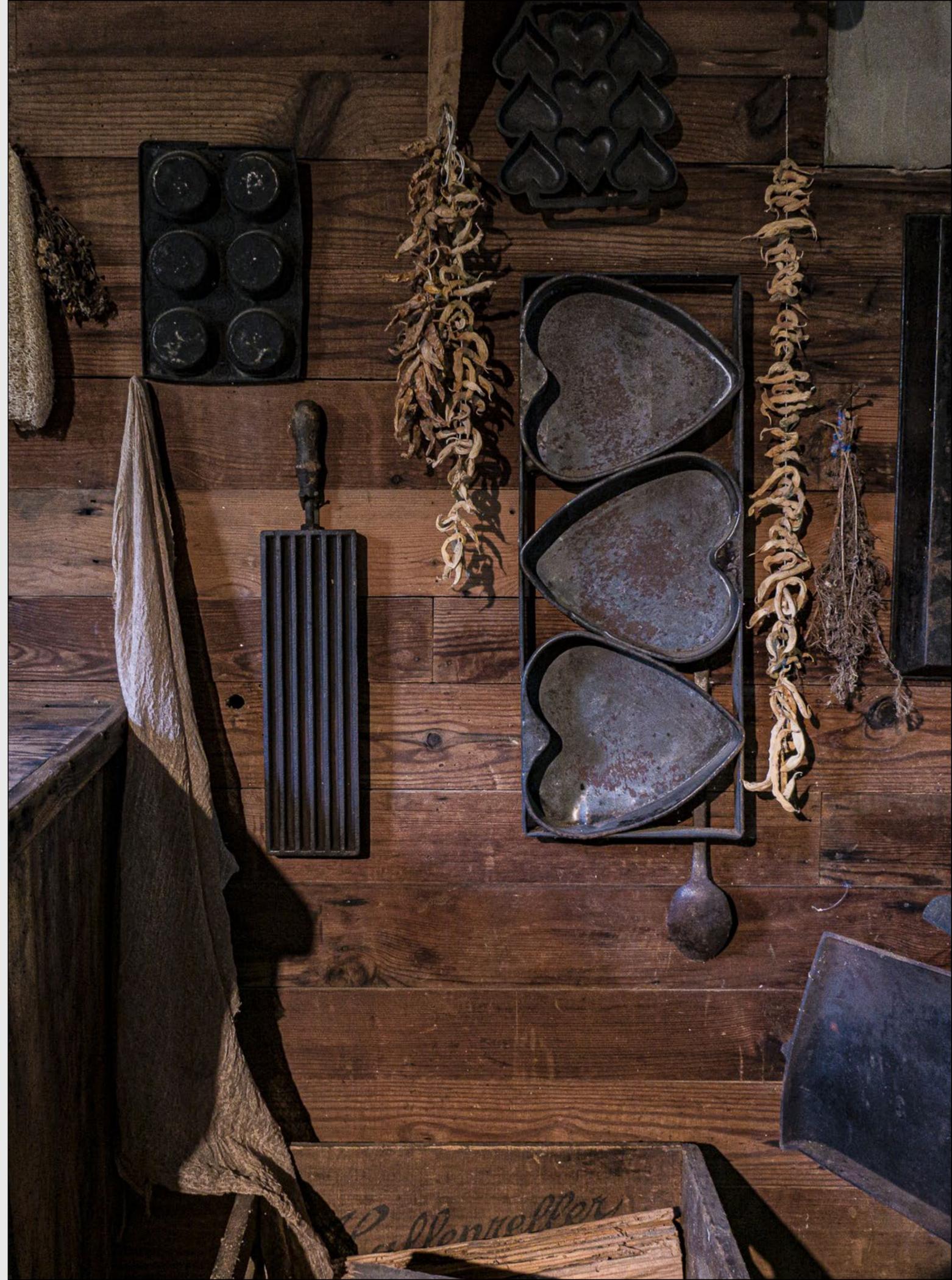




The Old Kitchen

The Old Kitchen

Well, Sally, this is how your great great grandma made food for your grandma. Nothing fancy, just basic utensils hand made by your great grandpa or his friends. We didn't buy food, we bought ingredients and made our food all by ourselves – every day.





RED MOUNTAIN
T







A wooden bucket or tub, likely used for storage or as a decorative element.

A metal lantern or container, possibly for oil or a candle.

A large, textured, brown ceramic or stone vessel, possibly a water jar or a decorative piece.

A tall, slender, light blue glass bottle.

A round, brown ceramic jar or vase.

A small glass jar with a white label that reads "Dr. Thiel's Drops".

A row of several small, yellowish-brown ceramic cups or bowls.

A stack of decorative plates, including one with a prominent purple and red floral pattern.

A bowl filled with several round fruits, possibly apples or pears.

A stack of white ceramic plates.

Several white ceramic cups and saucers, some with floral patterns.

A white ceramic pitcher or jug with a floral design.

A dark glass bottle, possibly containing oil or vinegar.

A rectangular metal box or container, possibly for tools or small items.

A shallow, round plate or dish.



Postcards from the Creative Journey

December 4, 2016



Watching Is Fun, Too.

As a photographer of the landscape, I live for the edges of the day; sunrise, sunset and the golden hours surrounding those celestial events. There comes a time in every photographic day when you no longer want to look at the world through a viewfinder or a ground glass. It's that time of the day when you just want to sit and enjoy the beauty in front of you and not have to photograph it.

Many times I have forsaken my camera just to sit, watch, wait and experience the beauty of the world. There comes a time when you just have to put the camera down and enjoy the scene in front of you. At that time photography is not important, but living your life is. Learn to find those moments and relish them. Sit, watch and absorb the beauty before you. If so inclined, applaud the Deity for allowing you to experience the beauty of the world.



A Farm on the Powder River

A Few Closing Words

A Journey to Shai Tin

I had a couple of days in Hong Kong and I was told the Temple of Ten Thousand Buddhas was an interesting place to visit - and photograph.

I got on the MTA and headed for Shai Tin. It turns out the journey rather than the destination was more interesting than photographs of many, many statues. I thought that was quite appropriate for a journey to a Buddhist temple.

The Snake River

The Snake River has a reputation for being a wild and untamed river. Certainly, some sections of the river are just that. The parts we saw were spectacular but tamed to harness the water for hydroelectric dams. The mountains on either side of the river were dramatic and the river itself was quite placid.

The Old Ways

There are over one hundred buildings in Hart Square near Hickory, NC. They are the private collection (!) of Dr. Hart. Hart Square is a place where the history and old ways of rural North Carolina are kept alive. The kitchens are all working during the annual Hart Square Festival making food the way it was made over one hundred years ago.



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 have been printed in both *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 Journal, February 2021

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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