



THE JOURNAL

PHOTOGRAPHS / STORIES / OBSERVATIONS

JOE LIPKA

JUNE 2020

WELCOME TO THE JOURNAL

JUNE 2020

We can find a place by looking at the street address on the side of a building.

We can find a place for our photographs when we understand what they mean.

We can find a place that surprises us with something new.

We can find a place geographically, using either a map or a GPS system.

The easiest place to find is your own neighborhood.

Scary, dark places are the best place to find Pirate Treasure.

Shoe Store, Amsterdam



The image shows the interior of a rustic wooden structure, likely a chicken coop or shack. The walls and ceiling are made of dark, weathered wooden planks. On the left side, there is a window covered with a wire mesh, possibly chicken wire, which allows light to filter through. The floor is also made of wooden planks, some of which are missing or damaged, creating a dark, shadowed area. The overall atmosphere is dark and aged. The text "THE CHICKEN SHACK" is overlaid in the center in a white, serif font.

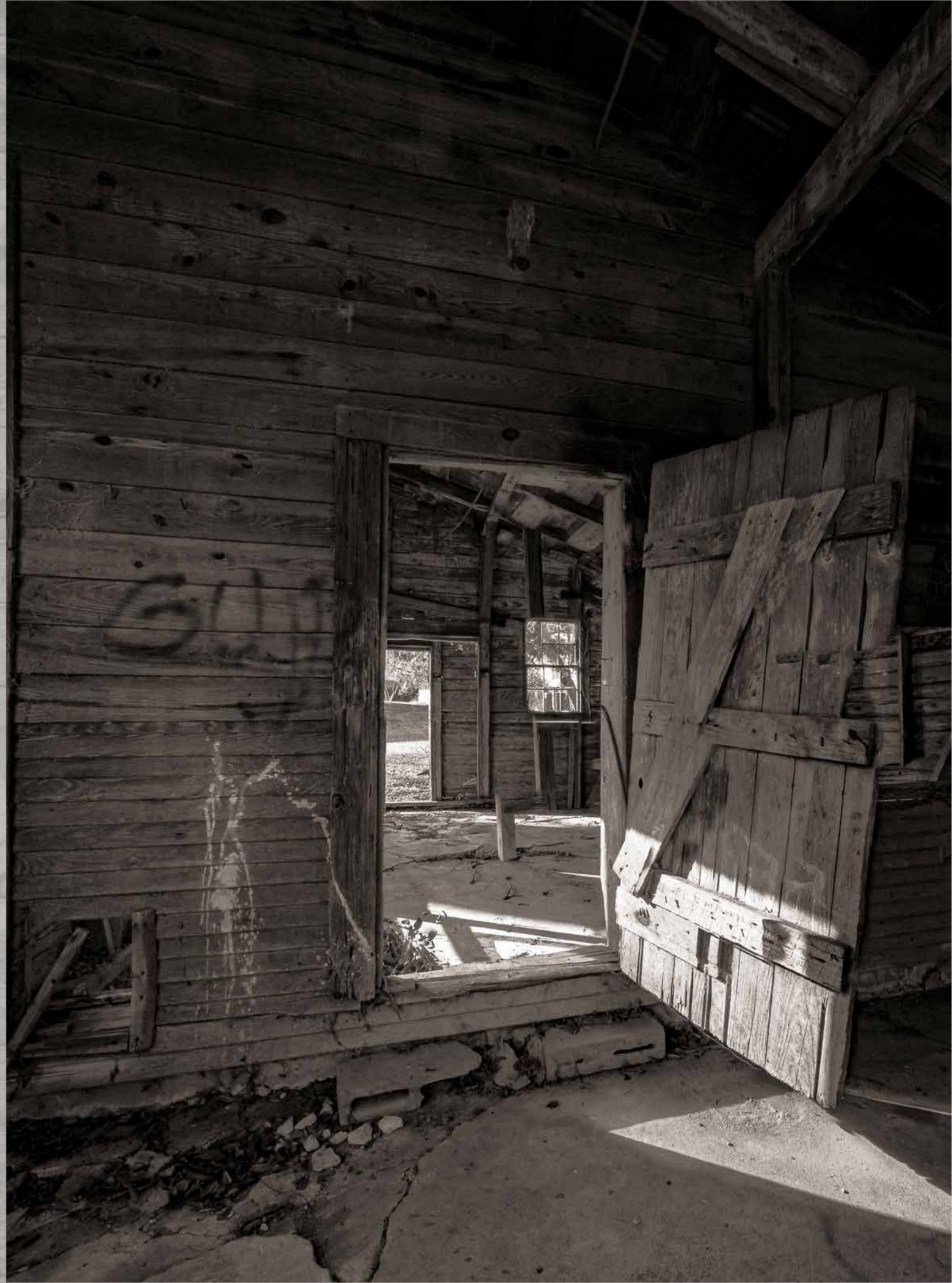
THE CHICKEN SHACK

The Chicken Shack

Some things just can't be changed. A chicken coop will always be a chicken coop. The design, function and purpose of the building is for a single purpose. It is to house a flock of chickens. We can turn houses into restaurants, real estate offices, gift shops, and craft breweries. But a chicken coop is always going to be a chicken coop until it's torn down.

The chicken coop on Academy Street has survived the changes all around it and has managed to avoid both transformation into another structure and demolition. The surrounding buildings have evolved but the chicken coop remains just what it has always been.

There is something to be said for a structure that has remained steadfast and true to its original functions throughout its entire existence.















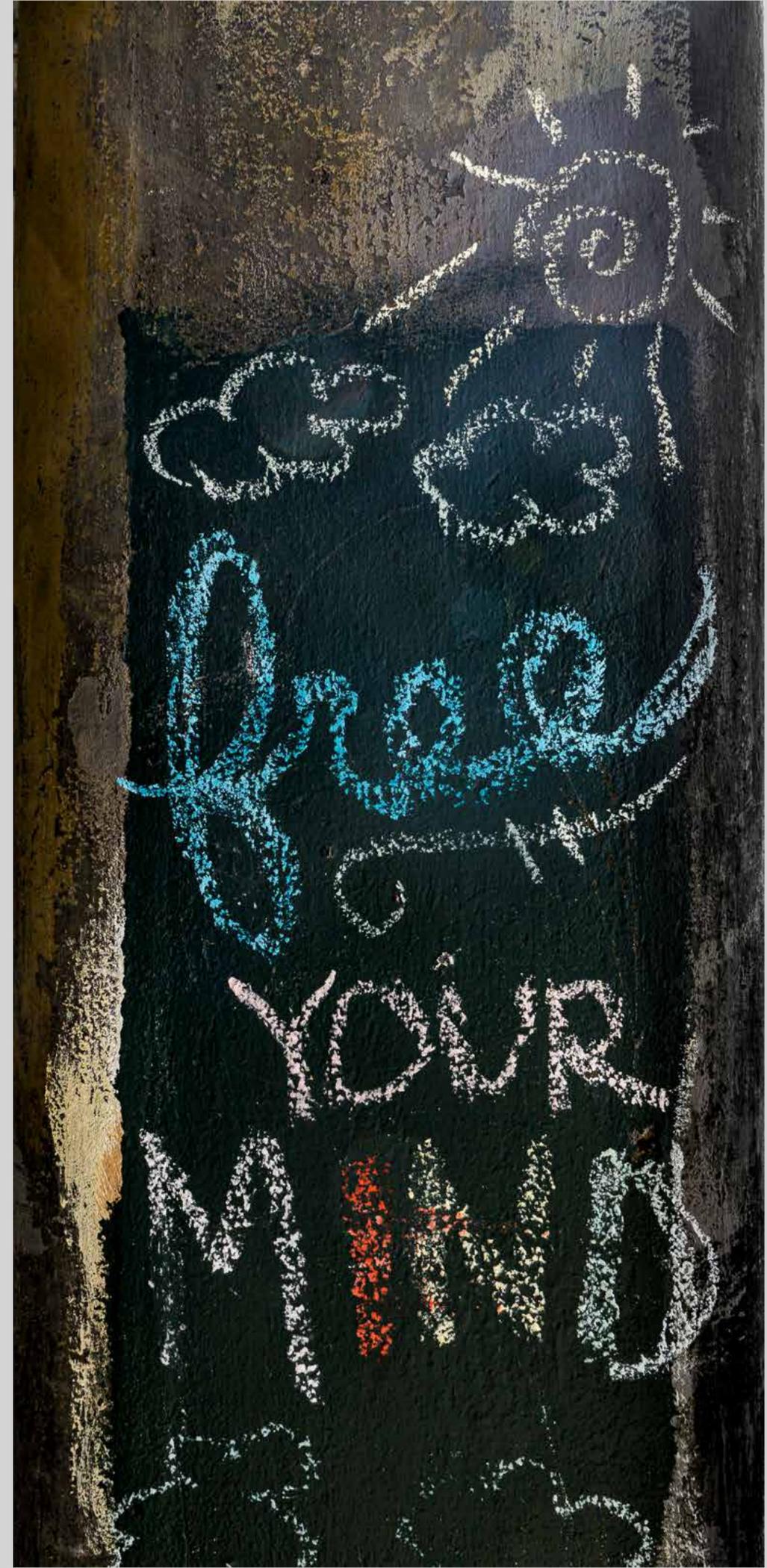
The image features a dark, textured background with a central path of light. The path is composed of several vertical, slightly irregular lines of light, creating a sense of depth and movement. The overall color palette is dark, with shades of black, grey, and brown, accented by the light path and some yellowish-green spots. The text 'FREE YOUR MIND' is centered in a white, serif font.

FREE YOUR MIND

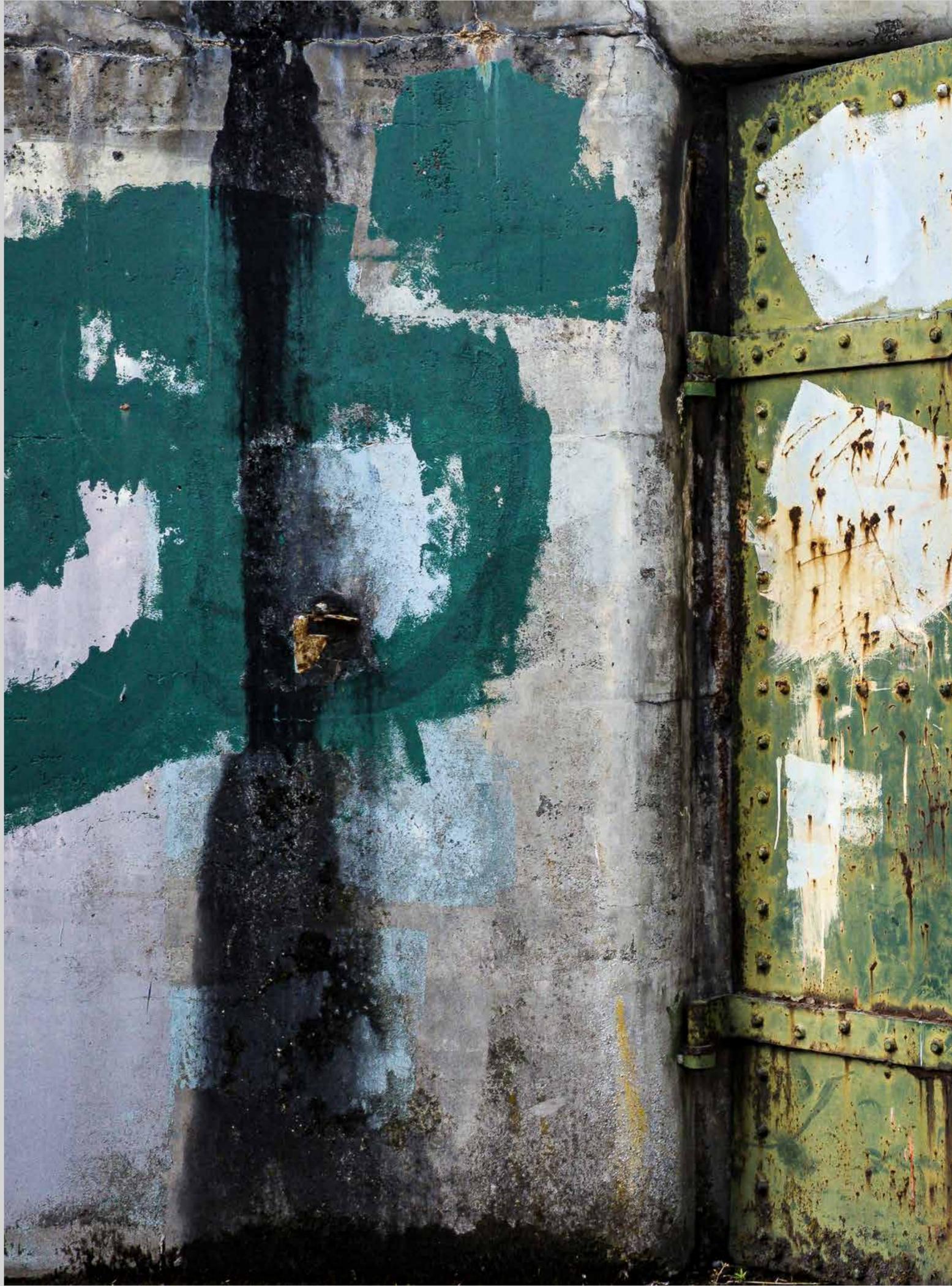
Free Your Mind

Revisiting a favorite photographic location is always fraught with peril. You feel the judgement of previous work and wonder if you are up to the task of creating new and better artwork in a familiar place.

Approaching the familiar structures of Fort Worden, some new graffiti exhorted me to "free your mind." This was the reminder I needed to free my mind of the memories and thoughts of the past and see today through new eyes.



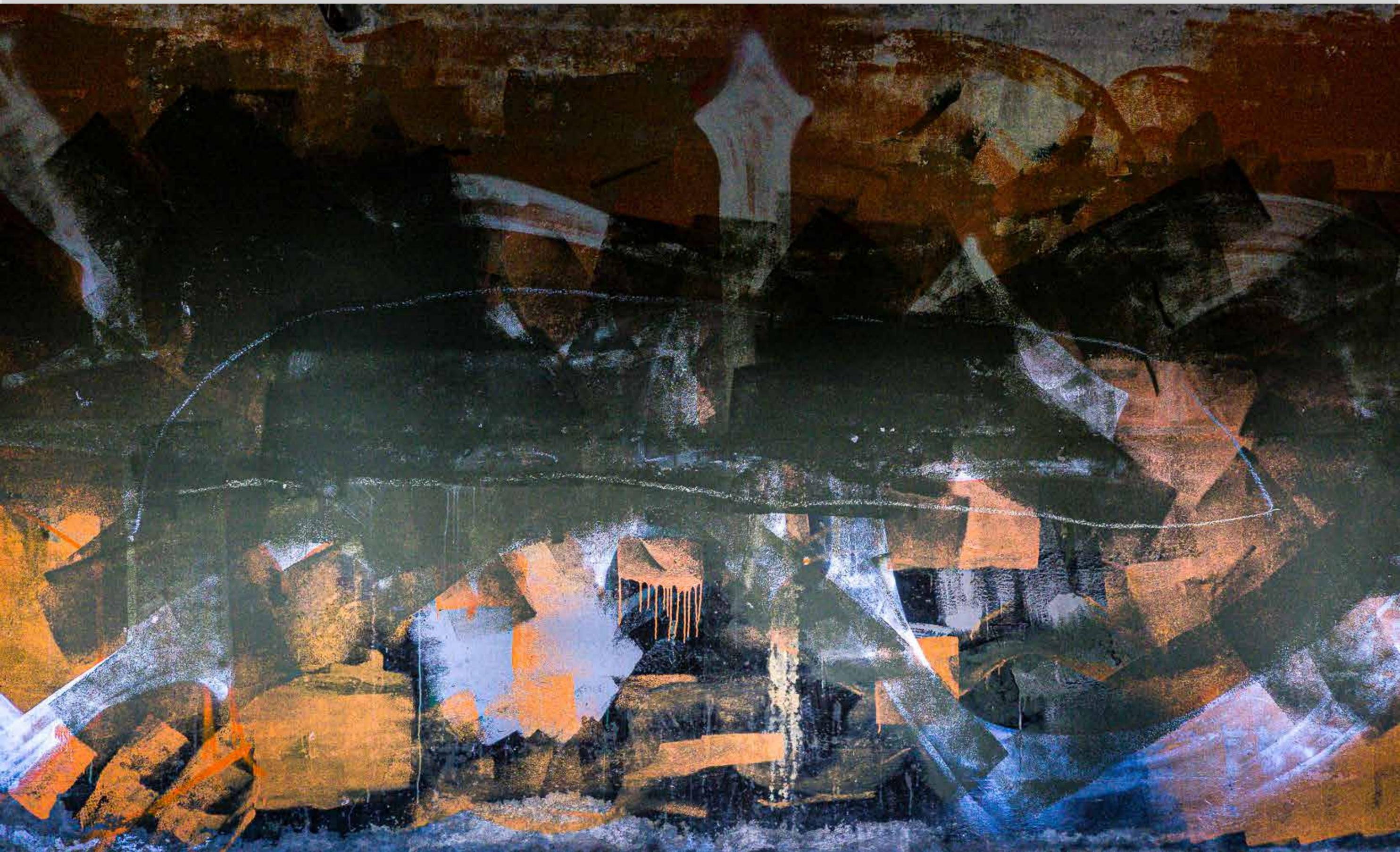












Postcards from the Creative Journey March 22, 2015

Advantage: Low Tech

A GPS gives you directions. A map lets you dream.

The little red GPS triangle keeps you focused on the road right in front of you making sure you do not stray from the computer calculated route to your destination. A calm, synthetic voice warns you well in advance of any turns you need to make. You will get to your destination precisely and exactly as calculated by the computer. Your attention does not need to move much beyond the dashboard and the little red triangle.

The paper map lets you look at your surroundings and become aware of the land and scenery around you. Lakes have real shapes, road types are different colors. You are looking for land marks outside of your vehicle to match with the marks on the map. Awareness of what is around you makes you concentrate on your surroundings, not a little red arrow on your dashboard. The land, not the road is the center of your attention.

The red triangle gives way to your imagination plotting alternate routes to where ever you might wish to go. You can take secondary roads, gravel roads and if you get far enough away from civilization, Forest Service Roads. Paying attention to what is around you is one of the joys of using a paper map. Technology takes away the possibility of serendipity.

Getting lost is a great way to find things you were never looking for.



A Neighborhood Walk

I'm tired of this being cooped up.
The only thing we can do is
take a walk in the neighborhood.

Because of social distancing
no one wants to stop, talk and
be friendly.

We need some new friends.

Meet some of our new friends.

This is Shirley.

She's always happy to see us.



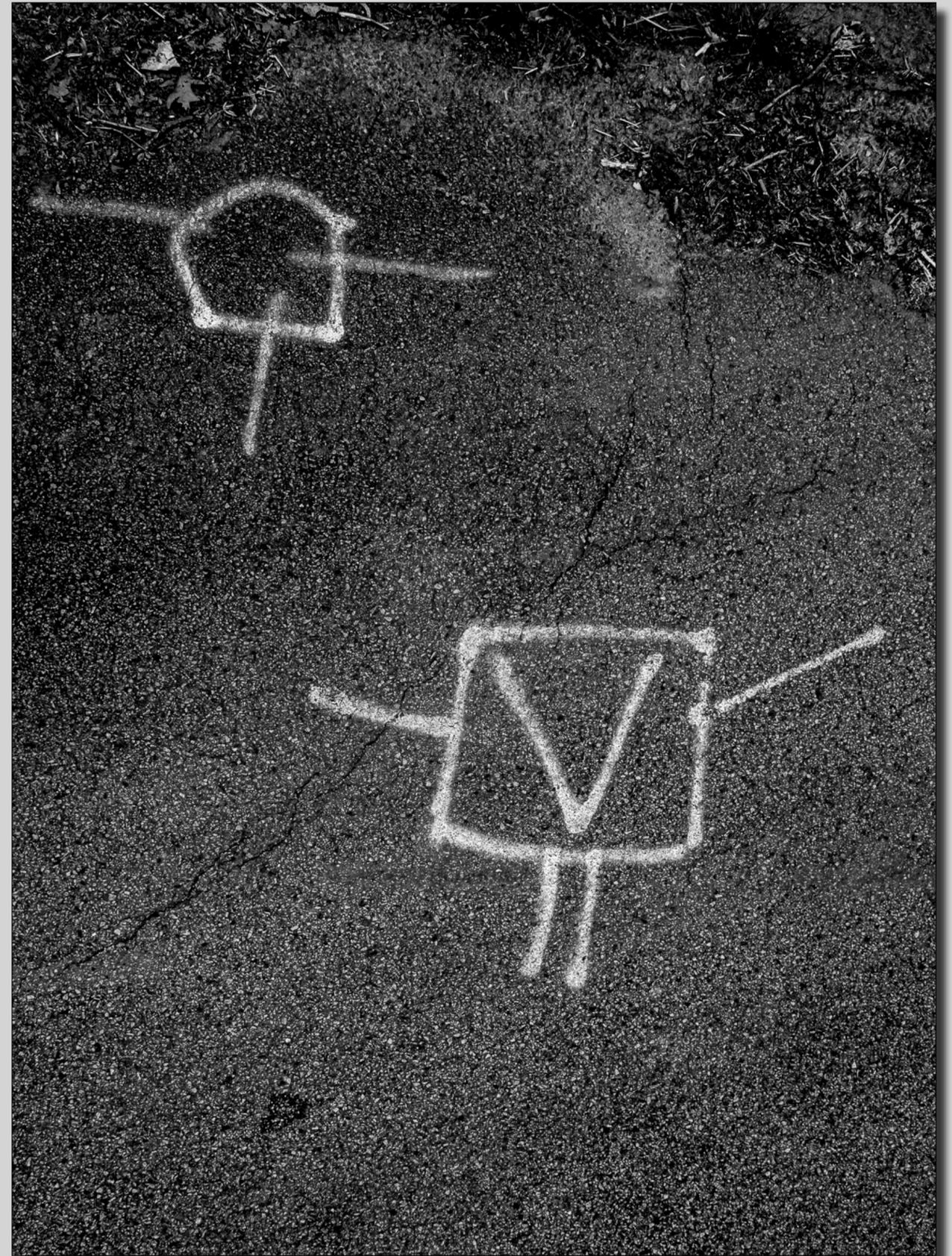
Hey, Honey, which route are we taking today
and how far do you think we'll be walking?





Mrs. V. is a "Hugger." She's not the least bit happy with social distancing.

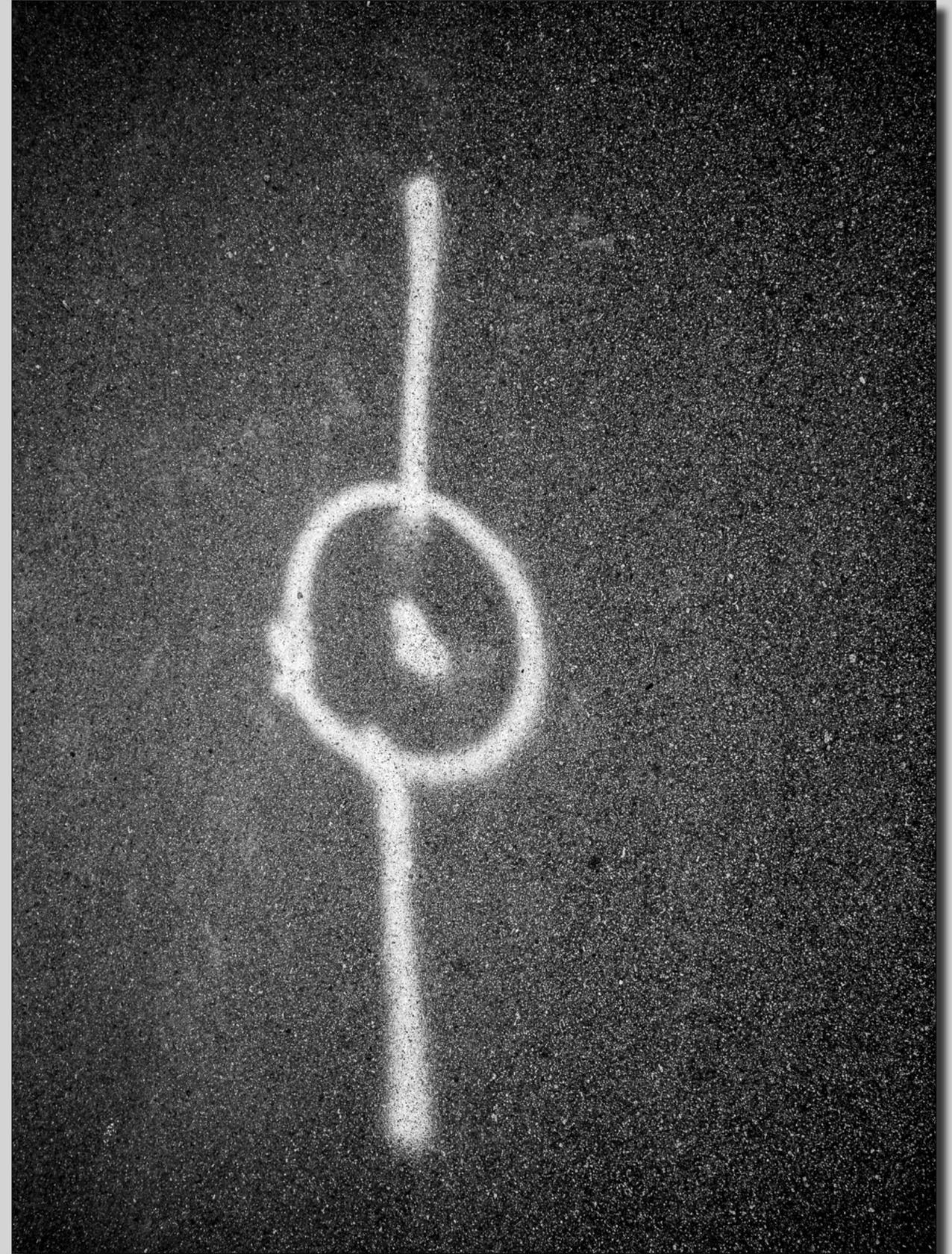
While we were passing the time with Mrs. V., little
Dennis ran off for a bit to do some exploring.
Little ones never do well on a walk.

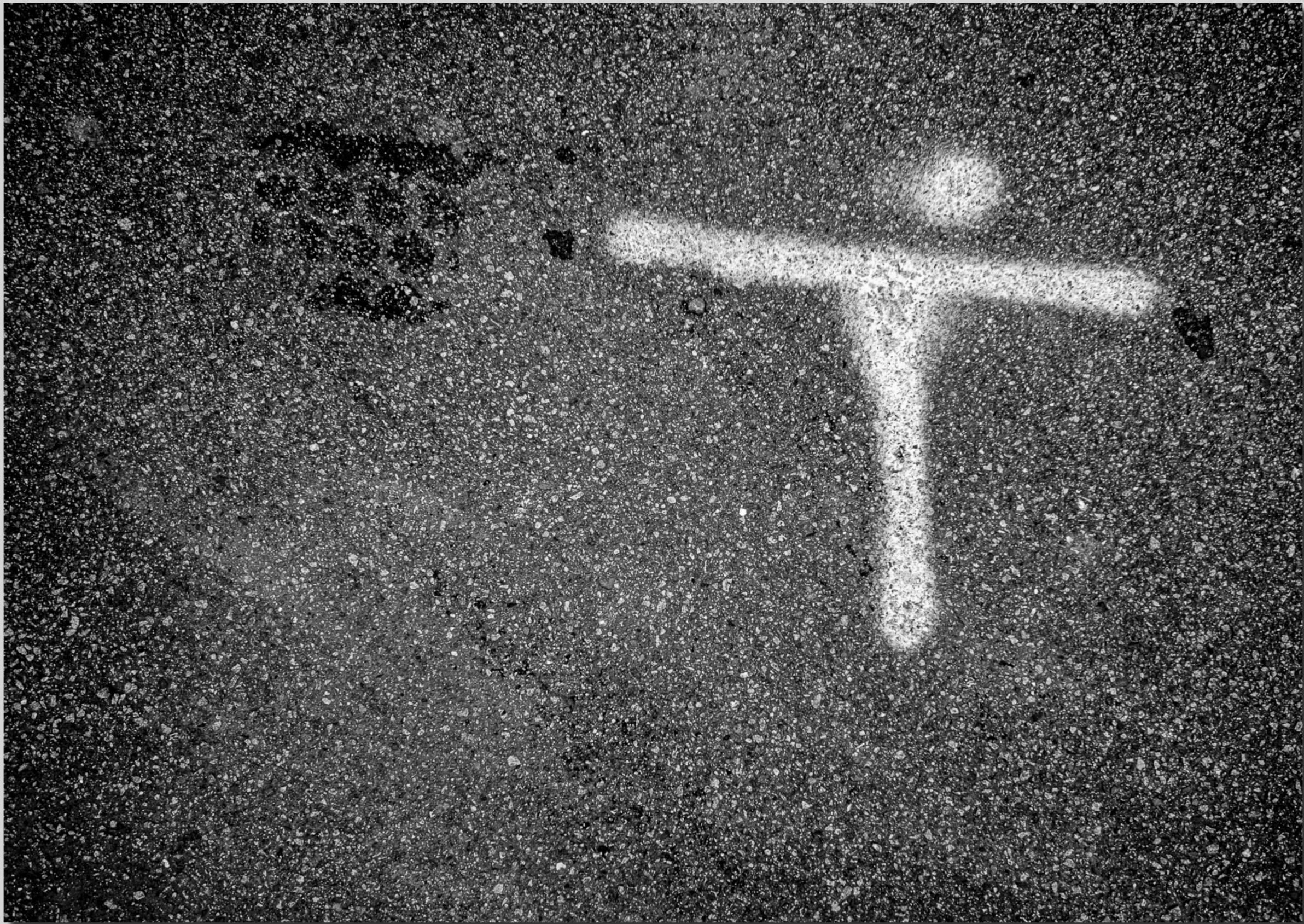




Mr. Floyd, do you still think that a divining rod will help you find that sewer line?

You say the baby is due in November? We're so happy
for you. Keep on exercising then.
Congratulations.

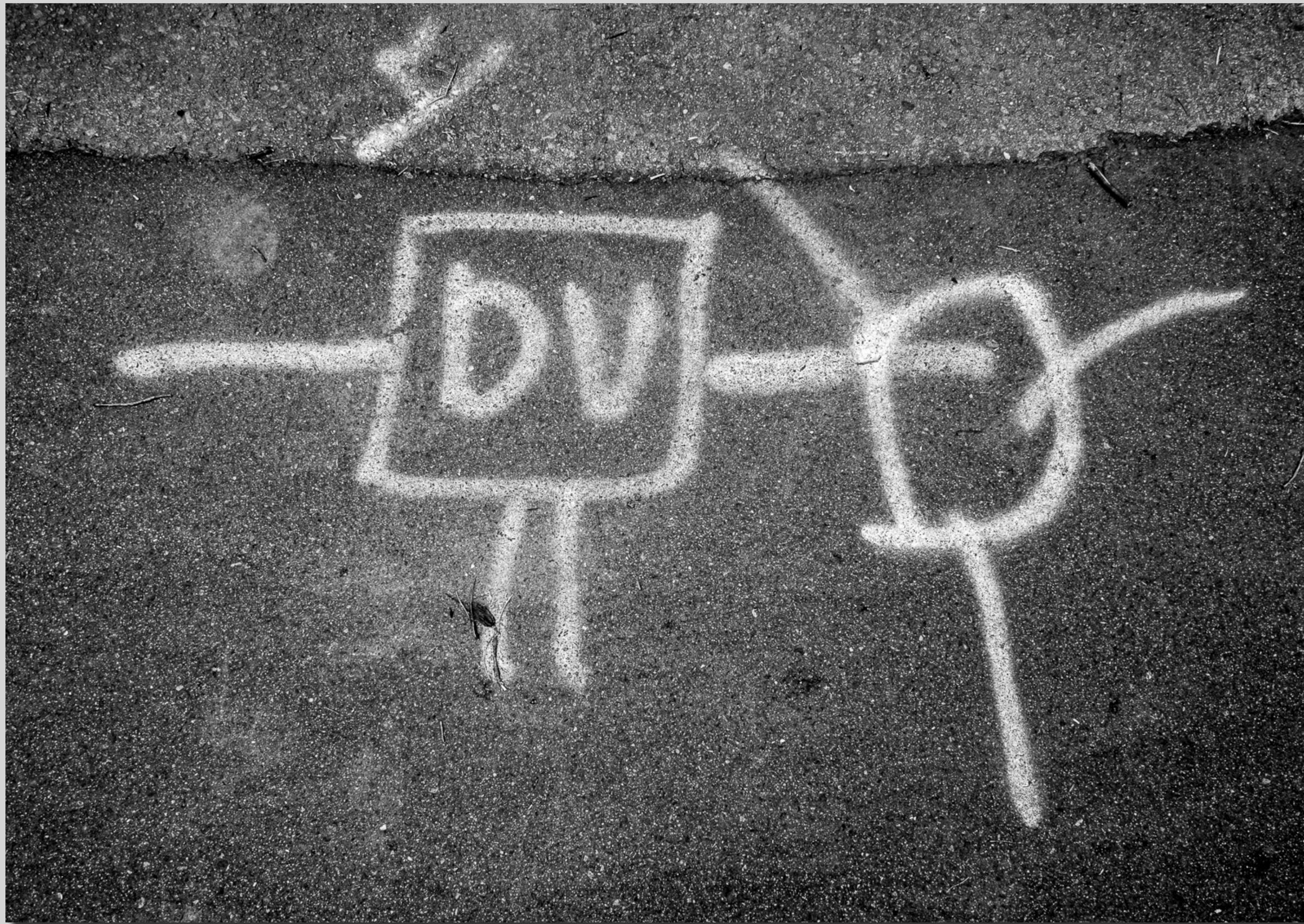




You're still going fishing? That's great.
And you say the fish was how big?

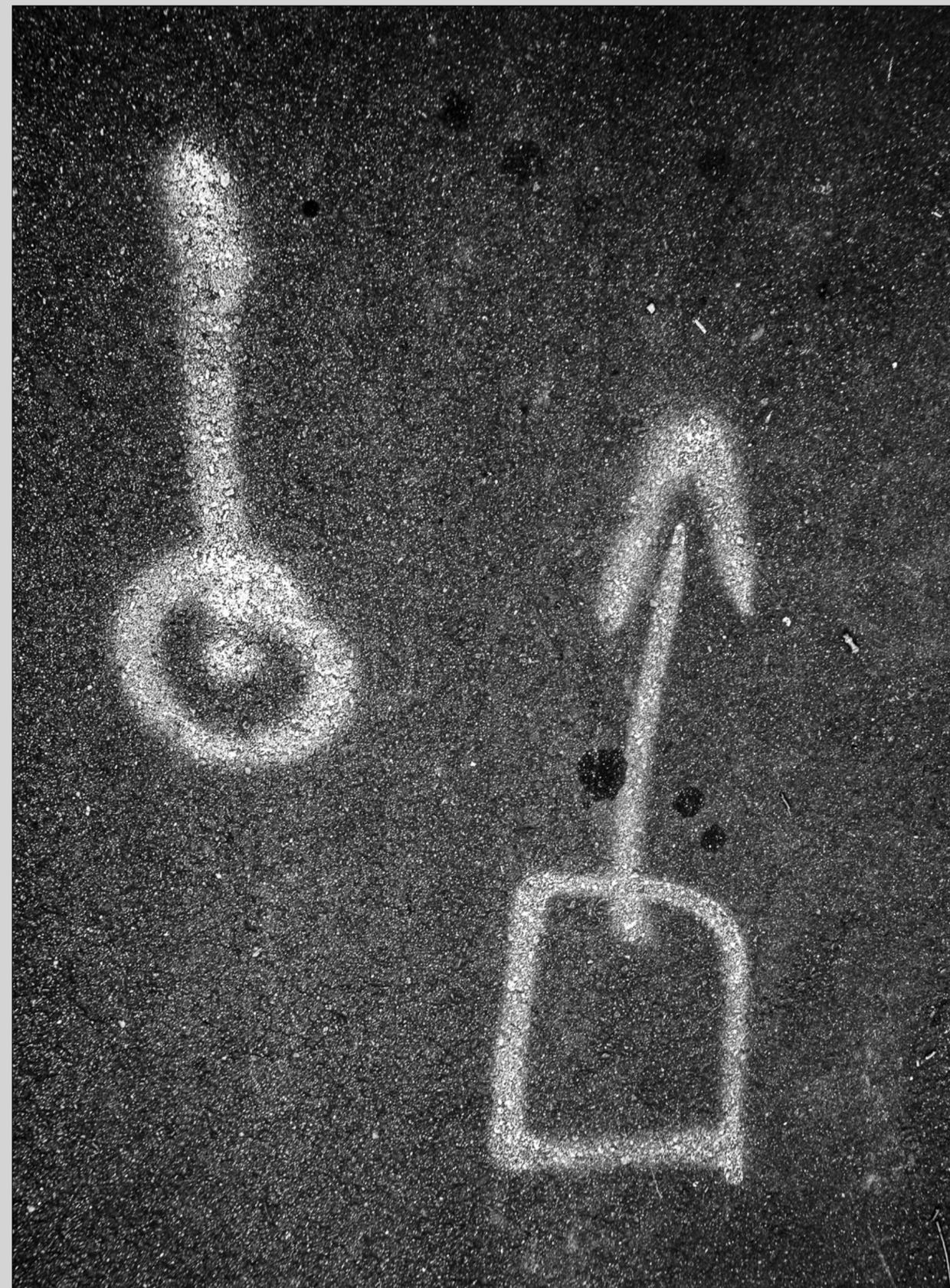
Buenos Dias, Don Diego de la Vega.
I hope you're doing well today.



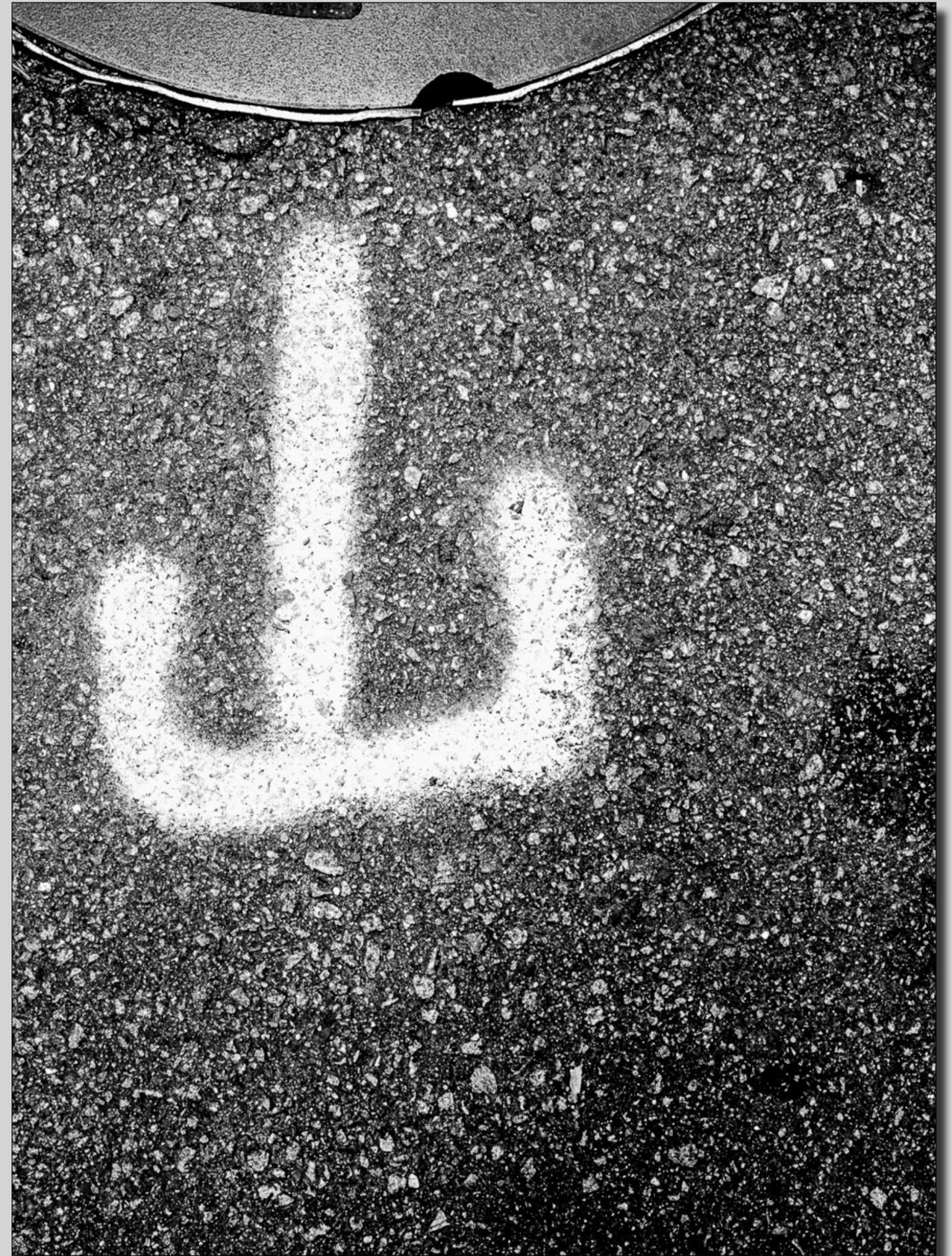


Yes, baby, it is a bird and even if you could catch it we
couldn't take it home.

It's that young couple from down the street.
I can never remember their name.



We still don't know that young divorcee that does yoga in the front yard, but eventually we will meet her and make another new friend.



My Pirate Adventure

There was light coming through the patched roof and every place else was really dark and scary. Jimmy snuck us into the old building through a broken window in the basement and then we went exploring looking for hidden pirate treasures.

We were really scared because we knew there were ghosts of dead pirates in that old building and they cooked and ate little boys. That's what Jimmy's older brother told us. Jimmy's brother is twelve so it has to be true.

We managed to get out of the building alive, but we didn't find any pirate treasure – this time.

Jimmy was really brave. He once touched a dead bird on a dare and he didn't die or anything.



A Few Closing Thoughts

The Chicken Shack made it into the Journal because there weren't enough images for its own project and these images never fit in with the other six Academy Street Projects. These images came home to roost (sorry about that) in the Journal and that's a good thing.

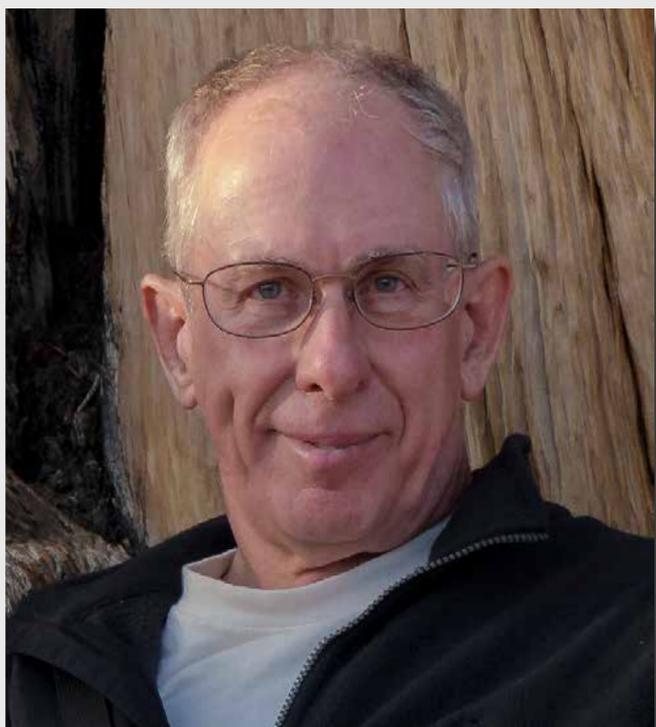
Free Your Mind came from the subject rich environment of Fort Worden, a place I have photographed many times. In a single location, one can photograph huge complex concrete structures and landscapes. In addition to these timeless subjects, the walls of the structures are covered with graffiti. The park service has overpainted the graffiti with whatever paint happens to be in the maintenance shop. It is an abstractionist's heaven. Here's my effort (in color, no less) to record the collaboration between graffiti artists and the park staff.

A Neighborhood Walk is part of our life and we walk around our neighborhood almost daily. Our town is a hotbed of high tech. Fiber Optic installers spent over a month in our neighborhood installing competing networks.

I originally saw their markings as hieroglyphics of the information age. But as my wife and I continued our walks through the neighborhood, their hieroglyphics became anthropomorphic and we made some new friends. Photography can be fun.



Photo Credit: Brooks Jensen



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* and *Black & White Photography* (UK) 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, June 2020

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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