

WELCOME TO THE JOURNAL JULY 2022

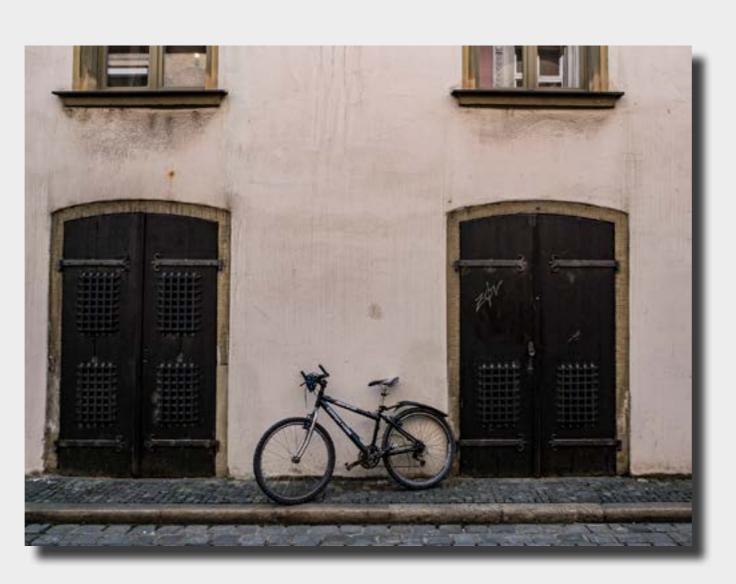
We continue to journey this month. We take a trip to visit the rocks and shores of The Pacific Northwest where we learn that a detour from a planned trip can be a good thing. While some detours involve changing a route, visual detours can be just as rewarding. After all these detours, we get up early to go fishing in and the mountains of Western North Carolina. After an early morning sojourn to the Smokey Mountains I came home with a few images and no fish.

It's always nice to come home.

If you've made it this far, please download this issue of the Journal and view it in Adobe Acrobat Reader. The interactive features of the Journal will be available for your enjoyment when you use Adobe Acrobat Reader.



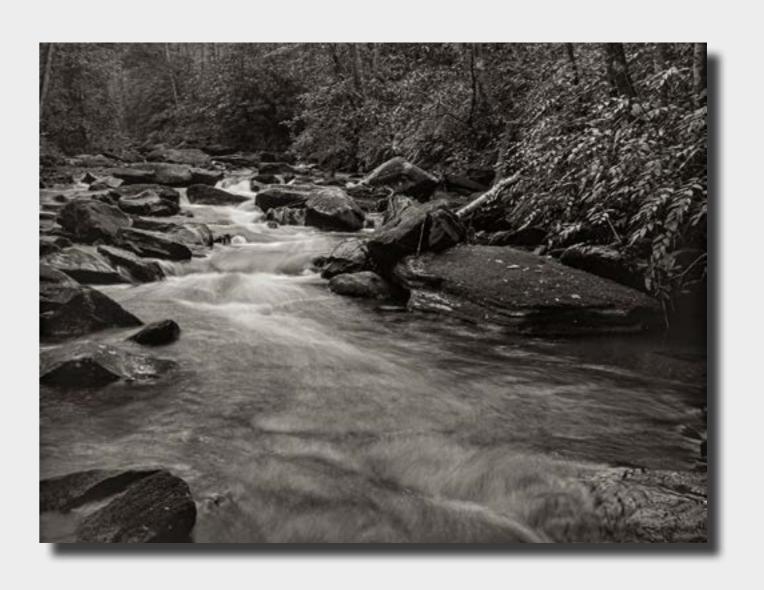
From Smith to Paulina



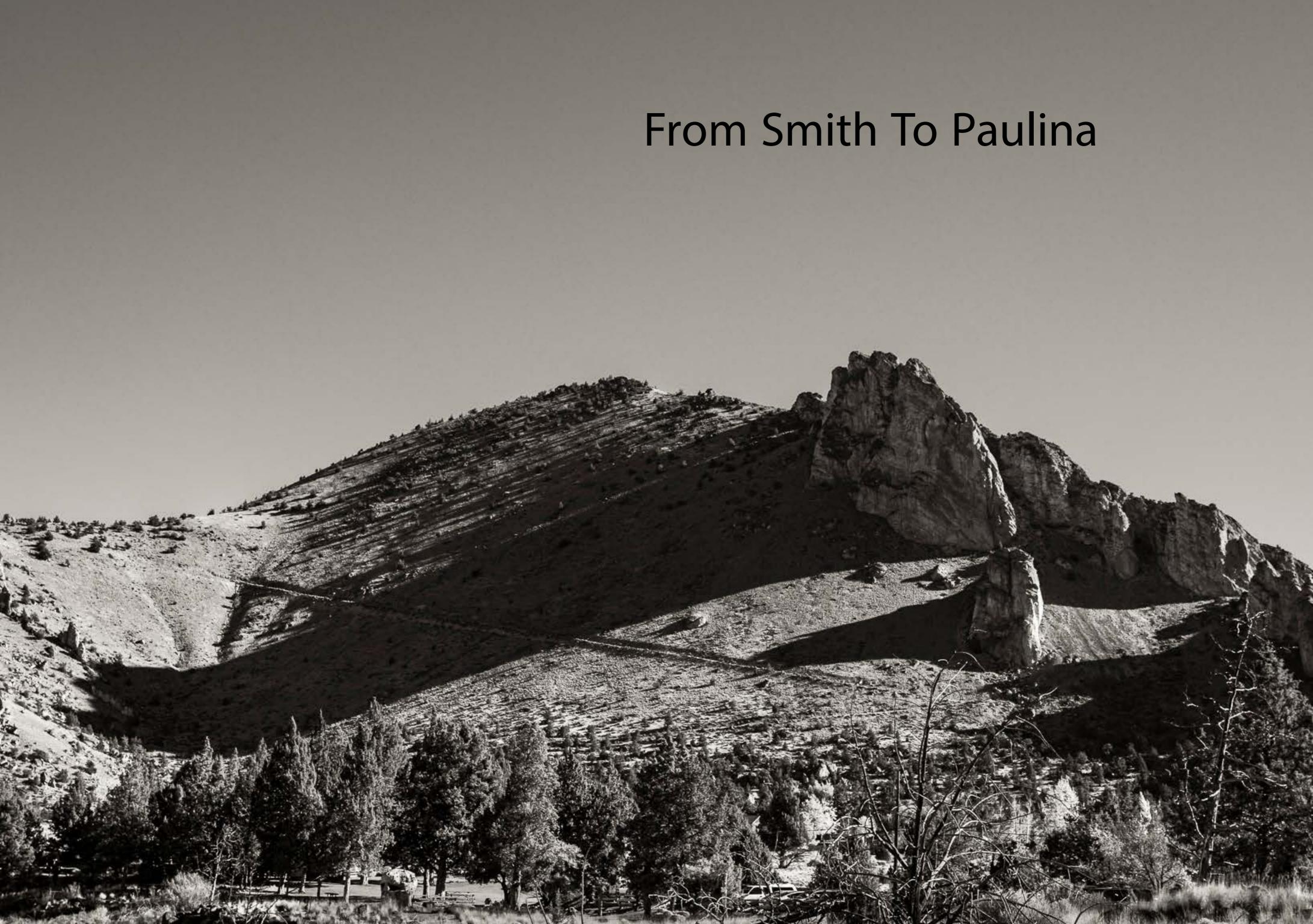
A Stop Along the Way



A Chance Meeting



A Place to Fish



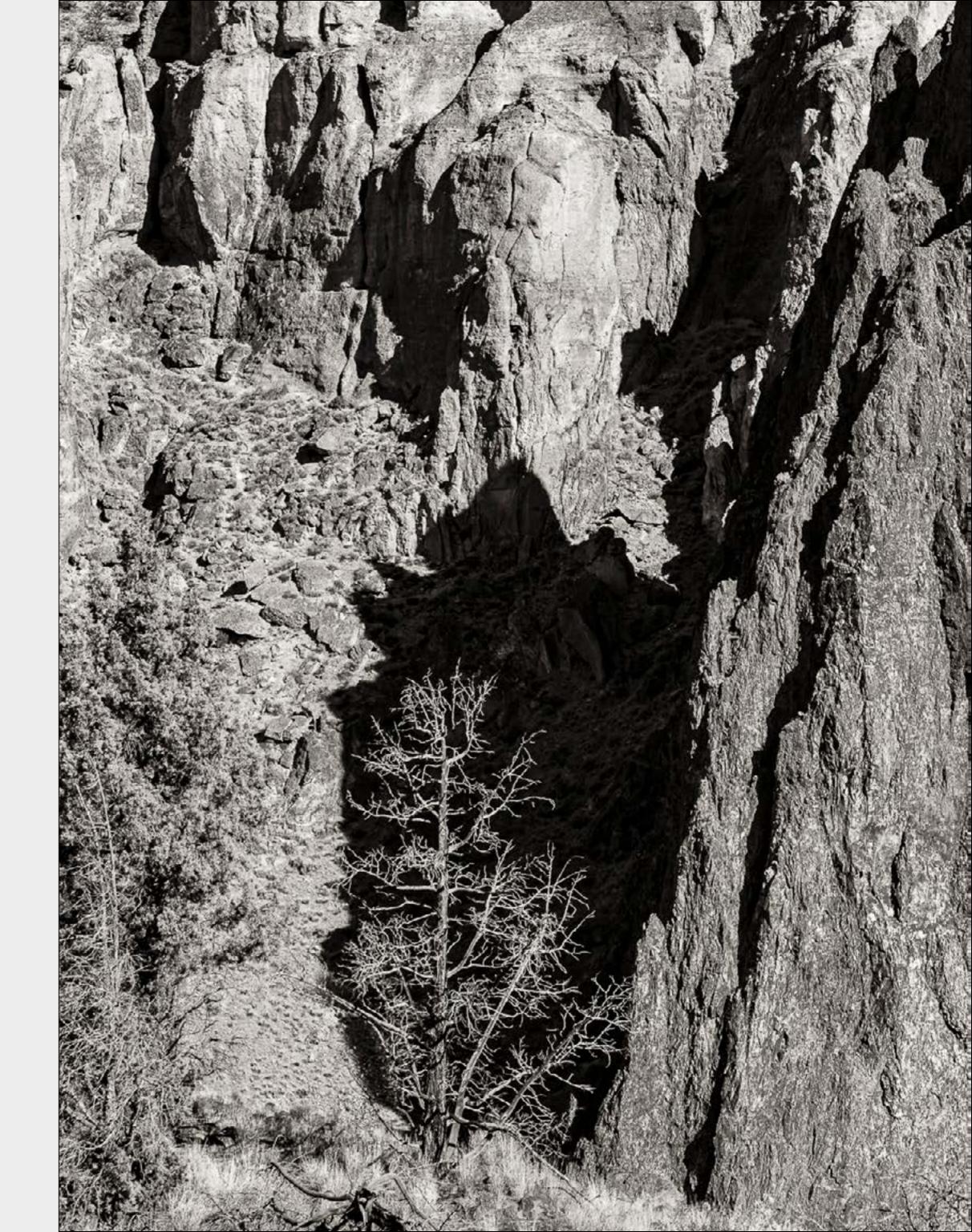
From Smith To Paulina

We were excited and enthusiastic to begin our journey to photograph Smith Rocks in the morning light. The goal was set, the path was clear, we were set to make the world do our bidding.

We thought we were early, but by the time we arrived the Parking Lot was almost full. Groups of photographers, hikers, and families were gearing up for their activities around, over, and atop the Rocks. Our plans for images of the pristine landscape were dashed. We think that paths and goals are unbreakable, but the world knows plans are made to be changed, modified, broken, and re-thought.

We regrouped and changed plans. We went to from Smith to Paulina and photographed the Lava Fields.

The photographs from The Big Obsidian Flow at Paulina were published in "Adaptations" on my website.















Single Image Story

I was by far the youngest guy at the company cafeteria lunch table. Al said when he retired in a couple of years he was going to buy a house down south with a couple of rocking chairs on the porch. On the first day of retirement he said he was going to go outside and sit in his rocking chair for six months. I foolishly took the bait and then asked him, "Then what?"

He waited a beat and then said with a sly smile, "Then, I'm gonna start rocking...real slow."

Everyone looked over at our table because of the uproarious laughter and my red face.

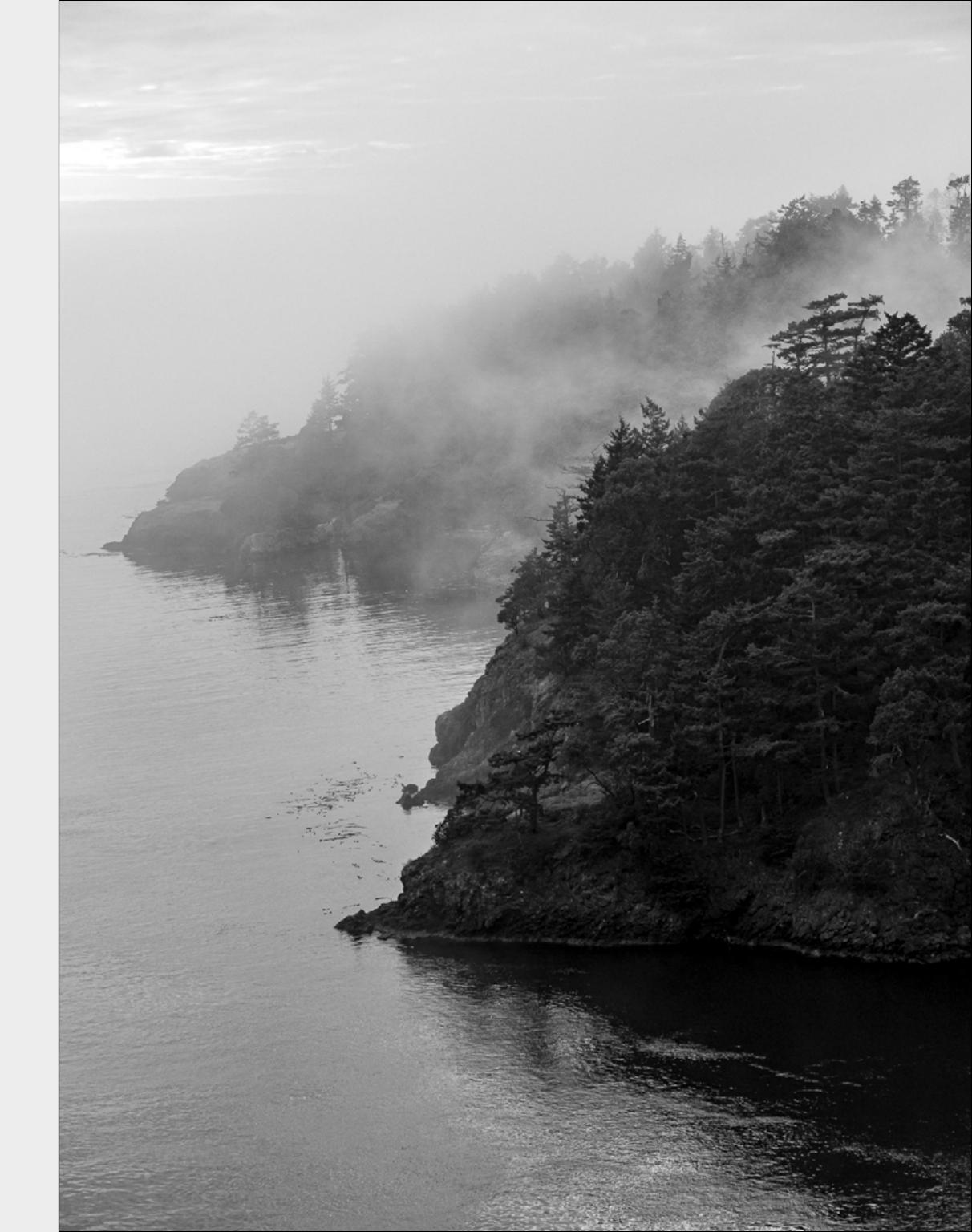


A Chance Meeting

We had to cross Deception Pass to reach the Ferry to Port Townsend.

By chance, we arrived at Deception Pass and met a fog bank just before it arrived. We stopped and photographed while the fog passed through.

We let go of the plans and goals for a few moments to take advantage of an experience that is unique.











Postcards from the Creative Journey April 15, 2018

More on Lightning Bugs

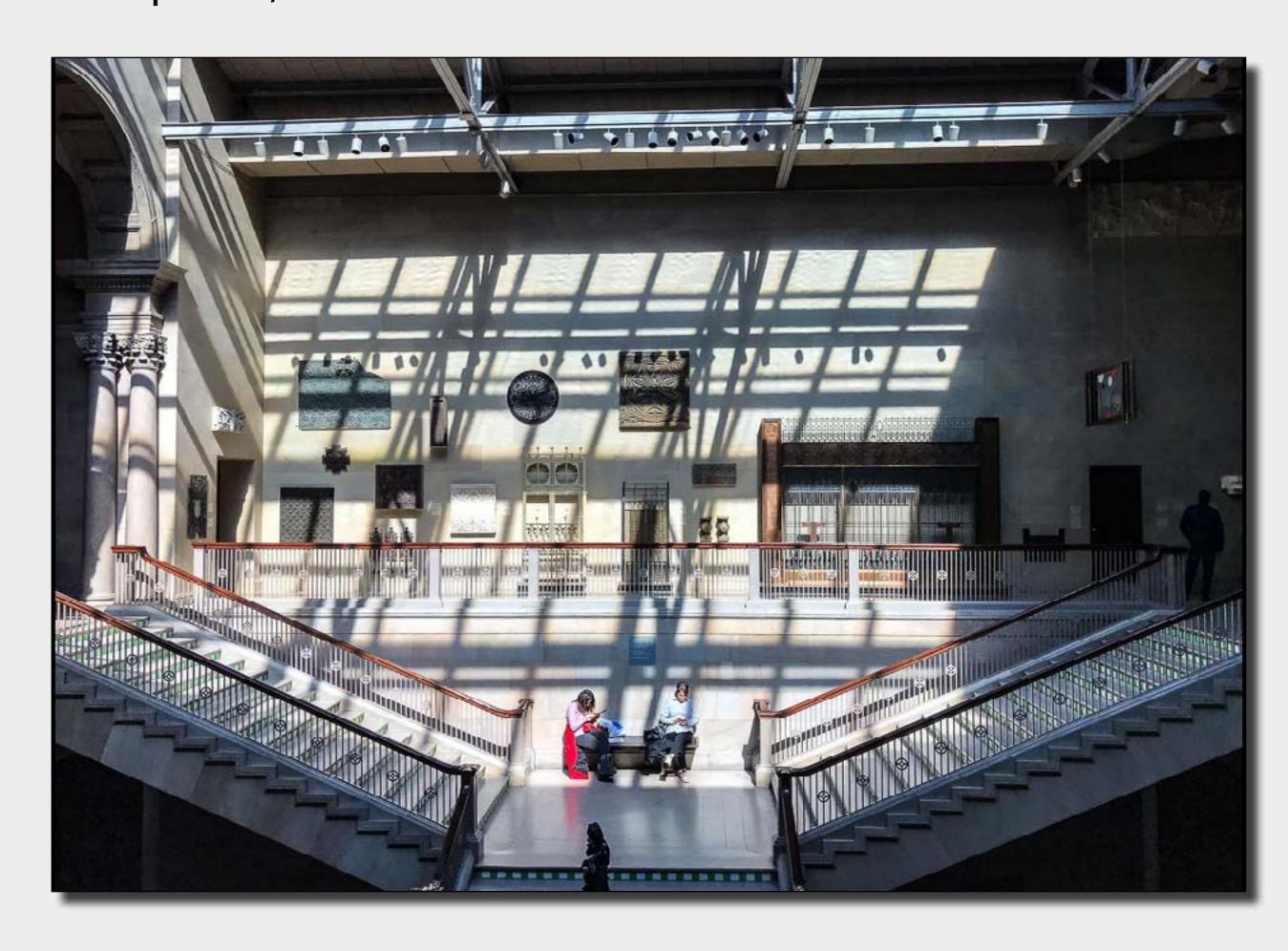
The May 2022 Lipka Journal introduced the topic of Lightning Bugs. (You can find the topic on page 33 of the May Journal.)

If you exercise your photographic muscles every day one of two things will happen. You may get better at making photographs. This is what you want to happen. But, there is no guarantee you will get better. Because the other thing no one wants to hear about is that after a lot of work, people don't progress and then they quit in frustration.

It took a great deal of work and commitment to learn darkroom processing. It took a larger commitment and practice to gain (and maintain) a level of competency in developing and printing film and prints. Many people gave up photography because of the difficulty of doing this.

With "auto everything" cameras we can create digital photographs that are technically acceptable almost without fail. It's tough to have a technical failure with a digital camera.

The big difference between quitting analog and digital photography lies in how soon the practitioner realizes what the photographs are about is important. Because the analog photographer had huge technical and handicraft issues to surmount to create viable artwork, they could spend years attempting to perfect their skills without worrying about what their photographs were communicating. With digital photography the technical issues are very quickly dealt with and the realization that communication is paramount comes much quicker. It is the point where the photographer realizes that the art is more important than the artifact is where the decision to continue or not happens.

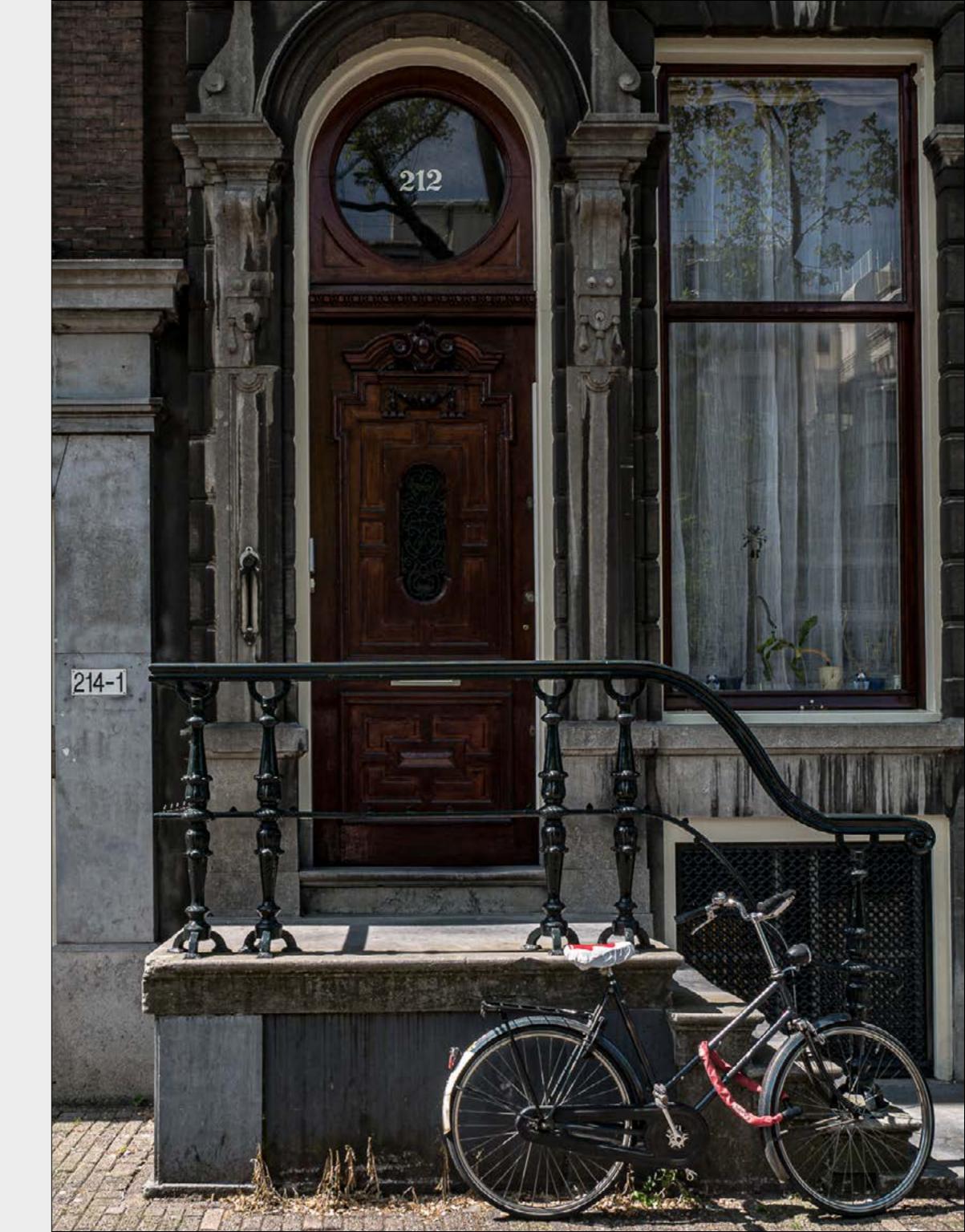




A Stop Along the Way

My wife and I were on a guided tour of Europe. Definitely a "Point A to Point B on a timetable" journey with beginnings and destinations with obvious photogenic stops along the way. As we were shepherded along our route, I wanted some time to pursue something more (photographically) interesting than the tour. When we were at Smith Rocks or Crossing Deception Pass, I had the time to deviate from our (apparent) itinerary to pursue a more personal vision. While I was not free to roam, I saw bicycles parked everywhere along our route.

Parked bicycles were symbolic of an interrupted journey. My journey was interrupted when I made images of the parked bicycles and the owners of the bicycles were at a stopping point in their daily journey through the city.





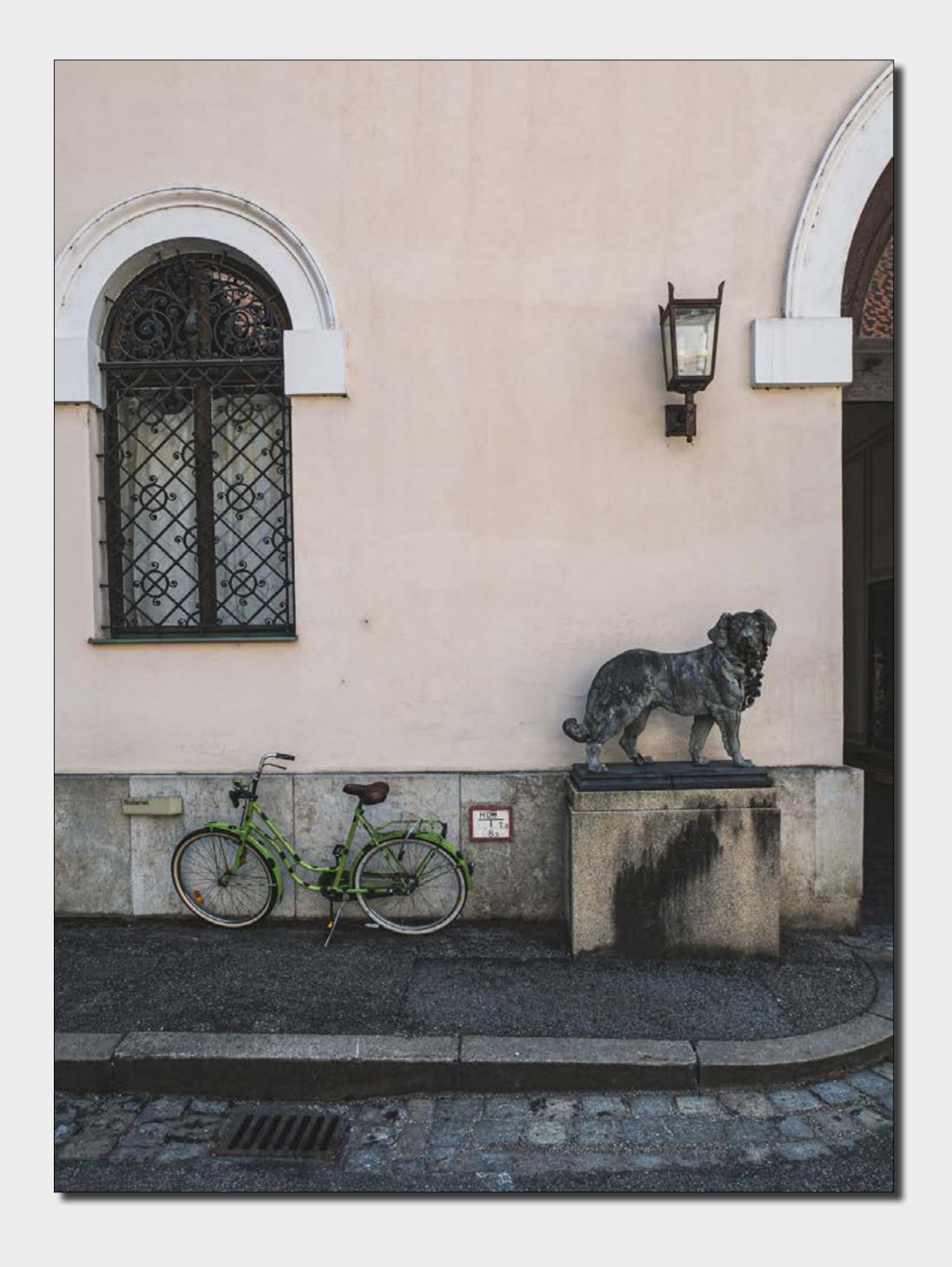










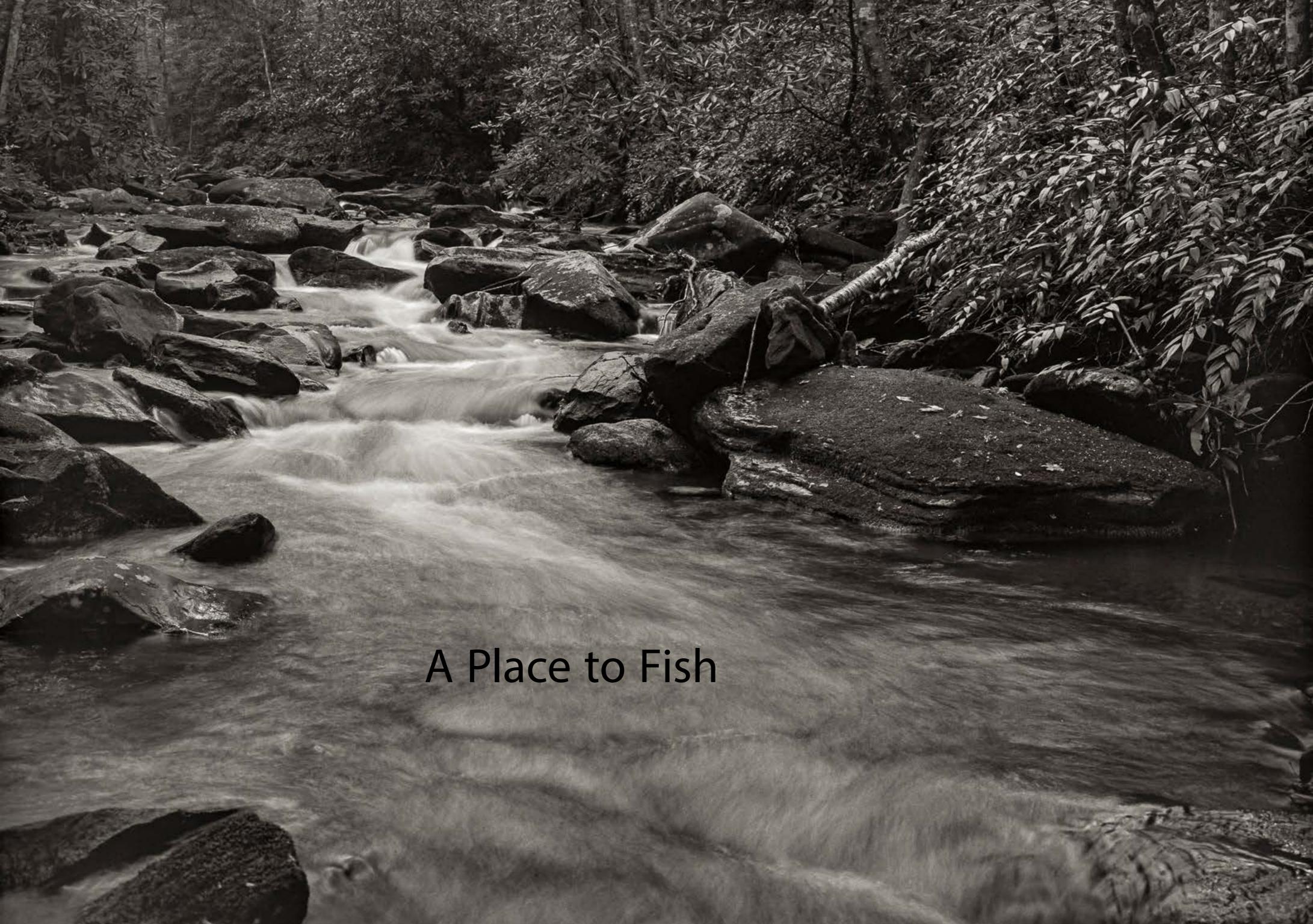






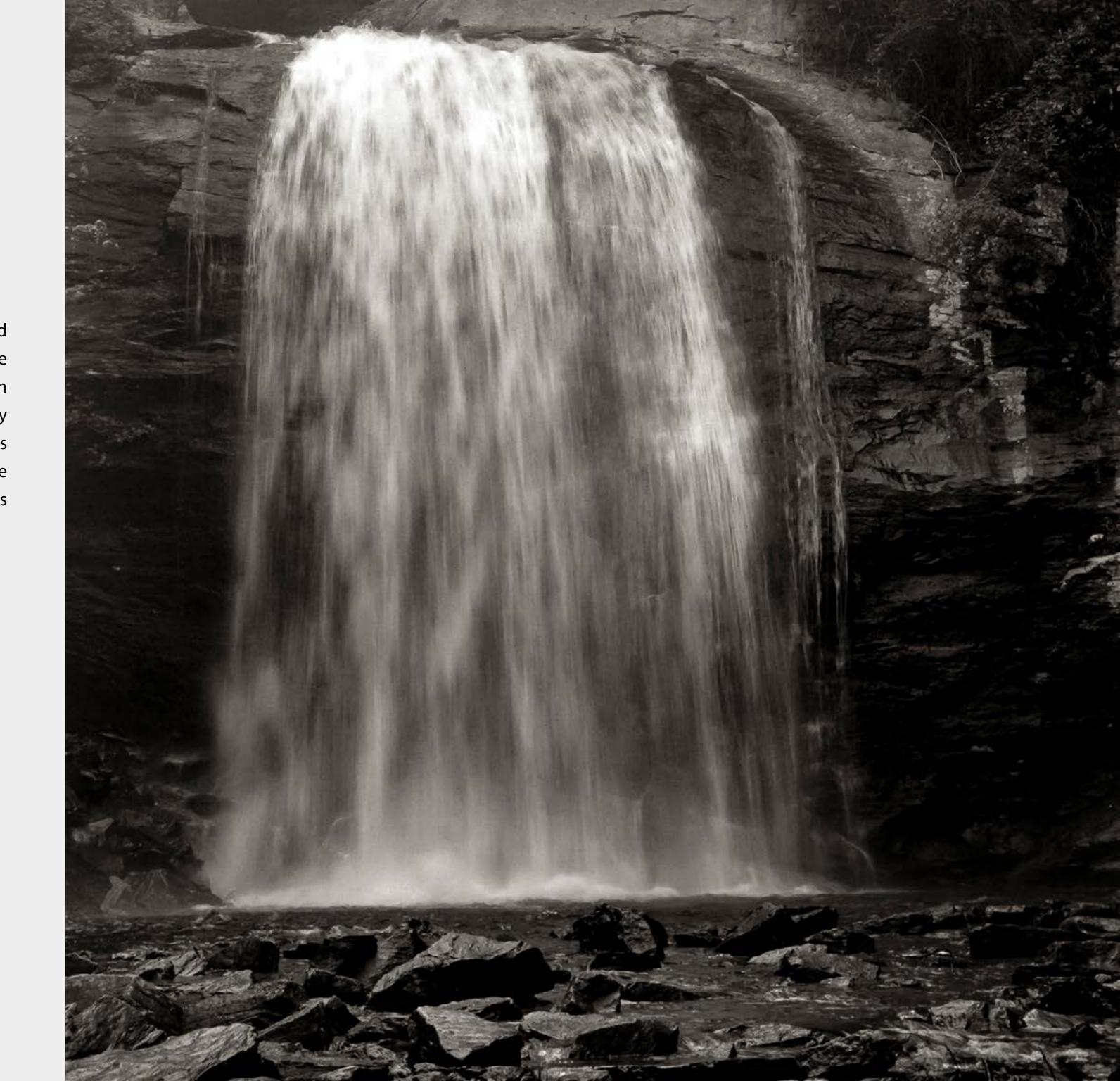
Single Image Story

A hillside town, nothing is level.



A Place to Fish

Bob loved to fly fish in the mountains. He asked me if I wanted to come along with him one Saturday morning. We left at 4 AM. Fishermen like those early morning hours. We didn't stay too long in any one place because the goal was catching fish not making photographs. I made more photographs than Bob caught fish. I was happy. Bob was not.









More Memories Than Dreams

More Memories Than Dreams

It started as a brain storming session on how to describe the "mature volunteers" at a local museum. One of my (rejected) suggestions was "People with More Memories than Dreams." When you are young you have a lot of dreams and few memories. When you reach a certain age, the balance changes and you have more memories than dreams. I'm beyond that point right now. It's time to look back and take joy in the memories of a photographic life.

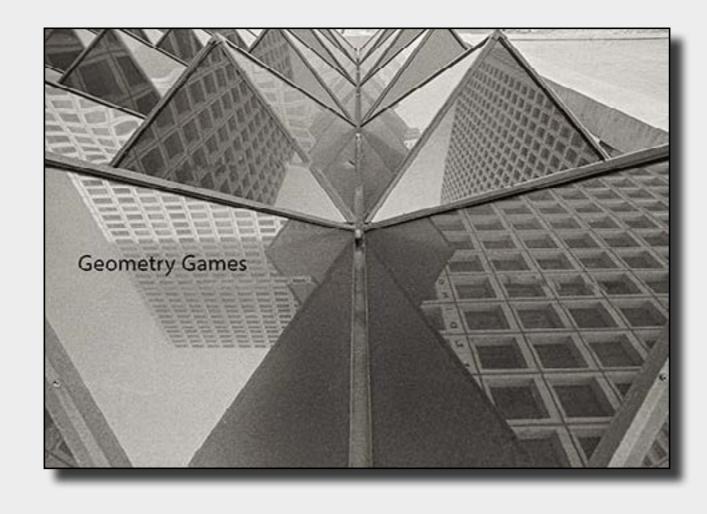
A few years back I created the "Fifty Project," fifty photographs te celebrate my Fiftieth birthday (Link above). As I continued to age, I considered adding my contribution to the "Fifty Years of Photography" shelf of books. (Go ahead and google that title and see how many of these books there are.) After due consideration and reflection, I decided against creating yet another photography book. But, the siren song of the "Magnum Opus" eventually won and I dove into the Lipka Photographic Archives in search of images. I found a lot of memories and a surprising number of passable images. Rather than publishing a book, these early images began to appear in The Lipka Journal.

My failure was in not preparing you, gentle reader, for these vintage images to let you know where to find them. Clicking on the images to the right will open the Journal that contains the projects. As usual, the best way to view my interactive PDF documents is to download the Journal and view them in Adobe Acrobat Reader.

In this issue, "A Place to Fish" is the latest addition to the More Memories than Dreams Project.

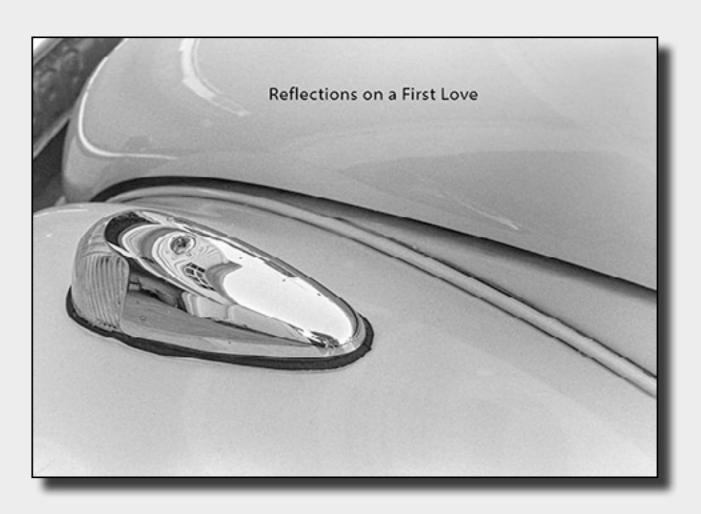


The Fieldhouse Project April 2021, Page 13



Geometry Games

May 2022, Page 14



Reflections on a First Love October 2021, Page 12



Melvin's Shop June 2022, Page 26

A FEW CLOSING WORDS

From Smith To Paulina



Smith Rocks in central Oregon is an convenient wilderness. Campers and rock climbers swarm the rocks on weekends. That morning the parking lot was full of weekend hikers and climbers. Life changes, we change and move on.

A Stop Along the Way



The more people you are with, the tougher it is to do photography. This is true for groups of photographers and even more true when there is a group of tourists and a tour guide. Quickness and facility with the camera are necessary. That, and ruthless editing when you get home.

A Chance Meeting

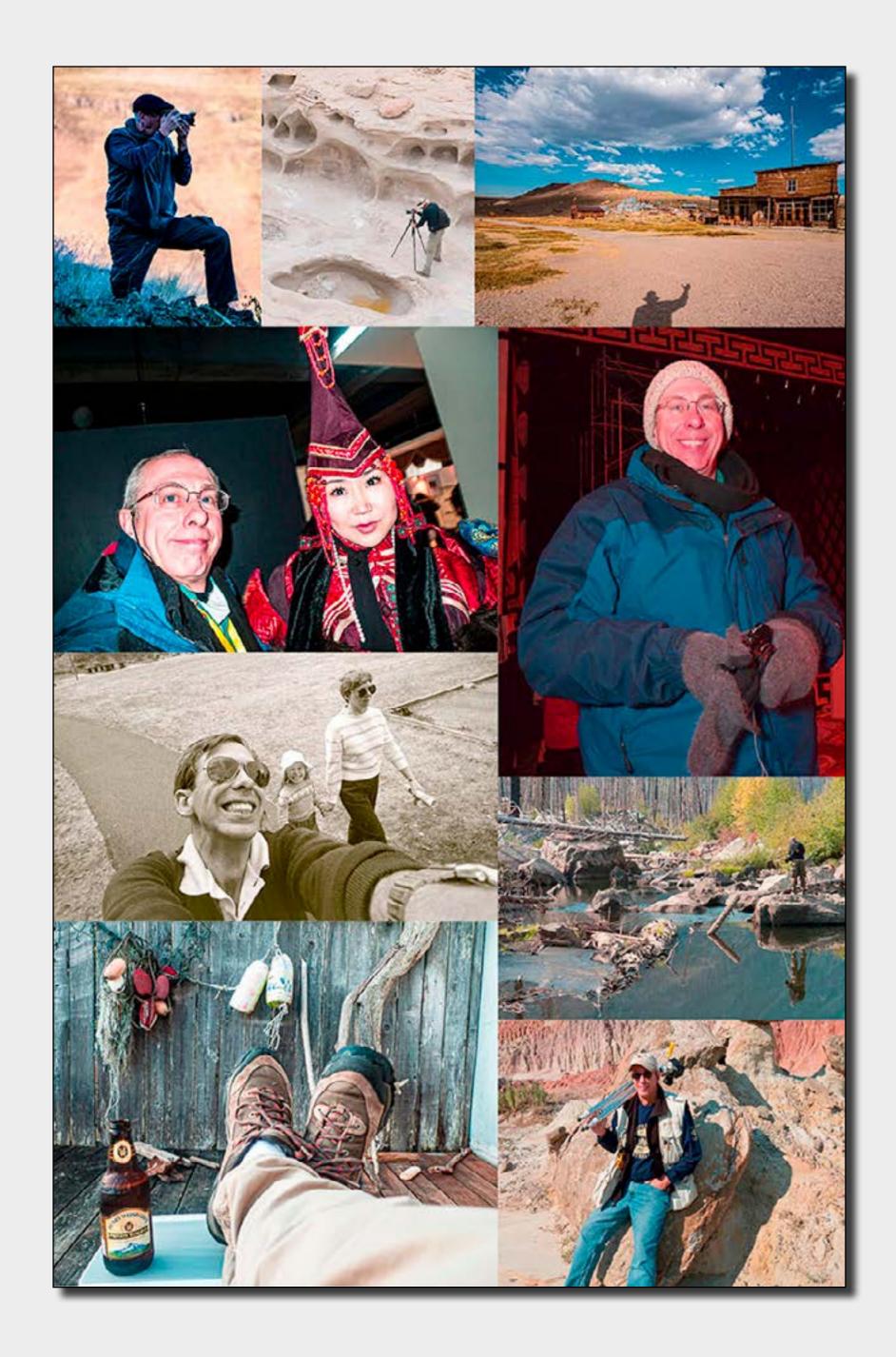


Deception Pass could have been the "Northwest Passage," but it wasn't. But it is a great place to make photographs when the fog is coming through. As the fog was coming in, we pulled off into the parking lot and joined the tourists to make what we hoped were better than tourist photographs.

A Place to Fish



Mixing hobbies is not quite as bad as mixing metaphors, and there is the opportunity to learn from others. Bob didn't know who Ansel Adams was and I had to learn about Izaak Walton and angling. We moved too quickly for leisurely photography because fish have a limited attention span. There was time only for a few compositions.



Joe Lipka has shared his vision since he began photographing.

In the last thirty 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.

COLOPHON The Lipka Journal, July, 2022

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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