



THE LIPKA JOURNAL

PHOTOGRAPHS / STORIES / OBSERVATIONS

JOE LIPKA

AUGUST 2024



# WELCOME TO THE JOURNAL AUGUST 2024



A Convenient Wilderness



Fracture



The Workshop

It's August, the month of vacations and traveling. That's exactly what's happening with this month's issue. We're not leaving the city to see the desert and going to the edge of the ocean to not see any water. Then we're heading into the past to see what it was like to be a photographer in the eighties. (That would be the nineteen eighties.) Plus, a fun story from a hundred years ago that is mostly true, until we find the rest of the story is actually true.



# A Convenient Wilderness





## A Convenient Wilderness

We used to be way out in the country, but the city just kept growing. In all directions, well, all directions except up. Eventually, civilization reached us. Now you don't have to drive out of the city to see the desert the way it used to be. If you stand in the right spot, and squint a little bit, you can imagine what it was like before civilization arrived.































## A Mostly True Story

Great great great Grandma Emily loved telling the story about how she fell in love with Chester. Seems in grade school Chester started playing with her pigtails and was banished to the dunce stool by Miss Crabtree. Emily was smitten with Chester's way of paying attention to her even getting himself in trouble to do so. Olga Hendrickson told her that if a boy would get put on the dunce seat for her, "he was a keeper."

From that day forward, Chester was Emily's "keeper." This is the photo that Mr. Scarborough made of them right after their betrothal.



Fracture





## Fracture

Rocks are solid, heavy, immovable and unchanging. Until they fracture. Huge forces come into play and separate what was once stable and solid. Great forces work unseen, deep inside the rocks for a very long time. The rocks are solid, heavy and immovable until they aren't. The fracture is quick, massive and devastating.

People are like that, too. Our families, friendships and relations are solid until they aren't. We sometimes don't see the forces at work, or don't wish to acknowledge them until the fracture happens right in front of us. Then, is too late to repair the fracture.















































### Emily and Chester — The Rest of the Story.

I don't know if that is their names, because, you know, it's a Mostly True Story. I purchased this photo from a bin of old photos at the Presby Museum in Goldendale Washington. In the lower right corner of the mat there is the embossed signature of C. W. Scarborough, Goldendale, Washington. This being the internet age, I googled, C. W. Scarborough, photographer and hoped for the best.

Here's the best of what google found:

<https://anacortes.catalogaccess.com/people/12773>

The picture of Charles W. Scarborough (right) was made shortly before he disappeared after walking into a blizzard on Nov. 27, 1923, near Flaxman Island, Alaska. His body was never recovered.





# The Workshop







## The Workshop

Three things make a workshop work. Good People, a good location and good photography. Back in the ancient days of my photographic life the only place one could connect with other photographers was at a workshop. Workshops were either long weekends or the really good ones lasted about a week. There was a time to photograph, a time to learn technique, a time to receive constructive feedback on your photographs and time to just have a good time with other photographers.







NO  
TRESPASSING















BLACK

BARTS











Master



425











### Ain't Technology Wonderful?

The image on the left was typical of the heartbreaking failures when photographing with a view camera. I focused with the aperture wide open and the lack of depth of field failed to show the branches intruding into the left edge of the frame. When stopped down to the appropriate aperture, the branches came into focus, but the edges were too dark to see the intrusion. A failure. Until...

Adobe's regenerative function was invented. Then, it was select and generate. A failure becomes successful. Ain't technology wonderful?





## Another Mostly True Story

As part of the Idaho City Workshop, we were given the opportunity to photograph some of Idaho City's more colorful residents. In the parlor of one home I began to set up my wooden view camera on a wooden tripod. This lady looks at me and asks, "Did you bring your pony along?" I was taken aback by her comment and then she continued, "When I was six years old, I had my picture taken with a camera like that, and the photographer had me sit on a pony."



# Postcards from the Creative Journey

July 3, 2022

## Image Clusters

When reviewing my Lightroom Catalog in a quest to find images for The Lipka Journal or my Daily Photograph Blog I am fascinated by how often I find little groups of images that work well together. I might get into a single spot that over a relatively short period of time yields five or six photographs. I might be looking in another location at another time and find a dozen or so images that work well together. Surrounding these little islands of creativity are a mighty sea of images that don't seem to impress me at all because they have no immediate use.

The interesting thing about those images that don't impress me at all is the very important point that the images don't impress me at all at this particular time. They very well might impress me later, or they might compliment another group of images.

Maybe they are some of those little islands of creativity that haven't quite yet made it above sea level yet.





# A FEW CLOSING WORDS



## A Convenient Wilderness

In February 2023, my wife and I used some airline credits to fly to Phoenix. To our surprise, we chose the week of the Superbowl and the Waste Management Golf Tournament. These events did not deter our touristy activities. The Desert Botanical Garden shows how much we have progressed. We used to have outposts surrounded by the desert. Now, we have the opposite; the desert outpost surrounded by a city.



## Fracture

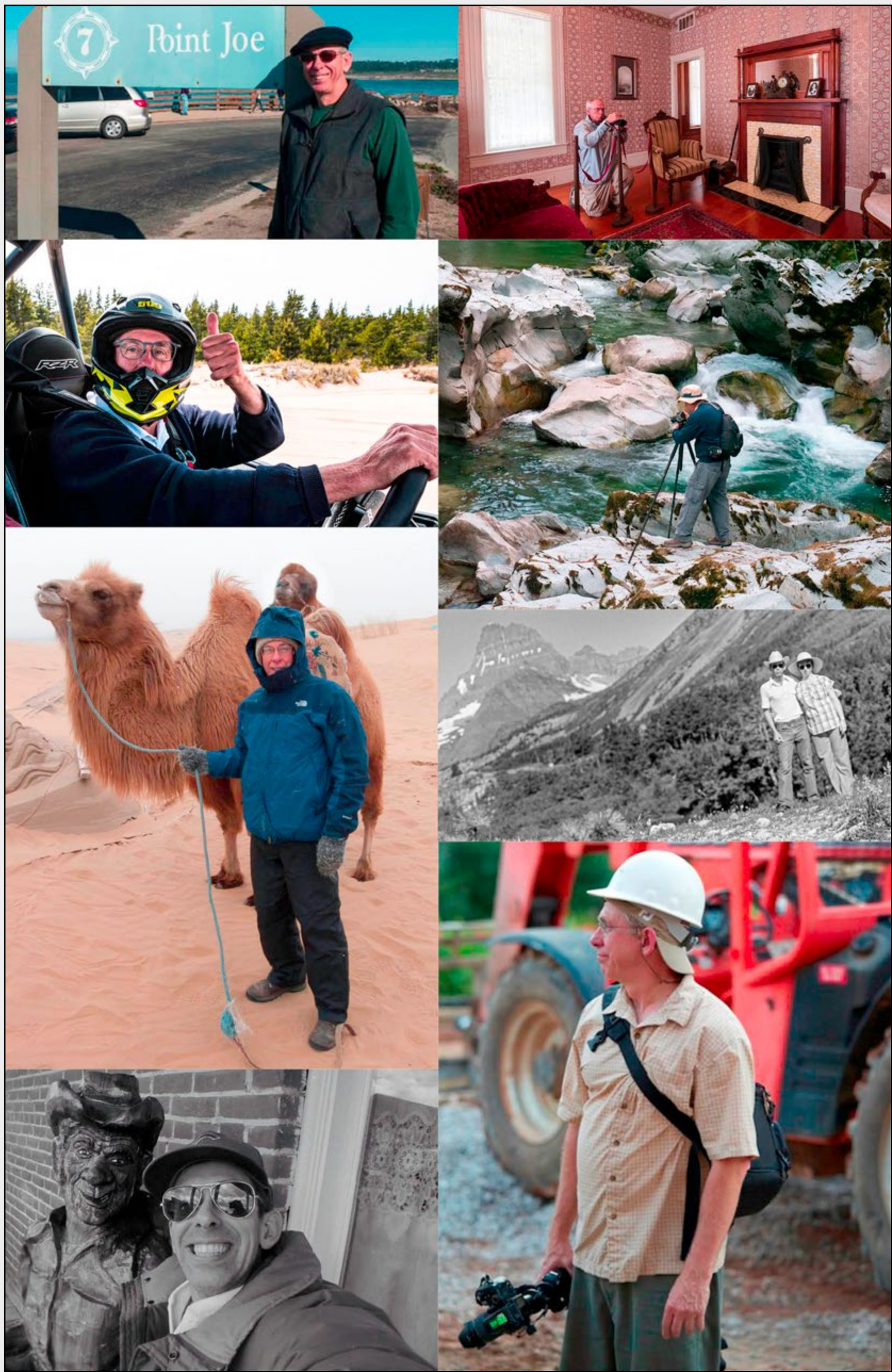
Acadia National Park is a jackpot for the landscape photographer. I was clambering over rocks to capture seascapes and then I looked down. The rock formations were wonderful. It was very easy to create the images. The tough part for this image suite was to imbue the images with significance and meaning far beyond the abstract rock patterns. In attempting to describe the images, I came upon the geologic definition of fracture. The definition also applied to life. That was the key to making the photographs of rocks not about rocks.



## The Workshop

Workshops were (for me at least) the highlight of a photographic year. Meeting with other photographers at a scenic location, sharing photographs, meals, conversation and camaraderie. This workshop was in Idaho City, Idaho in May 1986. Spartan accommodations were ignored because "we believed we were suffering for art." Today's workshops are held on Saturday mornings at the local Holiday Inn Ballroom where we sit elbow to elbow and watch a PowerPoint presentation on how the host's package of photoshop presets will unleash your creative potential for \$49.95.





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](http://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, August 2024

*Joe Lipka*

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Web site: [www.joelipkaphoto.com](http://www.joelipkaphoto.com)

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