



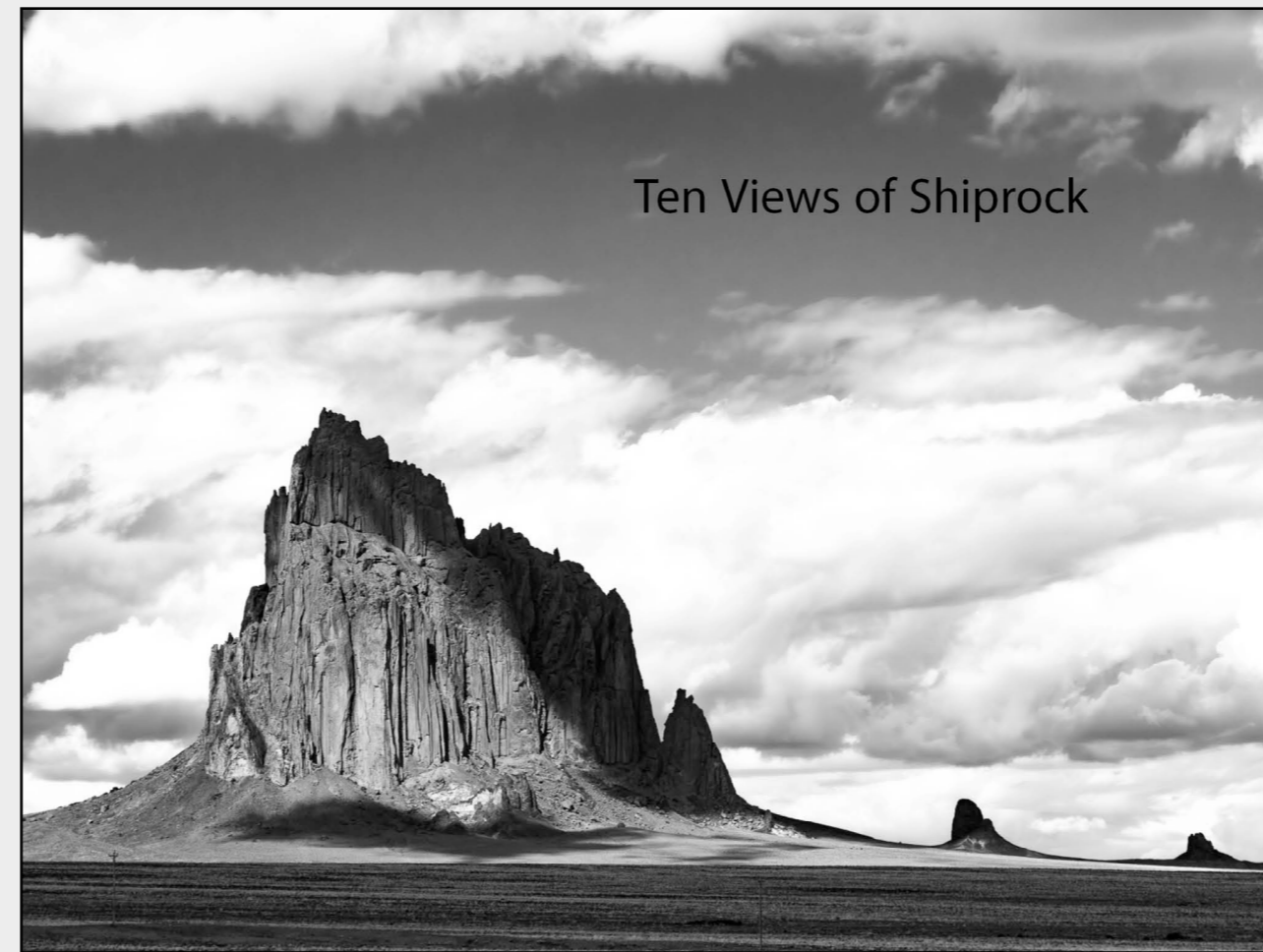
THE LIPKA JOURNAL

A PHOTO EZINE WITH

PHOTOGRAPHS / STORIES / OBSERVATIONS

NUMBER 076 JULY 2026


# WELCOME TO THE LIPKA JOURNAL JULY 2026



This month there are two projects from last autumn's trip to Colorado. First up are Green and Gold images of Autumn Aspens photographed among the clouds. These images are a contrast to the brightness of last month's Green and Gold Sunny Day photographs.

The second project is Ten Views of Shiprock, which is exactly that. I had two opportunities to photograph this landmark on that same trip, and each the opportunities were spectacularly different. I hope you enjoy them.

Finally, I pulled together a selection of signs which I found while researching my latest retrospective project. I thought it was a fun project.

A misty forest landscape with green pine trees and yellow deciduous trees. The scene is filled with tall, slender trees, some of which are vibrant yellow, contrasting with the deep green of the evergreens. The atmosphere is hazy and overcast, with a soft, diffused light. The text "Green and Gold: Cloudy Day" is overlaid in the upper right corner.

Green and Gold:  
Cloudy Day

## Green and Gold: Cloudy Day

We all know nothing stays the same. Weather turns rapidly when the seasons change. In the Rocky Mountains, native Coloradans will talk about experiencing all four seasons in a day.

The bright green and gold of autumn is spectacular with a clear blue sky. The next day, a front arrives with clouds, fog, rain, sleet and snow depending on time and location.

On cloudy days, the colors are richer, deeper and subtle than those of a sunny day. The clouds add a sense of mystery and soften the hard edges of the clear mountain air.













## A Mostly True Story

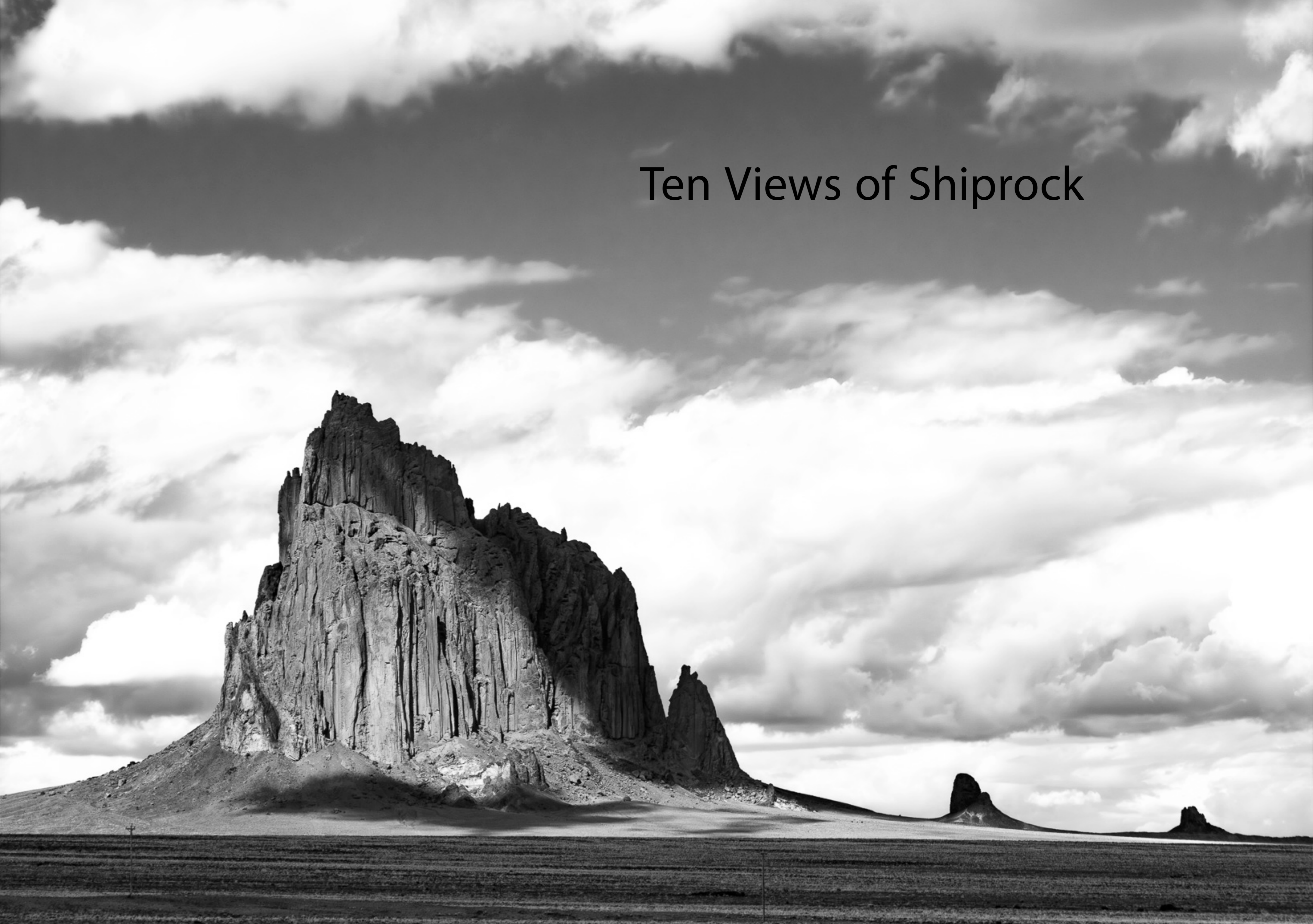
The sanctuary walls of Notre Dame de Grace are covered with plaques. Each of the plaques represents a story that we do not know. The history of plagues, diseases, pilgrimages, and wars are laid out before us, and the thanksgiving of the parishioners is there for all to see.

These two plaques are a public thanksgiving for the intercession of Notre Dame de Grace. We might surmise that V. G. and M. J. B. survived the Great War. Prayers made in mud filled trenches among exploding artillery shells were answered and these plaques are offered in thanksgiving.

Reconnaissance  
à N.D de Grâce  
1914 - 1919  
V.G.

Reconnaissance  
à N.D. de Grâce  
1914 - 1919  
M. J. B.

# Ten Views of Shiprock



## Ten Views of Shiprock

Revelation is a process. We like to think that revelation happens in an instant until we remember the patience and preparation that culminate in that instant of revelation. Nothing happens until it does and then we need to be ready for instant we have been patiently waiting and preparing ourselves for.

Photographers understand this and are willing to wait out in the rain and wind until the fog lifts, the clouds move and the sun shines. Sometimes it's low clouds and sometimes it's high clouds and we willingly participate in the wait for the moment of revelation.

















Why, yes, I am a gnome.

Prologue: A photo and six words.

Must Be a Sign

嚴禁烟火

連年才余喜發財

言和如意事事順





## Must Be a Sign

Always walking around, always looking around. There are a lot of times my curiosity is piqued by something that just doesn't seem right. A lot of times these are signs. I've photographed signs on airplanes, buildings and this time they are signs from all over the world. Signs are unreadable, untranslatable, pictures, advertising and sometimes they make sense. Not everything has to be serious. I like to have fun with my photographs, too.

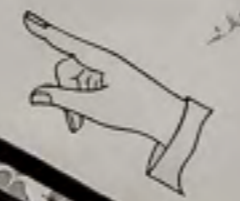




NOTICE

All Demonstrations by  
Strangers in the Gallery  
are out of order and must  
be treated accordingly.

Strangers Gallery



Earl Marshal

Women Peers



Yes—Granger... pipe cheer...  
my husband



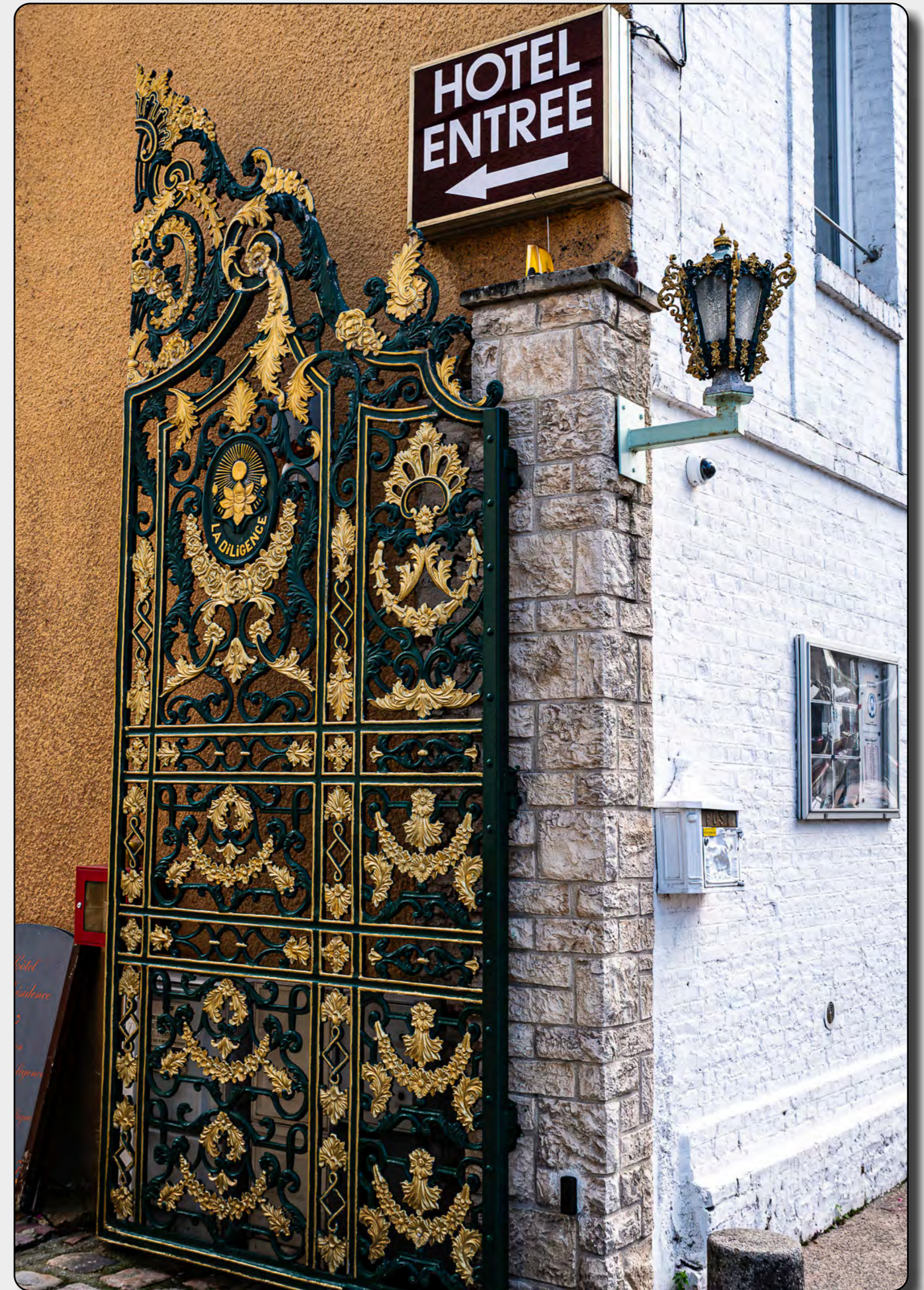
Over America  
men are saying...

Granger is Chockfull of  
pipe cheer...and it's MILD

APPROVED  
SERVICE



Asht



|| |  
GIRLS  
←  
THE BOLD LOOK  
OF KOHLER.

NO FIRE  
DANGER







PONY

BAR

Let's  
BUCK!

PONY Mt.





Feuerwehr-  
zufahrt

H100  
9 1 2  
20







**ROAD  
ENDS**

## Postcards from the Creative Journey



Dear Jessica,

You can go back, but sometimes you can't. A long time ago, it was easy to get into Hell's Half Acre. One could slide through the gate that didn't close and walk into an otherworldly landscape to photograph all day undisturbed by anyone.

Today, a chain link fence with a solidly locked gate is topped with triple strand barb wire to keep intrepid photographers (and anyone else) out. Viewing platforms are now the only way to overlook the three hundred acres. It's now restricted and safe. It became civilized, Disneyfied and refined.

I miss the old days.

JOE



Jessica Fletcher

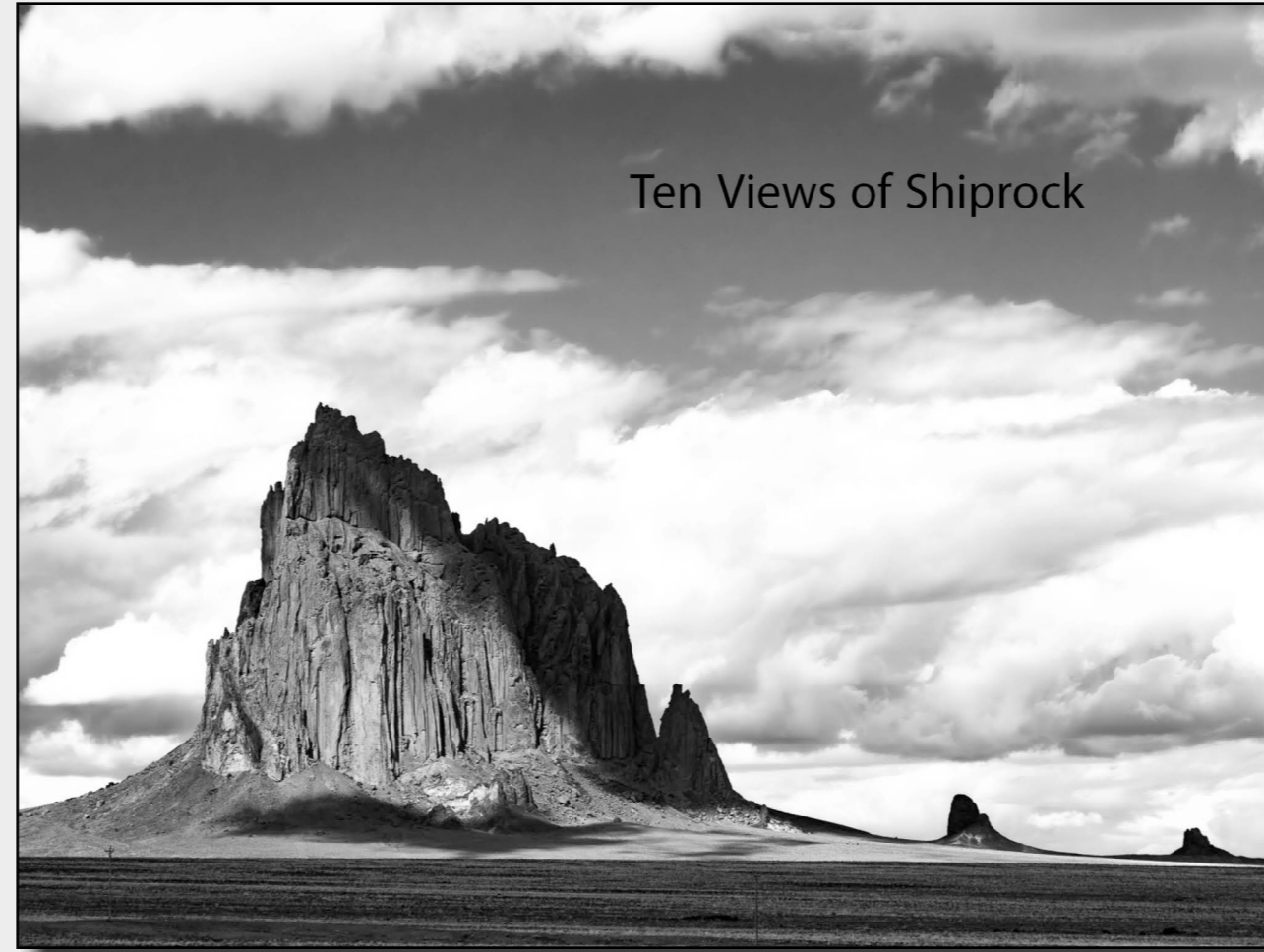
698 Candlewood Lane

Cabot Cove, Maine

# A FEW WORDS AT THE END OF THE JOURNAL



Green and Gold:  
Cloudy Day



Ten Views of Shiprock



Must Be a Sign

## Green and Gold: Cloudy Day

Some of the best (unknown) photographic locations can be found on National Forest Service Roads. They are almost always deserted and that means we can just stop the truck, leave the doors open and wander away for a bit to photography something of rare beauty. A lovely day when a hint of winter is in the air.

A different day makes a lot of difference. There's not more than a day or two difference between the Sunny Day and Cloudy Day photographs. But there is a world of difference in the experience.

## Ten Views of Shiprock

Shiprock is a monadnock, an isolated rock hill rising abruptly from the surrounding plain of Northwestern New Mexico. It plays a significant role in Navajo religion, myth, and tradition.

Two of my favorite landscape photographs are Factory Butte by William Clift and Shiprock by David Grant Best. Now I have visited both sites and made photographs of both of my favorite locations. The Ten views of Factory Butte are in the March 2021 issue of the Lipka Journal.

## Must be a Sign

I've photographed signs as whimsy for quite a while. If a sign struck me as odd, interesting, clever, artistic or some combination of these, I stopped and made a photo. If it helped tell a story, I made a photo. If the sign fit in to some form of urban landscape or interior detail, I made a photo. It's a little-known group of images in my oeuvre. I like using the word oeuvre, it makes simple photographs sound important.



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-five 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, is now part of *The Lipka Journal*.

His newest blog, *The Daily Photograph*, has migrated to Instagram. Don't forget to follow him on this new platform linked below.

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*Joe Lipka*

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

Instagram: [www.instagram.com/dailyphoto7375](https://www.instagram.com/dailyphoto7375)

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