

A black and white photograph of a porch. The porch has a wooden floor and is supported by two white columns. In the background, there is a wall with horizontal wooden siding and a large window with a grid pattern. Four wooden rocking chairs are arranged on the porch. The text "THE LIPKA JOURNAL" is written in a white, handwritten-style font on the right side of the image.

THE LIPKA JOURNAL

PHOTOGRAPHS / STORIES / OBSERVATIONS

JOE LIPKA

APRIL FIRST 2023

Popular Post Modern Outdoor Landscape AMATEUR **Black & White** Practical Digital PHOTOGRAPHY *JOURNAL*

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WELCOME TO THE JOURNAL APRIL FIRST 2023



Grass Fire



Come Set a Spell



Written in Stone

This is the start of the third year of The Lipka Journal. Thank you so much for downloading and enjoying this publication and many others on my website. Your support and interest are greatly appreciated and an inspiration for this publications.

Last April First I created a project, "The Sky's the Limit," where I inserted the same Adobe stock sky into each image of the project. It was my April Fool's project done just for fun. The previous page contains an alternate cover design which may or may not resonate with your aesthetic. I hope you are not disappointed than none of those articles will appear in this issue of The Lipka Journal. Anyway, remember the April First Publication Date.

As we return to reality we're going to look at a Grass Fire Landscape, Set a Spell and ponder non verbal communications.

Thanks for reading my Journal and be sure to tell your friends about this publication.

Grass Fire



Grass Fire

There is no convenient speed of life. Life moves at a glacial pace with changes taking eons to occur. Life can also occur instantaneously and be as large and dramatic as a volcanic eruption. We can do nothing about these huge changes. We are not alive long enough, nor powerful enough to forestall the changes wrought on a large stage.

A grass fire spreads quickly, but sometimes not quite fast enough to outpace fire fighters. We are left with a dramatic change, but not a change that is permanent to the land.

Next spring the grass will grow back.























Too Many Numbers

Stella just couldn't remember all the numbers anymore.

She told us when the first phone was installed it was easy to use; she could pick up the phone and ask Helen, the town phone operator, to connect the call.

She was upset with those new phones where you had to dial the number yourself. First three digits, then four digits and then seven! There were too many numbers to remember so she wrote the important numbers down on a pad of paper on the wall so she didn't have to remember them.



Come Set a Spell





Come Set a Spell

Incorrect grammar can be forgiven when it is part of an invitation to set a spell and visit. If it's summertime and warm, usually a glass of sweet tea is incentive enough to come up the steps and visit with the genial host. Topics of this visit will always include the weather, health, plans for the the coming weekend, or the next vacation. Photographs of grandchildren might be proffered, and the only possible comments always includes the words "sweet," "adorable" and a complimentary mention of parental resemblance.

Come set a spell and visit with these photographs.

















7

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Six Word Project

Spinning counter-clockwise got Billy a timeout.





Written in Stone

Written in Stone

Those of us that are literate have the comfort and convenience of being able to express our thoughts, and describe ourselves using language. Widespread literacy is fairly new in the entire history of the human species. The challenge for thousands of years was how to communicate what you are, what you do or announce to the world your identity without the written word. In medieval Freiburg communication was written in stone in front of a house.













Postcards from the Creative Journey

February 21, 2021

The Quest for Originality

How do I make my photographs different? This is the fundamental issue surrounding art; your art, my art, everyone else's creations. Not just in photography, but painting, sculpture, cinema or whatever media you choose as your own. We try to make our art unique so we can claim to be the best practitioner of our chosen field. Somehow, we think that uniqueness is original. "Yes, I am the best left handed, freckle faced, photographer of the clay pots incorporated into the photographic images of the landscape made into gum bichromate over platinum encaustic prints in the Southeastern United States." (If I have offended anyone by facetiously creating this description, you have my apologies because I had no idea your work existed.)

Relying on technical legerdemain for uniqueness will make your work unique for a short period of time. As soon as you exhibit the work, other photographers will quickly invade your territory and produce clones of your process.

Originality is not found in technique, but in the substance of your artwork. It's what you photograph, not how you photograph that is of importance. Vision, not technique is much more difficult to duplicate.

The Quest for Originality is never ending, frustrating and difficult. If it was easy there would be a lot of great artists.



A FEW CLOSING WORDS



Grass Fire

On our way to photograph we drove by a small fire by the side of the road. Next to the small fire, a man was on a cell phone. We hoped he was reporting the fire.

We passed by the same spot on the following day and were aghast at the amount of ground that small fire had destroyed in a very short time. The contrast between life and death was cleanly marked and created a remarkable pattern on the land. We had to photograph it.



Come Set a Spell

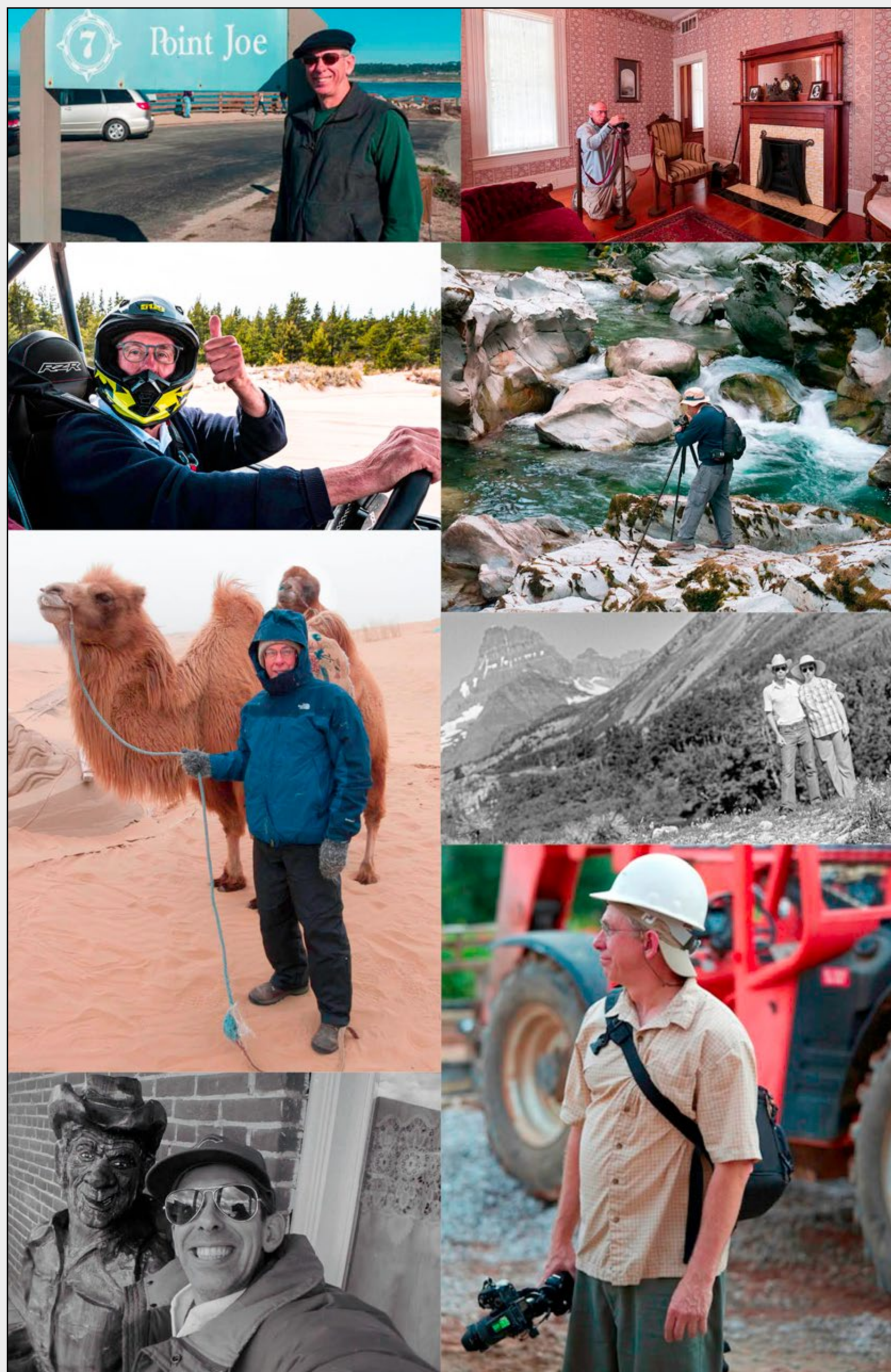
The March Lipka Journal had a “Blog it Again” post about finding a hidden project. At the end of the post, I challenged myself to complete the project. After a year or (or three, maybe) I finally got that Project completed. This month I invite you to Come Set a Spell and look at that long awaited completed project.

In editing the collected images I found two projects. One with groups of chairs and another with a single chair. I’ll publish the single chair image project later this year.



Written in Stone

Tourists almost always look up when gawking through a foreign town. As we walked down a street in Freiburg, Germany, we were told to look down on the pavement instead. We saw these mosaics placed in front of houses much like addresses. They showed passers by something about the inhabitants. They could be potters, tailors, cat lovers, pretzel makers, or pious individuals. Personal branding existed way back before social media existed.



Joe Lipka has shared his vision since he began photographing.

In the last forty 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.

The Lipka Journal, April, 2023

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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