

A photograph of a body of water, likely a pond or marsh, with reeds and reflections. The water is dark and still, reflecting the surrounding reeds and the sky. A small cluster of reeds is visible in the middle ground, and a single reed stalk stands upright on the right side. The overall mood is serene and natural.

THE LIPKA JOURNAL

PHOTOGRAPHS / STORIES / OBSERVATIONS

JOE LIPKA

AUGUST 2025

WELCOME TO THE LIPKA JOURNAL AUGUST 2025



I could not have created this issue of The Lipka Journal thirty years ago. The Pony Bar image suite was photographed two weeks ago. It's complete and published. The two other image suites, Between Destinations and the continuing Hydro-Logic: Still Water used the power of the Adobe Lightroom database to allow me to survey past images almost instantaneously to pick out the images I need for the next project. When I go back to thinking about how long it took me complete film projects printed on hand coated platinum paper, I no longer miss "the old days."

Will photography get any better? Yup, let's just wait for the next Adobe upgrades.

In the meantime, I've joined Instagram as an outlet for The Daily Photograph. Please follow me on Instagram and I will send a lovely photograph to your Instagram feed every single day. I promise.

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



The Pony Bar

The Pony Bar

Life isn't always what it seems to be. We stand back and look at something and get a first impression. Moving closer we can see our first impression does not hold up under closer scrutiny. The commercial gives way to the personal story of the people that have left their impression on the wall.





G7
BGM

1956 - 1957
Sgt Jadin K. B. 19 - son
2016 - 2022
US ARMY



CHARLE
C-BT 1-1
ARMY



FRANCIS RACIOPET
ARMY 4th SFG
13 2011-2017

Brian J. Rodriguez
4th Bn 23rd Inf 2nd ID
Afghanistan 07-10
11 Strike and Recon



JOEY LUPO
US ARMY 1981-2017
89th MP BDE 24th WMD
CST



CW05 Jody Olson
SN 7331 AVIATION MAINT
1993 -

GREG KULL
71-73 ARMY

SGT Robert Hartmann
US Army
2004-2015
216 SAB 1 LAB 1 ID

WAYNE
25th C ESCAPE
HAB DASH

A 13 year old who never
you had for you who are
W. 11

SSGT SABIE
USAF
1989-1998 100

USMC - D/L
you 19/11 - 2011
Helm 2011-2011

CST BEE MARRIVE
ROYAL CANADIAN
MOUNTED POLICE
2017-2024

ED GIL

CPT Leyton Bellamy
U.S. ARMY
2018 -

(12/18/21)

CPT. Camille Ford
U.S. Army
2018 -

(12/20/21)

Sgt. [illegible]
2018 -

USN 7331

11/10/12

Sgt. Nelson
08/04/92

USN
7331

08/04/92

Andy Lamb, MC
July '7 - July '92
1st AA Desert Storm

SGT COOTER
U.S. Army
1958-1995 DE FMC

1st AA (3rd)
Kern County
VIN

1st AA (3rd)
Kern County
VIN

K. Scott MORLEY
1st AA SF

Steve J...
1st AA

101
2019 JEFF

HM2 J. N. ...
US ...
...

Gary W. Marshall
SRA USAF
1981-1985
Forever A Veteran

...

Delger
ARMY
...

SPL JAMES TAYLOR
US ARMY
SICUT ITAG

...

...

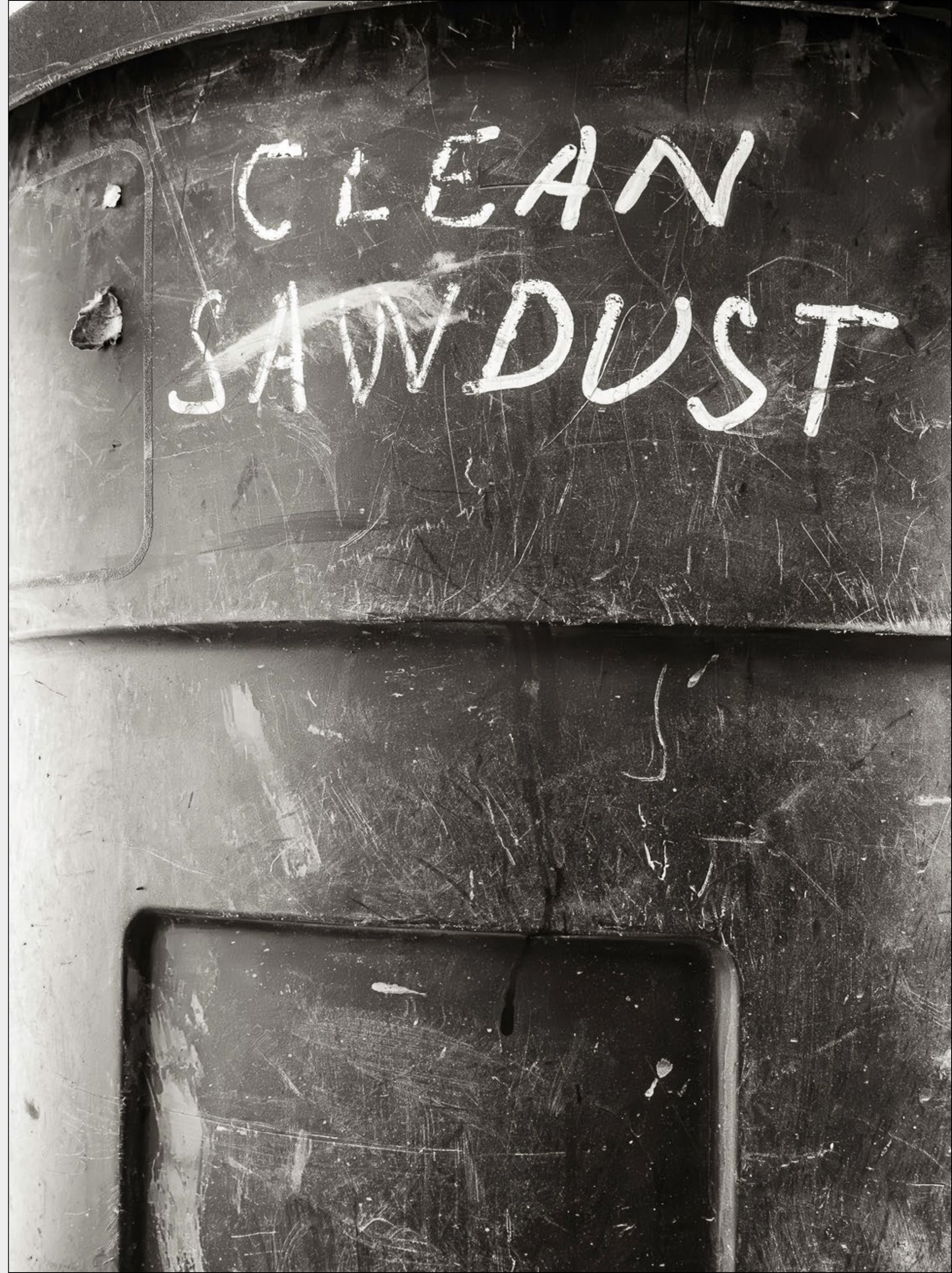
A Mostly True Story

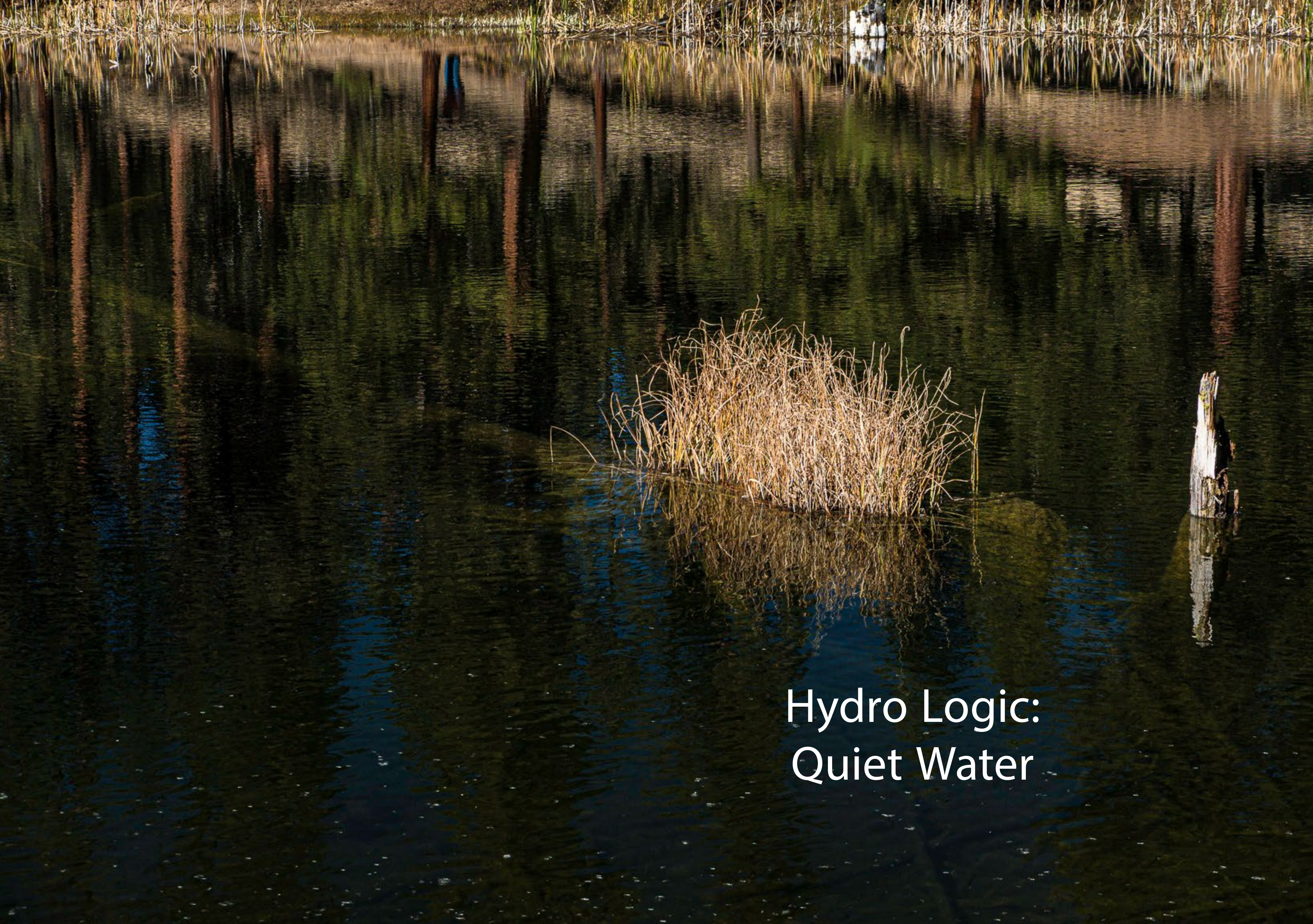
Tommy's first real job was at the shipyards in Mobile doing whatever no one else wanted to do for minimum wage.

On a Friday afternoon in July, Foreman Frank told him to go over and help Bubba and Earl. Bubba pointed at the clean sawdust barrel and said it was almost empty. Earl and Bubba sat in the shade and pointed at a two by four and a circular saw.

Tommy started turning that two by four into sawdust until Foreman Frank came around the corner. Frank unleashed a stream of creative and physically impossible profanity at both Bubba and Earl.

Foreman Frank then told Tommy to go to the storeroom and have Leon issue him two bags of clean sawdust.





Hydro Logic:
Quiet Water

Hydro-Logic Quiet Water

We are excited by the dynamics of water. It has kinetic energy. When it moves it affects the things it touches. Earth is eroded; stones are worn smooth. Flowing water is noisy; it whooshes, crashes, rumbles, gurgles and hisses. Quiet Water is not like that at all.

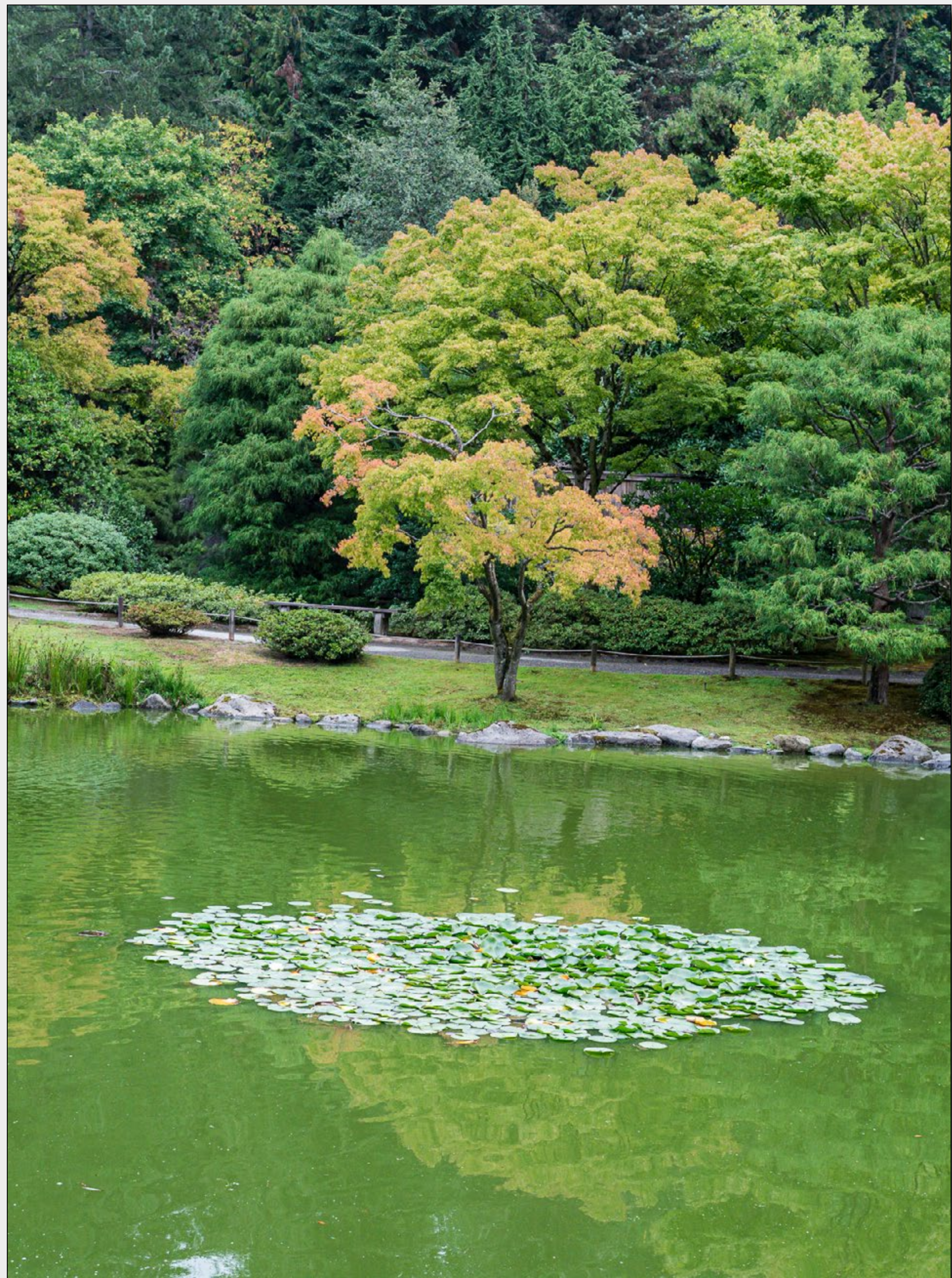
My Aunt Mary was always fond of saying “Still water runs deep.” My eight-year-old self didn’t quite understand that because I knew puddles were still but not very deep at all. I wasn’t ready to accept such wisdom at such a young age. I was happier with the noisier versions of moving water. But I was eight years old then. Now, I kind of like water that is quiet and doesn’t move around so much.

Quiet water does not excite us, but calms us, asks us to sit quietly next to it and ponder the reflections of the sky, the scenery and ourselves. It is a mirror to the world and our soul.





















Postcards from the Creative Journey



Buffy,

Last year I completed a short project, "On the Way There," images from an afternoon drive in Wyoming. Just recently it occurred to me that I had many more images just like that and they deserved their own project. I think this is a reminder that "Projects come from Projects," and that once you start thinking about projects, you will generate more projects.

I'm not finished with this one yet. I'll have some more photographs from "On the Way There" next month. And who knows? As long as I'm travelling, I'll probably make some photos between destinations.

JOE



Buffy Summers

1630 Revello Drive

Sunnydale, CA

Between Destinations



Between Destinations

As landscape photographers we spend a lot of our time going from destination to destination. We endure the time and distance between the places we want to photograph. Our lives are like that, too. We tend to think of our lives and create memories around specific events in our lives. The distance between these events is also part of life. We should be spending some of our time and resources enjoying the distance between destinations to insure we remember the journey as well as the destination.

































How to play the next shot?

Prologue: A photo and six words.

A FEW WORDS AT THE END OF THE LIPKA JOURNAL



The Pony Bar

A few months ago, [The Shorpy Blog](#) posted a couple of FSA photographs made in Pony, Montana. A recent trip to that part of Montana was motivation to drive over and see Pony for myself.

In [The Lipka Journal from May 2024](#), I published a project, "Written on the Walls," ads painted on walls. I decided to photograph a wall ad in Pony. It turned out to be completely different than what I expected.

Projects come from Projects.



Hydro-Logic: Quiet Water

We continue our trek on the hydrologic cycle. The dynamic part of the cycle is given a rest with the introspective part of quiet water. Quiet water is perfect for sitting, relaxing and contemplating the world, our lives and future plans.

It's also a great place to enjoy the vintner's art and fine conversation. But only for a little while, because next month we jump back on that hydrologic cycle and head down river on our way to the sea.

We continue because Projects come from Projects.



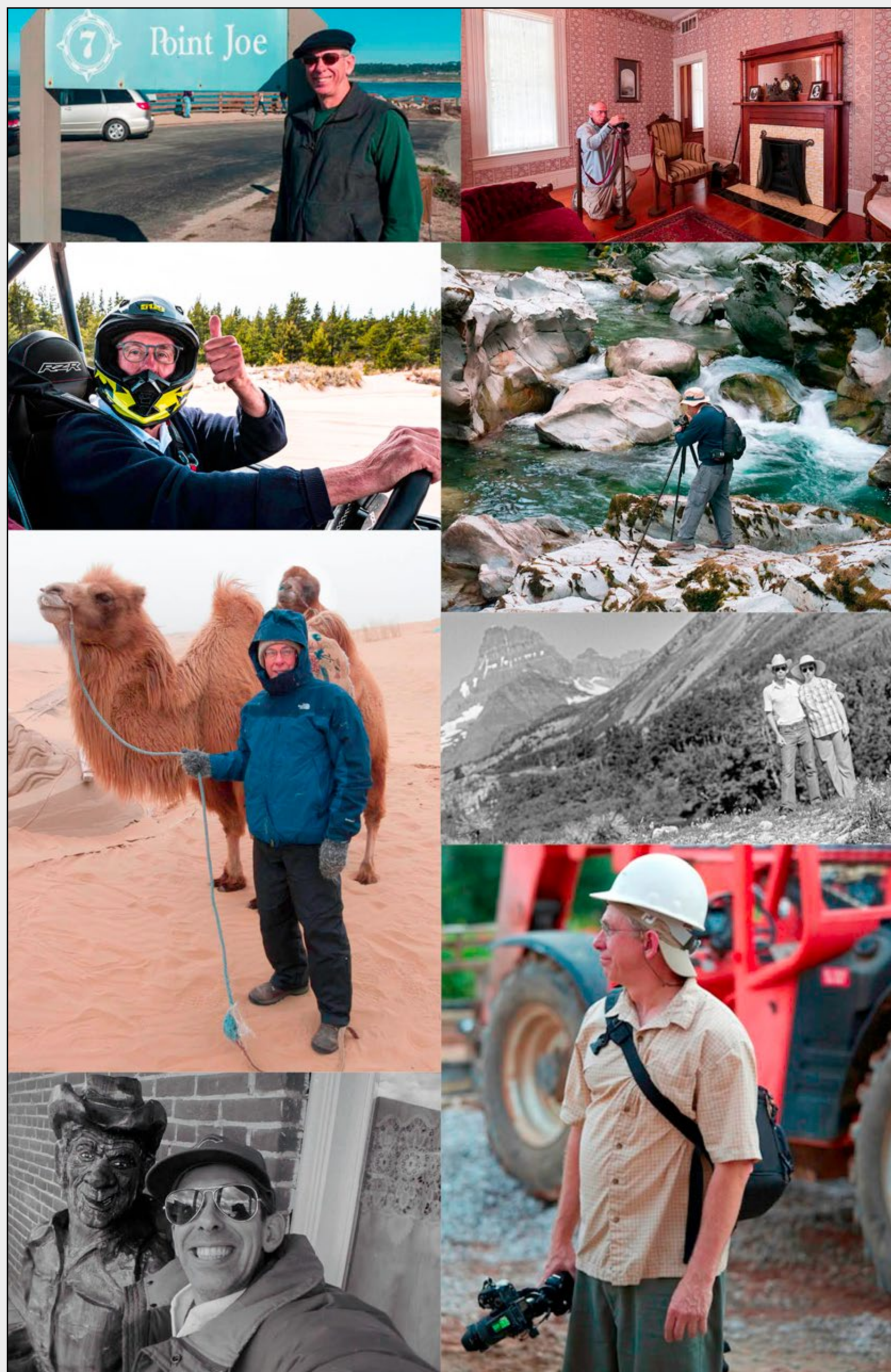
Between Destinations

Hey, that looks interesting. Wonder if I can work up a photograph from this spot. A stop is called out and I make a photo. I have no idea what to do with random landscape photographs, but the scene cries out to be recorded. It is duly recorded and we motor on.

I created an image suite in in the [October 2024 Lipka Journal](#) based on an afternoon's drive in Wyoming.

Recently, I thought about the sizeable number of such images I've collected over the years. Here's the start of a two-part project of photographs made Between Destinations. Look for Part II of this project next month.

Projects come from Projects.



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 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.

The Lipka Journal, August, 2025

Joe Lipka

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Web site: www.joelipkaphoto.com

Instagram: www.instagram.com/dailyphoto7375

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