

# THE LIPKA JOURNAL

PHOTOGRAPHS / STORIES / OBSERVATIONS

JOE LIPKA

JANUARY 2023



# WELCOME TO THE JOURNAL JANUARY 2023



Pavement Ends



Beyond the Parking Lot



A Reverent Silence

What brought this issue of The Lipka Journal together happened late in the creative process. In writing and titling the last group of images, the phrase "A Reverent Silence" struck home. The great open spaces are where we find the Reverent Silence.

The open spaces start where the pavement ends. Visit these Silent Places with me.

TITLE



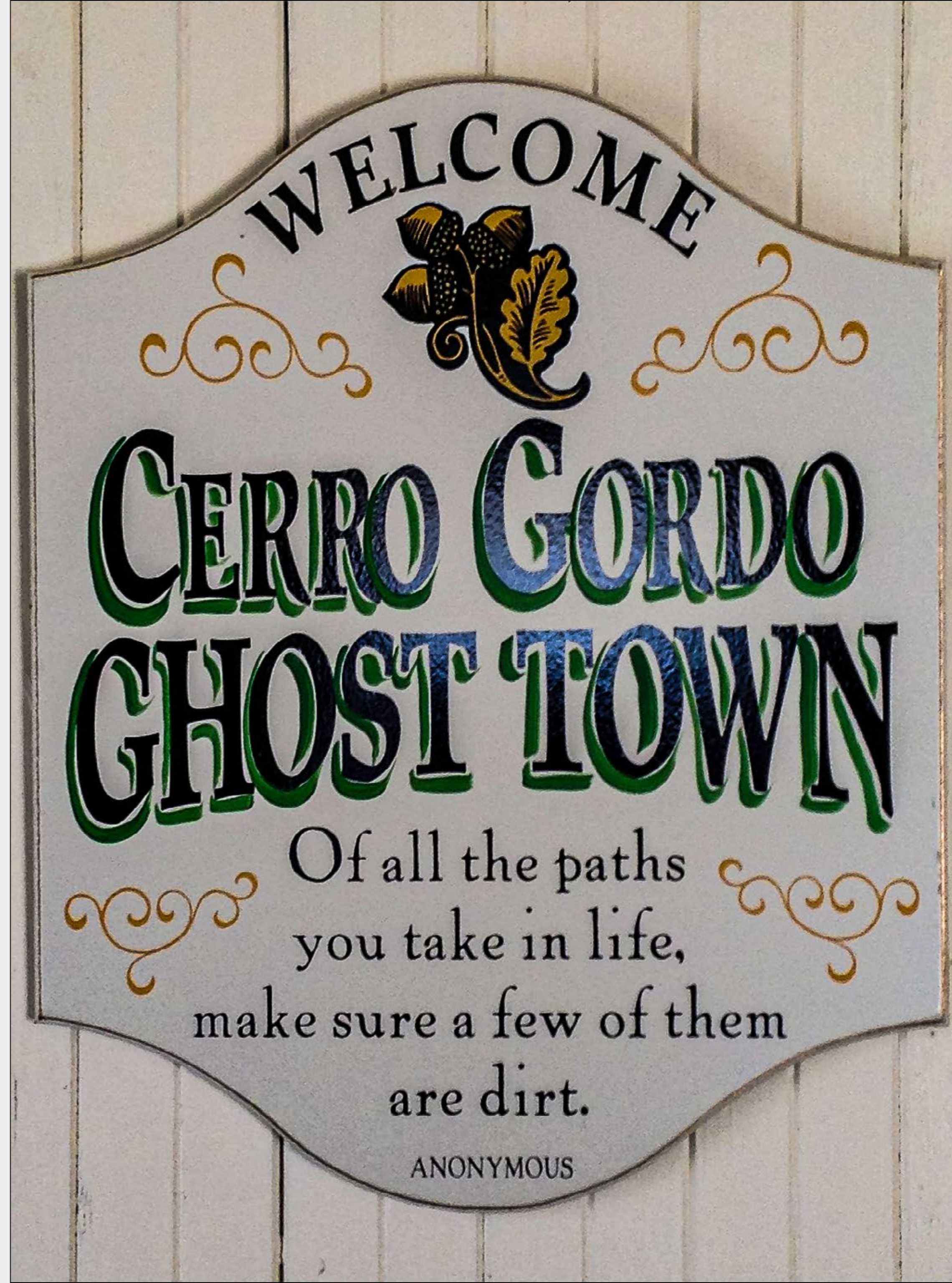
## Pavement Ends

"Photography begins where the pavement ends."

For almost forty years this has been the motto of the periodic photo safaris Brooks Jensen and I make. The (dirt) road less traveled is the difference in our photographic lives. Dirt Roads are the start of great photographs and great memories.

Sometimes you just have to find an old dirt road and go where it takes you.

*"I love road trips. You get into this Zen rhythm; throw the sense of time out the window."* – Miriam Toews



































## Single Image Project

It was a cold winter day.

Beyond the Parking Lot



## Beyond the Parking Lot

Boats don't belong in harbors; cars don't belong in parking lots. They belong on the sea or on the road, seeking new and different perspectives of the world. In the past the explorers placed their lives and fortunes at risk to find new places. Today, we are reluctant to leave the parking lot and air-conditioned comfort of our cars.

Take the time to leave the parking lot, roll down the windows and experience the world that is not covered in asphalt.

























Ellen wanted the house painted and Fred started to scrape off the old paint. Then it rained for a few weeks. When it dried out Ellen changed her mind on what the new color should be. Well, actually, she didn't change her mind, she couldn't make up her mind what the new color should be. It's been that way for a couple of years now. Ellen just can't seem to make up her mind.

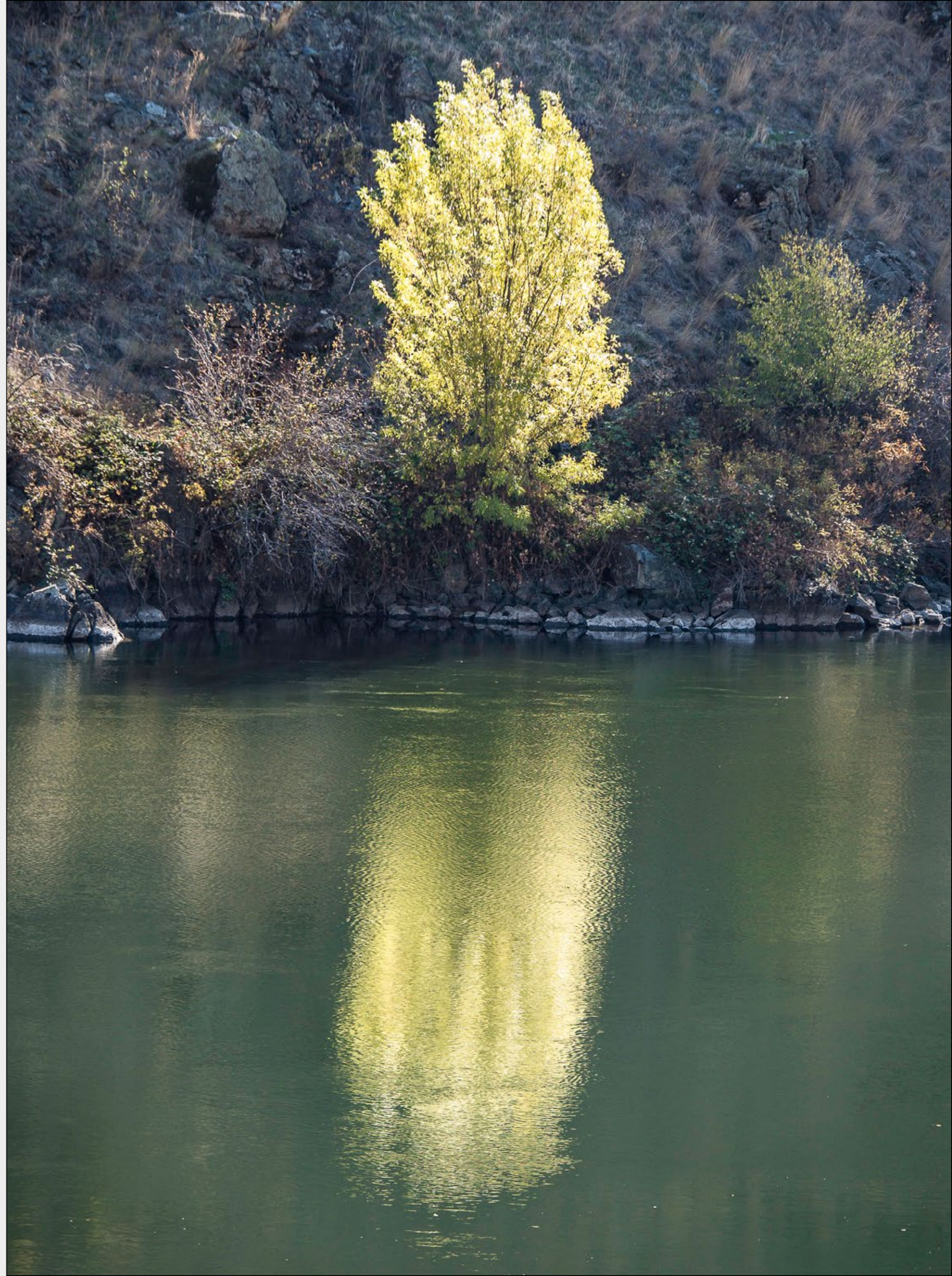
# A Reverent Silence



## A Reverent Silence

We had a choice that morning. We turned left and followed the paved road to the rapids of the Snake River. At pavement's end we came to a parking lot. There was no dirt road beyond that point. We backtracked on that paved road until we found the dirt road and then headed upriver. We followed the dirt road along the banks of a very peaceful Snake River.

Civilized road, white water. Primitive road, calm water. We much preferred the calm river over the tumultuous rapids. We drove upstream and photographed in a reverent silence fearing that any loud noise would break the spell.

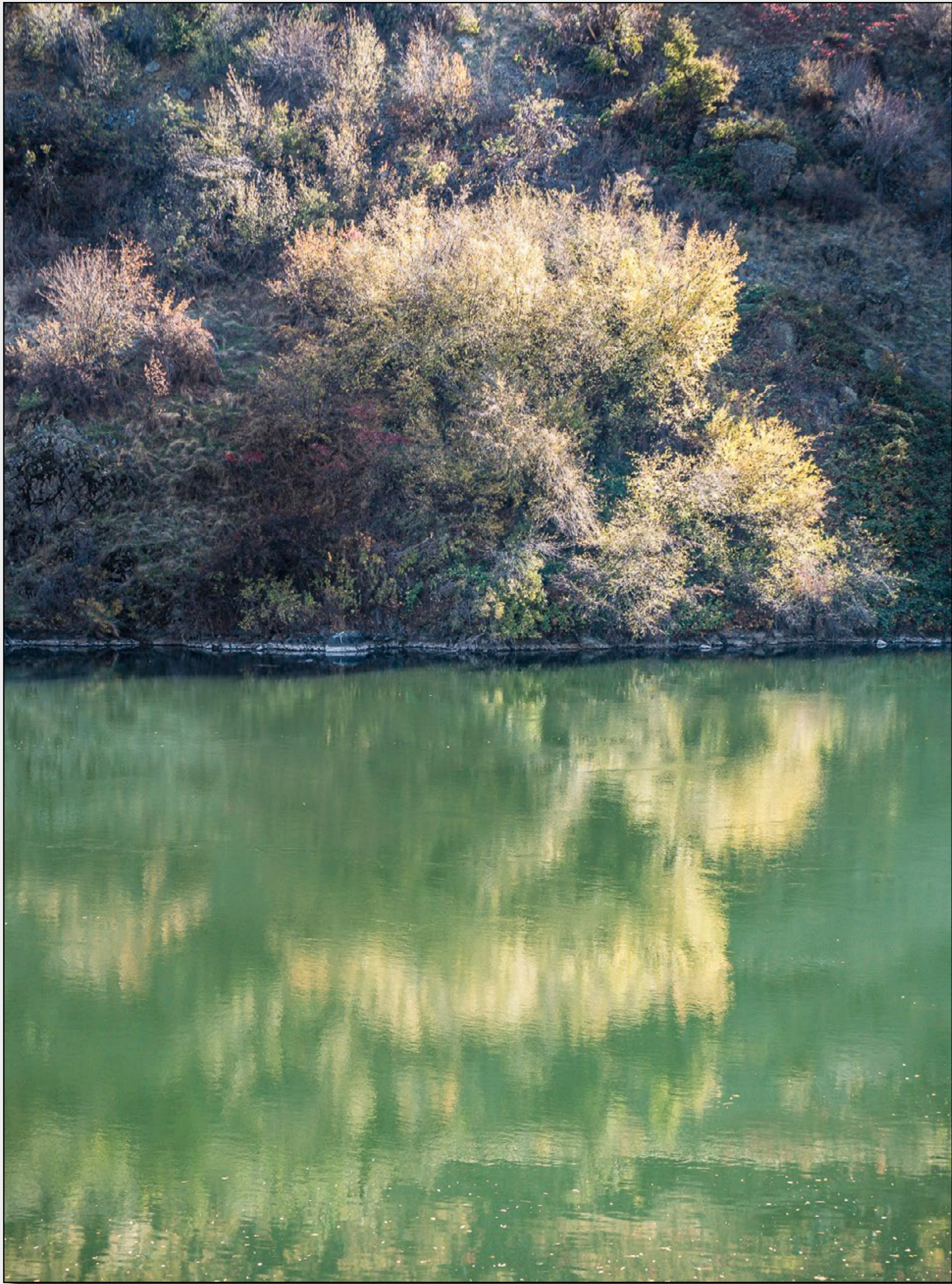




























# Postcards from the Creative Journey

December 23, 2018

## Concentrating or Thinking?

When I go out to photograph there is no other motivation than to capture the beauty that appears before me. There is incredible joy and happiness that comes from finding something beautiful and capturing its image with my camera.

There is no deep, thoughtful preparation and mystical revelation in this act. It is purely satisfaction of the desire to be in the presence of and record my reaction to this situation.

There is no intellectual rigor in this activity. In fact, nothing could be further from that. It is strictly instinctual, moving around, setting the edges of the photograph and making sure I don't "muck it up."

A long time ago I read Harvey Penick's Little Red Book of Golf Instruction. A sage bit of advice from Harvey was that while on the golf course, "concentration is good, thinking is disastrous." The same goes for photography. Think about what you want to do before you pick up the camera, once you pick up the camera, concentrate on what is in front of you.



# A FEW CLOSING WORDS



## Pavement Ends

The Pavement Ends sign is the boundary sign for landscape photography. Photography begins where the Pavement Ends. It's been that way for almost forty years as Brooks Jensen and I photograph the less traveled roads of the world.

Here are a few of those dirt roads we followed on the way to making great photographs.



## Beyond the Parking Lot

Most everyone makes a photograph from the parking lot of Monument Valley and then turns around and drives away to the next photographic spot. If you go there, pay the fee, drive the dirt road and find many amazing landscape photographs.

For the sharp eyed, this is the second time this image has been on the cover of my Journal. The April 1, 2022 issue had this image in color. I used the Photoshop sky replacement tool to add the same stock sunset image to every image in "The Sky's the Limit" project.



## A Reverent Silence

Of course we drove down a dirt road to make these photographs. We went in the opposite direction of everyone else and found our version of the Snake River to be placid, calm and very quiet.

The road less traveled and all that is really true. Being away from everyone by driving down dirt roads is one way to make photographs no one else has ever made.



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](http://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, January, 2023

*Joe Lipka*

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

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