



Road Trip—2007 Thoughts & Ruminations

For the baby boomer generation, Route 66 holds a certain fascination. I know it has always been part of my ultimate road trip fantasy. Before 2007, driving the old road with the top down and the wind in my hair was a dream. I was able to realize the dream, without the convertible though, earlier this year.

During the month of March my wife and I drove from Virginia to California with stops in Flagstaff, Arizona, Santa Fe, New Mexico, and Carmel, California. We spent our last four days at the Tenaya Lodge in Yosemite.

Because we were on the road for a month or so, I will write this article in segments and in no particular order of the journey. In fact, I'm going to start with California, near the end of our cross country trip.

I mapped out our trip a few weeks prior to leaving Virginia. I had planned to use Carmel as our base for a few days once we hit California. Carmel is located near Monterey, the Pacific Coast Highway (PCH), and Big Sur. I remember hearing of Carmel and Big Sur since I was a kid. Carmel brought to mind old movies, Clint Eastwood and surfers. Many can relate to Monterey with its Pop and Jazz Festivals.

I never understood the attraction of California with all of the bad press, earthquakes, fires and weather. Now, after my first visit, I understand. It feels different there, it feels good. Pardon the cliché, but when you're there it feels like you're living in "The Endless Summer".

We traveled up and down the PCH looking for the right photographs, stopping at little shops located just off the narrow road and nestled in the trees. Truly the 60's are still alive, if only in spots in California. Not in a "get over it" kind of way. There's something more to it. Maybe its a refusal of the 60s to die there, maybe its a celebration of that period of California's history.

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Quick Notes - 2007 in Review

Just a few facts from the road - 2007

- Participated in 21 shows from Florida up to New York and over to Kentucky.
- Won 4 primary awards in 2007 - setting a new personal record.
- Obtained new Material from New Mexico, Arizona, California, and Virginia for 07/08.
- Introduced 8 new images for 2007 and passed the edition halfway mark on two images.

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Special points of interest:

- You are reading our first newsletter
- Many of our segments are continuations
- All segments are based on actual people and actual events.
- We attempt to answer actual customer questions.

2008 Show Schedule - January - June

Naples Invitational	Naples Florida	January 26-27	Confirmed
Bonita Springs National Art Festival	Bonita Springs, FL	March 1-2	Confirmed
Winter Park Sidewalk Art Festival	Winter Park, FL	March 14-15	Confirmed
31st Mainsail Art Festival	St Petersburg, FL	April 19-20	Tentative
Art on the Square	Williamsburg, VA	April 27	Confirmed
Art in the Park	Richmond, VA	May 3-4	Confirmed
Artsposure	Raleigh, NC	May 17-18	Tentative
Decatur Art Festival	Decatur, GA	May 24-25	Tentative
Sidewalk Art Show	Roanoke, VA	June 7-8	Tentative
Boardwalk Art Show & Festival	Virginia Beach, VA	June 12-15	Confirmed
Lakefront Festival of the Arts	Milwaukee, WI	June 20-22	Tentative

Refer to my website for more up to date show schedule information.

Customer Questions: How do Limited Editions Work?

I'm asked this a lot. I chose 200 as my edition size. This means that even though I may offer a photograph in up to five sizes, I will never sell more than 200 total of that photograph.

Also, as a photograph passes the 100 mark, the smaller sizes cease to be offered. For instance, in 2007 "Peggy's Cove Light" and "Great Dismal Swamp" passed the 100 mark and thus, 8x10s are

no longer offered.

As an edition shrinks further, the price will increase as well. This will be made known in the "Alerts" section on my website.

Even though I offer 200 of each photograph, I consider each an original and say as much to my customers.



Peggy's Cove Light, N.S.

This is because I create each one by hand in the traditional darkroom. This involves using an enlarger to project the negative onto Silver Gelatin Paper. The paper is then hand processed in chemical trays to bring out the image.

This technique ensures each image is different & original.

Road Trip—2007 Thoughts & Ruminations

The coastline along Big Sur is steep and rocky. Many of the photographs I took there were made while standing on the edge of cliffs looking over. On more than one occasion while looking through the lens of my tripod mounted camera, I would hear my wife's voice quietly urging me to move away from the edge.

One day we drove from Carmel to Pescadero to photograph the Pigeon Point light. After the photo session, we stopped at a little restaurant by the ocean. It was more like a surf shack you might see in the movies. It had a weathered exterior and the interior showed age as well with old wooden floors and faded surf boards carelessly placed here and there. This place felt like history, not old history, but 60s history. The shack's ocean theme

wasn't contrived, it was real. I felt like we were invading on the private turf of the gypsies who wander along the coast looking for the next big ride. Windows surrounded the place allowing light to pour in creating a feeling of warmth. Sitting at a table by the window I could see ocean, sand and the surfers surfing in



Big Sur #1 - California

the distance.

The menu boasted California style fare and the best burgers and the best milkshakes on the coast. I opted for a burger with avocado and a chocolate shake. The food was good but the location and the atmosphere made it the best.

I'll never forget that day, that drive along the coast and the feeling I got being there.

To be continued.... Next, Yosemite and sensory overload.

Price Schedule for 2008

Ok, lets talk about prices for 2008. I'm told constantly by customers, usually after they make their purchase, that my work is drastically under priced. That's terrific but I do like to price my work to sell so I can go back into the darkroom to create more. The darkroom allows me to be creative and is my favorite place to be when it relates to photography. So hear goes folks, the modest 2008 price schedule:

	Unframed	Framed	
8x10	\$70	\$140	
11x14	\$95	\$190	Shipping costs: Based on Framed or Unframed
16x20	\$150	\$275	and quantity of work to be shipped. All work is

People are Strange - Stories behind the Photographs

I ran into many people while living in Europe and traveling the U.S..

In recent years I traveled alone quite a bit to obtain new material. When I first started taking solo road trips I took a few chances going to remote locations out of tourist season. This is when you meet the loaners. People looking for a friend or something else.

On the road you run into all kinds of peo-

ple. Some are interesting, some are odd and possibly dangerous. For the most part those I have met seem to be good and down to earth. They're interested in their jobs or trades, their families and the service they might be providing me at the time.

Let's face it though, you probably want to hear about the characters I've met, maybe the danger I've faced, if any. You want

the good stuff.

So, I'll tell you about the B&B owner in Nova Scotia, the stalker on the beach, the South American fellow who drove from Toronto and told me of mass graves and rebels as he eyed my possessions. The emerald smuggler I met in Scotland, The strange dinner invitation I had in Morocco, the watcher in the woods. All will be told in future issues.....

Art in Black & White

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How it all Started - An Artist's Journey

I could say I got started when I received my first Kodak Brownie Camera. I would run around the neighborhood looking for something to photograph. I even took it on a school trip to Williamsburg, Va. and remember taking the time to properly frame the images I sought to capture. But, that's not where it started.

I could say it was while I was living in Italy, where I purchased my first 35mm Pentax camera. I traveled Europe for years taking pictures. But, that's not where it started.

About nine years ago a friend of mine in the corporate world bought a camera and so I decided to buy one too. I purchased a Nikon 90 35mm film camera. My friend, Michael and I would take a break from the high stress political environment we lived in to shoot pictures. We would travel around Virginia, from the coast to the mountains looking for something to photograph. That's where it started.....

We really had no idea what we were doing. We would do really dumb things like shooting into the sun. We took photographs of frost on leaves and ripples in the water. We look back on this and laugh at how funny it now seems.

I wanted more. I wanted to get deeper into this new hobby we were exploring.



Pathway #2 - Cape Fear

One day my wife and I visited Michael and his wife and he told me he had set up a darkroom in his house. He invited me to observe the creation of a photograph. I watched as he projected the negative onto photographic paper and then ran the image through the chemical process and I knew that I wanted to be able to do this too.

Still, I wanted more. I had been reading about Large Format Cameras. Specifically, about Field Cameras and the large sheets of film they required and the subsequent negatives they produced.

So, I proceeded to purchase a field camera and the darkroom equipment needed to handle the camera's 4x5 inch negatives. I then began the long road of teaching myself how to use all of this new equipment. I had several breaks along the way and will discuss them in future installments....

To Be Continued...