

MADE OF STEEL

Photographs and text of machine shops, garages, and the men who work with steel.

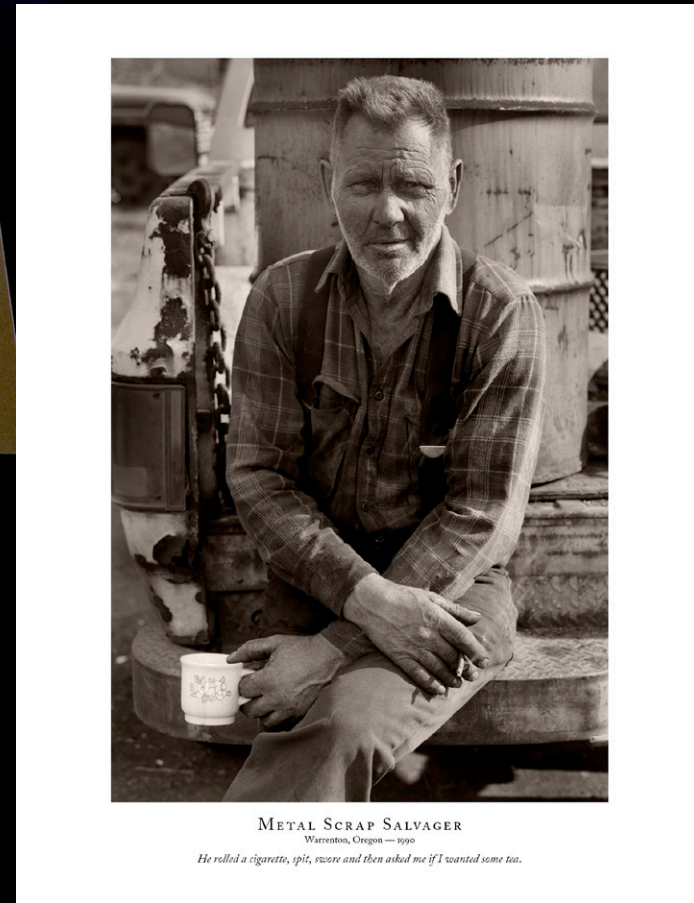
The Made of
Steel Project



A Completely New, 3rd Edition of the *Made of Steel* Folios

This third edition represents a complete rework of the entire *Made of Steel* project. All images in this edition were produced from scratch, beginning with high resolution scans of the original negatives, or from digital camera originals. As such, every image is a new rendition. This Third Edition consists of five separate folios — *Oregon*; *Washington*; *The Central States*; *North Dakota*; and *Joe Sasak*. Each of the five folios contains twelve images, except the *Joe Sasak* folio which contains eleven images and one additional image on the introduction page. Simultaneous to these folios, an exhibition set of the entire body of work — consisting of all 84 images in the project — was produced in the summer of 2007.

The *Made of Steel* work has been produced in two previous folio editions. The original folios were a set of three, produced in 1993 as brown-toned, gelatin silver prints with a laserjet text signature in each. The three folios were *The Portraits*, *The Tools*, and *The Shops*. Each folio included five images. Twenty sets were produced of this edition. The second folio version was published in 2003 as a *LensWork Special Editions Folio*. This edition was produced as warm-toned, gelatin silver prints printed from 425-line screen digital negatives. These negatives were scanned from original gelatin silver prints. This single-folio edition included twenty images and totalled of 34 copies.



This project combines image and text. Each photograph shares the page with a quote from our conversations or an anecdote about the subject.

Folio I
Oregon

Folio II
Washington

Folio III
The Central States

Folio IV
North Dakota

Folio V
Joe Sasak



8x10½" Finished size, 12 images

MADE OF STEEL

Folio I — Oregon

The Made of Steel Project

This folio includes the twelve images you see here, plus a single-fold signature that includes the story of the original inspiration for this project. My grandfather, John Shaker, was one of these old guys – a machine shop guy – and I remember him in his shop from my earliest youth. The text includes the story of “Two-bit Johnny” along with two professional photographs he had made in 1941 of himself and his employees. I’d never seen these photographs, but somehow the two negatives were preserved in the family archives. I inherited these two 5x7” negatives and scanned them for this project.

The images from *Made of Steel, Folio I - Oregon* are some of the earliest from this project. All of these images, save one, are from new scans of the original 2¼x3¼ film negatives. *Brooms & Shovels* is from a 5x7” negative I made in 1986 when I owned a large 5x7” camera for about a week – and then immediately sold and was glad to have done with it. I have never printed it – for the simple reason that I didn’t own an enlarger that could print such large negatives.

There are five folios in the *Made of Steel* series divided by region – Oregon, Washington, The Central States, North Dakota, and Joe Sasak.

Single Folio Price

\$145

(plus shipping & handling)

[Purchase this folio online](#)

All Five Folios, Save \$100

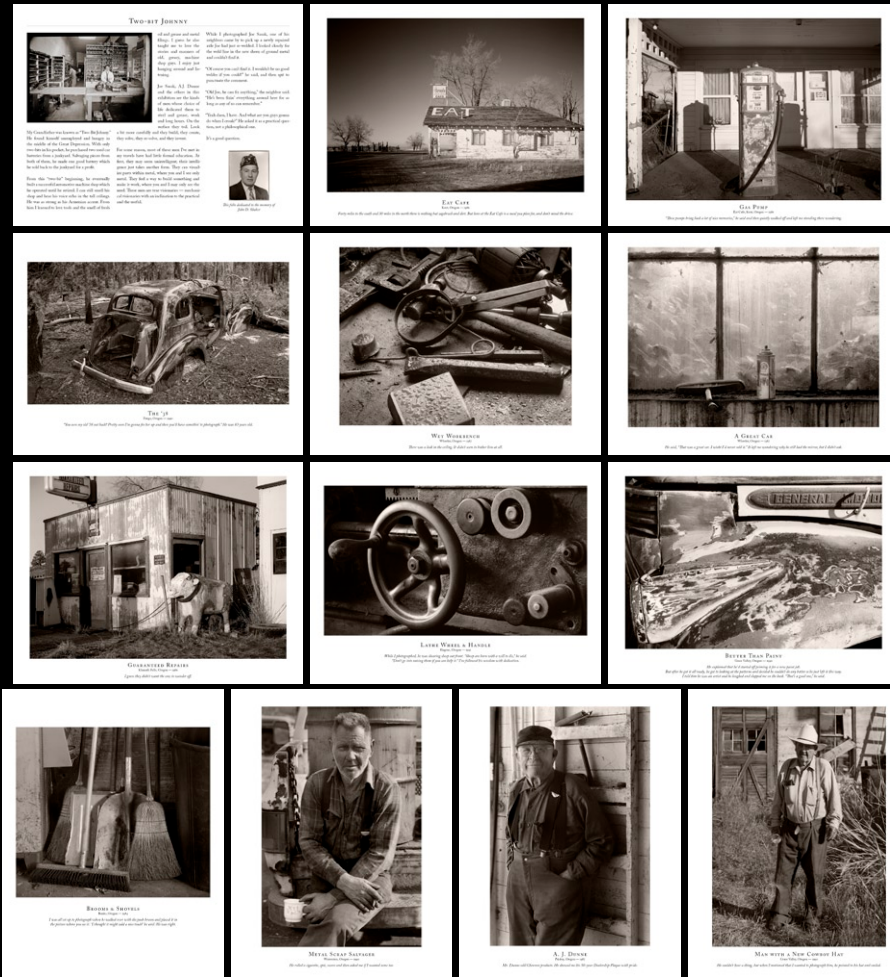
\$625

(plus shipping & handling)

[Purchase all five folios online](#)

Each folio is signed and numbered.
Numbers 1-50 are reserved for complete sets.

Photographs and text of machine shops, garages, and the men who work with steel. This project combines image and text. Each photograph shares the page with a quote from our conversations or an anecdote about the subject.



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North Dakota

Folio V
Joe Sasak

MADE OF STEEL

Folio II — Washington

The Made of Steel Project

The first image from this project was *Dollar's Garage*. It is still one of my favorites. If Mr. Dollar had not allowed me to photograph in his garage, I wonder if any of the other photographs would have ever been made. Three of these photographs are from a machine shop in Hockinson, Washington. I was just driving around, looking for landscape photographs when I stumbled across this shop in the small town. I photographed there all day and we talked of his business and of my grandfather's shop. He knew of the tool my grandfather had invented and even used it back in the 1950s. It was a great photo session. I only wish he would have allowed me to make his portrait.

The images from *Made of Steel, Folio II - Washington* are all from new scans of the original 2 1/4 x 3 1/4 film negatives. The image *Seattle Junkyard* is included in this project for the first time. The negative has some substantial flaws which prevented me from using it in the past. Now, through some painstaking Photo-shop work, I have been able to repair the flaws and use it for the first time.

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8x10 1/2" Finished size, 12 images

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Oregon

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Joe Sasak



8x10½" Finished size, 12 images

MADE OF STEEL

Folio III — The Central States

The Made of Steel Project

In the 1980s, my consulting work involved extensive travel throughout the U.S. Often, I'd have a speaking engagement on Friday in one state and another on Monday in a different state. It seemed silly to fly home to Oregon only to immediately get back on an airplane after only one night home. Instead, I'd just stay out the weekend and travel the two-lane highways looking for small towns and the garages, machine shops, and men I'd find there. I'd explain my project and the guys were always very willing to let me make photographs in their shops. I'd sometimes get a funny look when I pulled out my view camera from the trunk of the rental car, but no one ever denied me access to photograph.

Eight of the twelve images from *Made of Steel, Folio III - The Central States* are from the back roads of Texas – in the small towns in a triangle between Houston, the Gulf, and Dallas. Two are from the Sedalia Garage in Sedalia, Indiana, and one from Kansas. All of these images are from new scans of the original 2¼x3¼ film negatives.

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8x10½" Finished size, 12 images

MADE OF STEEL

Folio IV — North Dakota

My wife's family is from the far northwestern corner of North Dakota. Visiting there for family reunions and other functions, I was not at all surprised to find the same kinds of garages and machine shops I'd seen all over the rest of the country. Her uncle, Kenny Heckman, is now retired from active farm life, but every tool in his shop is ready for use and any repair work as though he were still there every day. His farm is on the edge of a now-empty town called Alkabo. This town, too, was a wealth of photographic opportunity. A few miles to the east is the thriving metropolis of Crosby, population 1,201. Trust me and go there in July for the Threshing Bee if you want to see old machines and machine shop guys in action.

All of the images, save one, in *Made of Steel, Folio IV - North Dakota* are from a digital camera – an Olympus C8080W. They are among the first of my fine art photographs that I made without the use of a traditional film camera. The sole exception is the portrait of Kenny Heckman which was made with my 2¼x3¼ monorail film camera.

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Folio V — Joe Sasak

The Made of Steel Project

I had a free weekend in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and the use of a rental car. On a whim, I decided to drive up to Green Bay to see where the Packers play football. I never got there. Along the back roads I passed Joe Sasak's place near Leroy, Wisconsin. For mysterious and unknowable reasons, his place just called to me. I stopped and introduced myself. He asked if I wanted to see his shop. Two days later I left with a few rolls of film, memories of an experience – and a *man* – I will never forget, and an appreciation for a way of life that is rapidly disappearing. I revisited him two years later. He loved the photographs.

Made of Steel, Folio V - Joe Sasak is as much a tribute to honor Joe and the men like him as it is a memory of my weekend there. It was listening to Joe tell stories for two days that first made me realize this "photography project" was as much about their stories as it was about my images. I recorded Joe using a microcassette recorder. The stories in the text are transcription excerpts of our conversations. All of these images are from new scans of the original 2 1/4x3 3/4 film negatives.

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8x10 1/2" Finished size, 11 images

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Catalog Design and Production by Brooks Jensen and Holly Chadwick



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