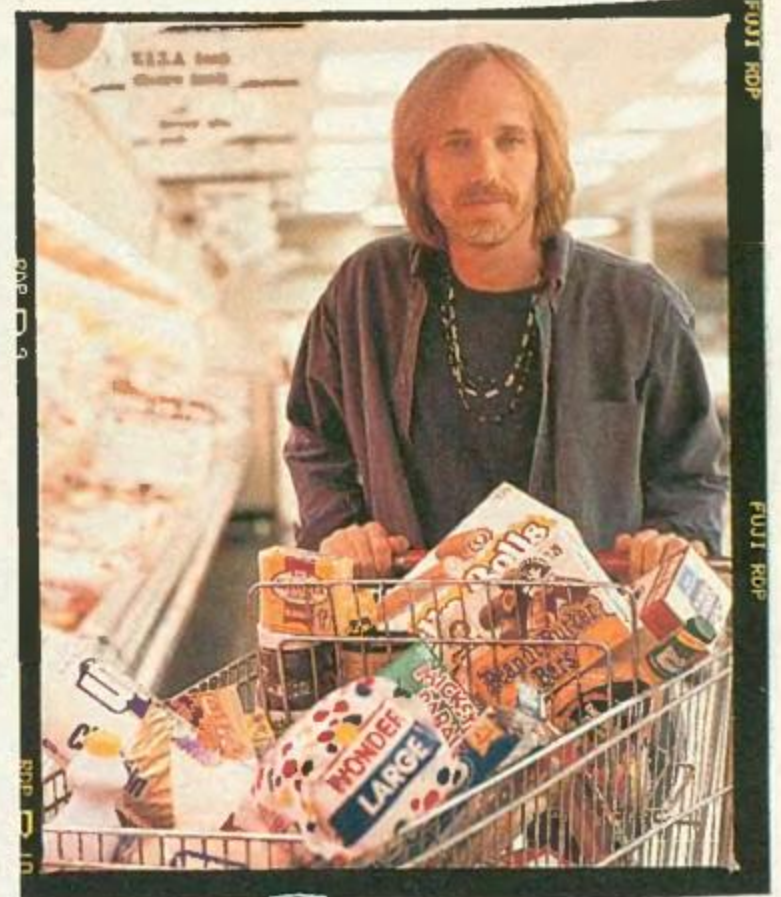




Tom Petty wasn't taken aback when Seliger asked him to pose on a camel for a 1991 cover shoot. "I'd ridden one in Egypt once," Petty recalls. "I figured it would be just like another joy ride around the pyramids. But this time, it turned out to be a mother camel with her screaming baby. If you've ever heard a camel cry, you know that's a significant wail. It was a long day, but Mark got an amazing shot. Of course, I was a little disappointed the camel didn't make the cover." Later, for the 25th-anniversary issue, Petty wanted to be shot grocery shopping "because he's a down-to-earth guy," says Seliger. "We didn't use that picture, but I still like something about it."



After serving time as a photo assistant, he got some magazine work of his own. His first assignment for *ROLLING STONE* was a portrait of a group of New York University film students, which culminated in an accident with a city bus that ripped the door off of his borrowed car. Regardless, the pictures turned out, and there was more work to come.

No one could have realized exactly how much more work there would be. Since February, when Editor and Publisher Jann S. Wenner appointed *ROLLING STONE*'s chief photographer, Seliger has been able to send his parents to Rome and Paris with some of the frequent-flier points he earned in his travels.

"I remember when I was going to shoot Neil Young, and we figured out it was my 20th cover," says Seliger. "We mentioned it to Jann, and he says, 'Great. Let's have a party. Now go out and shoot another 20.'" — DAVID WILD

