

NATURAL LIGHT: SPECIAL PHOTOGRAPHY ISSUE

OCTOBER 1997

ADIRONDACK

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A Celebration of Wild Images

WITH OLD MASTERS AND
RISING STARS

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NEW VIEWS Jane Alden Stevens



Itch. Crown Point, Lake Champlain

Eagle Lake in Essex County is Jane Alden Stevens's summer home, and her Adirondack ties extend back four generations. Her photographic equipment is equally venerable: for the past twelve years, she's used her great-grandfather's Al-Vista Model 5D swing-lens panoramic camera.

The turn-of-the-century device uses five-by-fourteen-inch film, which, since it's no longer manufactured, Stevens has to cut to fit. Instead of a conventional shutter, five metal fans of various sizes determine the expo-

sure time, or how fast the lens swings from one side to the other. The aperture is determined not by adjustable openings, but by Waterhouse stops, which are metal pieces with holes of different sizes placed between the lens and the film.

She says, "I've found that most people don't really feel like they're



Scott and Juliane #2

Stretching the Frame: An Antique Panorama



ALL PHOTOGRAPHS ARE GELATIN-SILVER CONTACT PRINTS, ORIGINAL SIZE FIVE BY FOURTEEN INCHES.

being photographed because they don't believe that this box with a moving lens and spinning fan—both of which make loud grinding noises when they're working—can take pictures. I love using this camera."



Lloyd and Judy #7



Lloyd and Judy #5



Scott and Julianne #5



Porch