

Jane Alden Stevens

Stretching the Frame: An Antique Panorama



Itch. Crown Point, Lake Champlain

agle 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-



Scott and Juliane #2

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

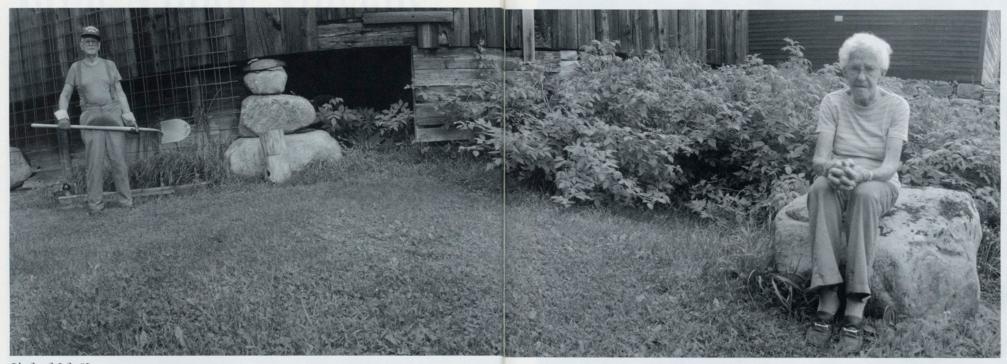
ALL PHOTOGRAPHS ARE GELATIN-SILVER CONTACT PRINTS, ORIGINAL SIZE FIVE BY FOURTEEN INCHES.

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."



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Porch