

## The View Camera

*Geoffrey James – Clip 14*

When I moved to photographing in North America, I was photographing all over the United States and the work of Olmsted. I needed something that wasn't quite so eccentric and fragile so I ended up shooting with an 8 x 10 inch view camera with plates. They're wonderful machines in that they describe the world with such generosity. And there's so much information in them that you can make quite a dumb picture and it will still look good. So I worked with that camera for the longest time. I did Paris with the big view camera and Lethbridge and even the Mexican border although it occasionally got me into trouble. I had to flee thieves at one point and grabbing my camera and jumping into my Cherokee jeep to get away. It was all very primitive but in a way I like the big camera because you couldn't hide from people, you were walking around with a dark cloth. And people left you alone. They thought you were crazy. And pretty well everywhere I was, ...occasionally in Paris, people would come up to me and say, old Russians, "I used to work with a camera like that". It was interesting but that was my sort of big cannon for the longest time.