SOLSTICE, VOLUME VIII, NUMBER 2; WINTER, 1997.

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD. SUNSWEEP: A VISIT ON THE SUMMER SOLSTICE

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A recent visit to Campobello Island in Canada, off the coast of the state of Maine, offered an opportunity to view the eastern element of sculptor David Barr's Sunsweep: an arch (both physical and virtual) that celebrated the U.S./Canadian border with physical endpieces on Campobello and Point Roberts WA and a physical keystone in Lake of the Woods, MN. The actual stone elements are linked virtually in the mind along the border as the sun sweeps from east to west--all are aligned to astronomical events and access to all requires a border crossing. Colleagues and I had worked with Barr in a number of ways and that work was written about in an earlier number of Solstice (1991, Number 1; a direct link to that article). Indeed, as we noted,

"Sunlight and shadow, day and night, solstice and equinox, lunar and solar eclipse--all are astronomical events that transform the surface of the earth into an event focused on the contrast between light and dark. The diurnal dynamics of the sweeping edge of the darkness are a foundation critical to the well-being of life on earth. Artistic expressions are numerous, ranging from Amish quilt patterns (``sunlight and shadow") to Indonesian shadow puppets. From a spatial standpoint, the mantle of night serves as a continuum linking disparate elements of the earth's surface; it is a whole composed of unseen parts."

From that earlier scholarly vantage point, it was with great enthusiasm that I went with friends and family to view the sculpture on the Summer Solstice (4:40 a.m.) sunrise on June 21, 1996. The photographic record below is a continuing tribute to the events surrounding this international sculpture.

Information about SunSweep may be obtained at the Information Office at the Park Entrance.

On the web, the smaller images are linked to larger images. Each large image is inserted in the hard copy in a sequence of pages corresponding to the sequence of small images below.





Bridge from U.S. Mainland to Campobello Island (Canadian).

FDR's cottage on the island



Arch is made of etched Canadian granite



"Sunrise at Campobello"



John D. Nystuen at the arch.



Rhonda Ryznar, Rich Rovner, Leslie Nystuen: members of the solstice party.





























