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FOLLOWING THE PATHS of OUR PEOPLE AND PLACES

ROOTPRINTS

Society Traveling Exhibit Shown in Slovenian Embassy in Washington, D.C.

Artist to donate collection to Society

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By Susan Schwanekamp,
Rootprints Editor

One year ago on the front page of this publication, the second annual Slovenian cultural heritage event, "A Salute: Slovenian Cultural Expressions", was held in Ely, Minnesota. The first such event was called "A Salute to Slovenian America". One of the Society's traveling exhibits, *Old Country Memories: The Art of Albin Zaverl*, was included, as a representative selection of these paintings. This year, the exhibit, in the form of a larger selection - 28 of the works - was shown at the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Washington, D.C. The opening event was timed with the European Nation/Slovenian Embassy Open House Day on May 13, 2014. Zaverl, the child of Slovenian immigrants, is very appreciative of being selected as the representative artist for this day. Dr. Bozo Cerar gave the opening address. As of

the end of May, over 4,000 people had visited the exhibition.

The exhibit will remain there through June 20th, when it will be packed for trans-Atlantic shipping for an even more distant new destination in Slovenia, thanks to the interest garnered by viewers at the Embassy.

Tom Sersha, a museum professional from Virginia, Minnesota, who is also a Slovenian historian, wrote the new interpretive text labels and is the curator of the Embassy exhibition.

Zaverl, also a Virginia resident, was born to parents from Cerklje pri Kranju and Zaupuze St. Vid Ljublanja. In his extensive collection, Slovenian themes predominate, although Lake Superior and its ships,

children, fishermen, his parents in their youth and American Indian people

also have a presence. All the work, many of them done in bright acrylics, muted pastels and watercolors, share a realistic style. The Yugoslavian immigrants, including the artist's parents John Zaverl and



Albin Zaverl in front of his residence in Virginia, Minnesota, 2014

Jozefa Pechnik, were one of the earliest pioneer groups in northern Minnesota. Their recollections of life in the "old country" are revealed in the images recreated by Zaverl, who, though born in the United States in 1924, also made two trips to Slovenia.

This collection of art will be donated to the Society and will be part of the Society's permanent art collection.