



View of the Ojibwe Gallery during construction phase

## **Traveling Exhibit Program**

The Society's Traveling Exhibit Program continued to thrive in 2013. *Return to the River* stayed at the Great Lakes Aquarium, a natural venue for this exhibit, for the whole year. Placement of the exhibit in this high volume tourist attraction caused it to be seen by 24,660 visitors during the year.

*Ojibwe Faces and Stories* began the year at North Woods School in Cook, Minnesota and then moved to the St. Louis County Courthouse in Hibbing in May, where it stayed and was viewed by at least 1000 people a month until it moved back to the Depot (mezzanine level) in October.

*Father Baraga: Shared Horizons*, an exhibit about the famed missionary of interest to Ojibwe people, Catholics and those of Slovenian heritage, was seen by 700 Catholic school children and others at the Diocese of Duluth's events in October and by 500 participants in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Slovenian Festival in Ely in July. Selections from *Albin Zaverl's Old Country Memories* were also on exhibit at the Slovenian Festival.

One new exhibit venue for smaller, e.g. traveling, exhibits was developed at the Duluth International Airport, through the efforts of a Society Veterans' Memorial Hall Advisory Committee member and of course, Society staff and a Society contractor. Currently *The 18* (Civil War exhibit developed by Veterans' Memorial Hall interns previously) is on display there, in the baggage area, where it has been seen by 24,660 visitors in 2013, according to the airport's Operations Director.

The Society's Iron Range affiliates also borrowed exhibits during their summer seasons. Virginia Area Historical Society exhibited *Children of the Finnish Homesteads* at the B'nai Abraham Cultural Center, which partners with VAHS often. Sisu Heritage, Inc., in Embarrass, displayed *Finns of Western Lake Superior* at its Nelimark Museum, for this season, as well.

Two veterans' history exhibits created by interns were up at the Depot for parts of the year: *Never Forgotten: The Man behind the Medal* and *Desert Medics* have been on display in the Fesler Gallery and on the Mezzanine level, respectively. These also have been visited by large numbers of people, from St. Louis County and elsewhere.

## **Education through Programs and Special Events**

### **Lunch with the History People**

In 2014 the Society continued to hold a wide variety of free educational lectures at noon, called the "Lunch with the History People" program. They ranged from "Archeology in the Northland" to the "Glensheen Murders", presented by Judge John DeSanto, who prosecuted them. Tony Dierckins presented "Duluth's Lost Grand Old Stage Theaters". Terry Degner talked about his life in a Duluth orphanage and the long-term effects of this experience in a presentation called "My Brave Little Man", which was also the title of his book. Jack Salmela returned to give his third "Lunch with the History People" program, this time on "Celebrating Stained Glass in the Northland". In 2013, these programs were held in the Ruth Maney Room of the Depot.

### **Polka! The Movie**

A Society intern from St. Olaf Collage worked to create this one-time program on Slovenian polka music in America in July 2013. Joe Valencic, from Cleveland, representing the Cleveland-Style Hall of Fame and Museum, is a writer, historian and documentary filmmaker, presented the movie and his tribute to the Slovenians in America to contributed to America's musical heritage. The American Slovenian Polka Foundation (parent organization of the Polka Hall of Fame) and a grant from the Office for Slovenes Abroad of the Republic of Slovenia helped to make this event, which was attended by 150 people, possible. The musical group, the Singing Slovenes, provided potica for the occasion.