Country art exhibit opens next week

BLOOMSBURG - A collection of drawings and paintings depicting rural and farming scenes will be exhibited at Bloomsburg State College from April 22 to May 8.

The collection, entitled "Country Reflections," is by Carol Slusser Fraind, an elementary art teacher in the Berwick School District, and her students.

A wide variety of agricultural and rural themes are found in the collection, which will be on exhibit in Kehr Union on the college campus.

Among the paintings are the three which accompany this article.

"Old Fashioned Irish" is a portrait of Patrick Finan, who once farmed a large homestead in the Dushore area. The homesteader's granddaughter related many anecdotes to the artist of helping to work the

acreage and tend the livestock. The artist characterizes Finan as the "total embodiment of Irish pride and dedication to the land "

"The Refuge" depicts an abandoned wagon covered with a mantle of snow, which is offering refuge to a wild rabbit.

"Waiting for Spring" shows a pair of work horses lazily standing in a snowy barnyard obviously waiting for the change of seasons.

Ms. Fraind, who says she is very proud of her farming heritage, now lives on a 20-acre farm, which she bought from her parents at R4 Berwick.

Her eventual ambition is to raise Belgian horses on the farm. Many of her paintings reflect her strong leve for horses, particularly the large work horses.

The artist spent most of her years of teaching in small schools with predominantly rural population. She describes the rural



Old Fashioned Irish

students as more resourceful and kind. Following studying for six

summers at Kutztown State College, she obtained her Pennsylvania art teaching credentials. Her greatest artistic influence while studying at Kutztown was Mrs. Rose Marie Sloat, some of whose paintings hang in the



Waiting for Spring

National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C.

"Watercolor is my favorite medium to work in despite its difficult and unforgiving nature,' she explains.

"After much practice and # great deal of patience, watercolor finally will yield unparalleled atmospheric and lighting effects.

"Also, since my paintings must be wedged into a busy schedule, I appreciate the ease and quickness of working that it offers."

Due to her agricultural heritage, the artist also has an interest in farm preservation other than capturing it for future generations

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