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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

MILLION DOLLAR C. M. RUSSELL COLLECTION OF WESTERN ART COMES TO NATIONAL COWBOY HALL OF FAME

Trustees of the Oklahoma City Industrial and Cultural Facilities Trust and the Trustees of the National Cowboy Hall of Fame announced today at a press conference in the Board of Directors' room of the Chamber of Commerce, acquisition of the Charles S. Jones collection of Charles Russell art. Mr. Jones, Chairman of the Board of the Richfield Oil Company of Los Angeles, originally purchased the collection containing more than two hundred items from the estate of the late Nancy Russell, widow of the Montana cowboy and sculptor. Russell died October, 1926 at his winter home in Pasadena.

The Trust is composed of Luther T. Dulaney, Jean I. Everest, John Kilpatrick, Jr., Dean A. McGee, and H. C. Webb. The Trustees said the

details for the transaction had been under way for several months. The Trust, in cooperation with four Oklahoma City banking firms, The First National Bank and Trust Company, The Liberty National Bank and Trust Company, The Fidelity National Bank and Trust Company, and the City National Bank and Trust Company, was able to make the acquisition for the National Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Center through an interim financing program until the Center could raise funds from a planned drive from throughout the seventeen Western states to make the purchase. The appriased value of the collection was more than one million dollars; the purchase price was considerably less. M. Knoedler & Co., Inc. of New York City was Jones' agent for the transaction.

The Executive Committee of the National Cowboy Hall of Fame, headed by Albert K. Mitchell, New Mexico rancher, approved the purchase at a recent meeting. Glenn W. Faris, Executive Vice-President, said the Committee considered this an opportunity which could not be passed up.

Also on hand at the preview showing were Stanley Draper, Sr., Governor Roy Turner, E. K. Gaylord, O. M. Mosier, Mayor George H. Shirk, and other members of the Local Operations Committee. Cowboy Hall officials indicated the collection would be placed on exhibition prior to the opening of the National Finals Rodeo which begins December 4.

Only a few items from the collection were unveiled at the preview. Among them was "Red Man's Wireless," a major Russell oil, size 42 x 72 inches dated 1917. Authorities state this is one of the largest paintings done by Russell. "Smoke Talk," another large oil, has the distinction of being the only Russell painting to hang in the White House. Mr. Jones lent the work to Dwight D.

Eisenhower during his presidency. Mr. Eisenhower and Charles S. Jones have been lifelong friends. Of the 92 bronzes in the collection, only a handful were exhibited. Among those selected was "Meat For Wild Men," which is considered Russell's masterpiece in bronze. The work is 13 inches high with a base 22 by 37 inches. It depicts in excitement and in accurate detail the buffalo hunt, one of the most important aspects of the Plains Indians' life. This piece has been appraised at \$45,000. "Counting Coup" is a 1907 casting by the Roman Bronze Works of New York City. Most imposing in the array of sculpture is the 35 inch statue of Lewis and Clark with their Indian girl guide, Sacajawea, at the Great Falls on the Missouri River. "The Buffalo Runner," "Will Rogers on Soap-Suds," "The Bronc Twister," and "Changing Outfits" are other well-known Russell bronzes in the collection. "Whiteman's World" depicts a once proud cree, Chief Young Boy, a close friend of Russell's, who was reduced to selling buffalo horns to earn a living. The Heritage Center's Wrangler Award is patterned after "The Night Herder." "It Ain't No Job For A Lady," also on exhibit at the preview, is Russell's last sculpture before his death in 1926. It was intended as a Christmas present for his wife, Nancy.

The collection consists of 92 bronzes, two major oil paintings, eight water color drawings, eight pen and ink drawings, an illustrated letter written by Russell to his wife, Nancy, shortly after their marriage. Eighty-seven items, many pencil and pen drawings and sketches, are stamped from the effects of Charles M. Russell, estate of Nancy C. Russell, June, 1941.

The significance of the acquisition according to O. M. Mosier, Chairman of the Art Committee for the Hall of Fame, is in the origin of the collection, its completeness and in the fact that it will form the high standards and foundation

for the development of the art collection at the Center.

The Charles S. Jones collection was considered to be the last major exhibition of C. M. Russell's work in the hands of a private collector. Most of the artist's work is now reposed in museums throughout the West.