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**Booth Western Art Museum to Host 5th Annual
Southeastern Cowboy Festival and Symposium, October 25-28, 2007**

CARTERSVILLE, GA – The West will come alive during an October event hosted by the Booth Western Art Museum. Entertainment and education will be the themes for the 5th Annual Southeastern Cowboy Festival and Symposium, October 25-28, 2007 in downtown Cartersville, GA. Scheduled events include evening concerts on Friday and Saturday night, re-enactments of the Gunfight at the O.K. Corral, children's activities, chuck wagon cooking, Native American dancing, numerous demonstrations and living history encampments, and an artist's workshop with featured artist William Matthews. Other special guests include Riders in the Sky, K.G. and the Ranger, Eli Barsi, and many more. The event will take place at the Booth Western Art Museum and the Grand Theatre, both located in historic downtown Cartersville.

The Festival and Symposium begins Thursday, October 25, with an evening of Western music in the Museum Atrium. Doc Stovall and the Tumbleweed Cowboy Band will perform from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and the Museum Café will be open for dinner. At 7:00 p.m., the featured artist for the Festival and Symposium, William Matthews of Evergreen, Colorado will present a lecture on his artistic style and career highlights. Williams, known as "The American Watercolorist," began his career in art in Los Angeles as a graphic artist for Warner Brothers and Capital Records. His watercolor works hang in museums across the country including the Eiteljorg Museum and the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum. The artist will sign copies of the official Festival and Symposium poster in the Museum Store following the lecture.

On Friday, October 26, the symposium portion of the event takes place with lectures on a variety of historical and artistic topics taking place from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. in the Booth Theatre. Admission to the lectures is free for Booth Museum members and included with regular admission for not-yet-members. Also on the 27th, the Museum will host an artist's workshop conducted by featured artist William Matthews. This class is designed for novice through experienced painters. The cost for this workshop is \$100 for members and \$150 for not-yet-members and will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For registration information please call 770-607-3686.

Friday evening, plan to visit the Grand Theatre for a concert featuring Western entertainers from around the country including K.G and the Ranger, Eli Barsi, and more. K.G and the Ranger, a husband and wife duo are know best for their harmony singing and yodeling. Named Harmony Yodeling Champions in 1999 and 2002, K.G and the Ranger travel the country delighting audiences with their singing, yodeling, humor and rope tricks. Joining K.G and the Ranger is Canadian born, Western singer, Eli Barsi. Barsi is a singer, songwriter, western yodeler and musician. Her music combines the styles of Western Roots, Gospel, Bluegrass, New Country, Classic Country and Folk. In 2006,

Barsi received the Will Rogers Award for Female Vocalist of the Year from the Academy of Western Artists and the Crescendo Award for the New Artist of the Year from the Western Music Association. After the show, stop by the Encore Room adjacent to the Theatre for a CD signing. The Friday night concert starts at 7:00 p.m. and tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for Booth Museum members and \$10 for students.

Two Saturday concerts at the Grand Theatre feature the multi-Grammy Award winning Western music group Riders in the Sky. Riders in the Sky, made up of Ranger Doug, Woody Paul, Too Slim and Joey, has been entertaining audiences since 1977. In 1982, they became the first exclusively Western music artist to join the Grand Ole Opry. Riders in the Sky has also provided music for several Walt Disney/Pixar album, most notably "Woody's Roundup Featuring Riders in the Sky" which was released as a companion album to "Toy Story 2." Tickets for the 2:00 p.m. matinee are \$5 for children 16 and younger, \$20 for Booth Museum members and \$25 for not-yet-members. Tickets for the 7:00 p.m. evening performance are \$20 for Booth Museum members and \$25 for not-yet-members. Riders in the Sky will be available to sign CDs and meet fans in the Encore Room adjacent to the Theatre following each show.

During the day Saturday, October 27, a variety of events for the entire family will be offered at the Cowboy Festival on the grounds of the Booth Museum. Re-enactments of the legendary Gunfight at the O.K. Corral may be seen at 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., and 3:00 p.m. on Saturday. Other entertainment includes Western music and poetry throughout the day on two stages, fast draw competitions, humorous Western skits, demonstrations of traditional Indian dances by the Big Mountain Family, chuck wagon cooking, and a living history encampment with demonstrations of pioneer skills from bygone days. Activities will take place between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Admission to the festival grounds, including Booth Museum galleries, is \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors and military, \$5 for students, \$3 for Booth members, and \$1 for children 12 years old and younger.

The weekend wraps up Sunday, October 28, beginning with Cowboy Church at 11:00 a.m. This non-denominational church service features cowboy prayers and Western spiritual music and is free for everyone. After the service, visit the Cowboy Festival between Noon and 5:00 p.m. on the grounds of the Museum, with the same activities as listed for Saturday taking place.

The Cowboy Festival and Symposium is designed to celebrate America's rich Western heritage, in keeping with the mission of the Booth Western Art Museum. The Museum's Executive Director, Seth Hopkins, said, "The Symposium is a unique opportunity for residents to experience the West without leaving the South. Our Museum collection is unique in the Southeast and we believe that the Cowboy Festival and Symposium is equally unique, as the leading Western festival in the region. Those attending the event will hopefully come away with a greater appreciation of our Western experience." Hopkins hopes that those attending the Festival and Symposium will not only find themselves entertained, but also educated during the four-day event. "There are plenty of fun and entertaining activities planned for all ages, but we also want to

emphasize the educational aspect of each activity that will be part of the Festival and Symposium,” said Hopkins.

More details on the schedule of events may be obtained by consulting the Museum Web site at www.boothmuseum.org or calling 770-387-1300.

About the Booth Western Art Museum:

The Booth Western Museum, an Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, is an 80,000 square foot museum located in Cartersville, Georgia, where guests are invited to explore the American West through contemporary Western artwork. The Museum also features a Presidential Gallery, a Civil War art gallery, and Sagebrush Ranch – a children’s interactive gallery - featuring hands-on art activities and areas for role-playing, storytelling and reading, all presented with a Western flair. Visitors to Booth Museum also enjoy the intimate downtown setting with unique specialty and antique shops, boutiques, and nationally featured restaurants, all within walking distance of the Museum. Open since August 2003, the Booth Museum is the only museum of its kind in the Southeast and is the second largest art museum in the state of Georgia. For more information about the Booth Western Art Museum call 770-387-1300 or visit www.boothmuseum.org.

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