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Surprise Connection Discovered Between Two Marvo Projects

PRINCETON, KY—April 23, 2012—Award winning Kentucky film production company, Marvo Entertainment Group LLC, announces that through its work and research on the two-hour Woodford County documentary, something very special along the way has happened—and more than just a coincidence. Marvo has discovered a surprise connection between "My Kentucky Home: Woodford County" and Marvo's *America's Darling* project, both currently in production. Woodford County native, Clifford Berryman, and Jay N. "Ding" Darling were both Pulitzer Prize-winning editorial cartoonists, both were concerned with conservation, and both left a national legacy.

While conducting script development research in the Smithsonian Archives of American Art, Marvo team member, Pat Fralick, found a letter from Ding Darling to Berryman dated November 19, 1934, that linked the two contemporaries. The letter contained Darling's unique personal signature. At the time the letter was written, Darling was Chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey, United States Department of Agriculture; and Berryman was a political cartoonist with *The Washington Star* in Washington, D. C. The letter was in regard to the government corn-hog checks sent to farmers in the 1930's.

This path of discovery has turned up a treasure trove of artifacts from both men's lives. For example, Marvo has found four letters to Berryman from U. S. Presidents acknowledging his work along with some original cartoons that have not been in the public eye. Berryman's family members have provided many artifacts and documents for this research. Marvo is considering an exhibit of these artifacts with the release of "My Kentucky Home: Woodford County."

Executive producer, Sam Koltinsky, had the opportunity to interview Douglas Brinkley, professor of history at Rice University and American conservationist. Dr. Brinkley shared the story of Berryman's Theodore Roosevelt cartoon and the connection with the teddy bear. An excerpt from the interview will be posted soon on the Marvo website at www.marvoentertainmentgroup.com.

Berryman was a forerunner of today's graphic artists and animators, and Marvo feels this is a great connection to young people with passions for art and conservation. It should also be noted that Clifford Berryman's son, Jim, was also a Pulitzer Prize winner. Berryman represents in part the heritage of conservation that has been prevalent in Woodford County.

Interviews for "My Kentucky Home: Woodford County" are underway. Josephine Abercrombie was the first to share her extraordinary stories. Koltinsky remarked, "I left the interview learning of her love and passion for Woodford County, taking us back to the first time she was brought to Kentucky and wanted to have a small horse farm here." Koltinsky is working on an original song for the show, "When You Smile at Me," dedicated to Ms. Abercrombie's love for Woodford County. Marvo is continuing to build the project with interviews reflecting topics such as history, connection to the land, education, art, horse farms, economic development, and the uniqueness of Woodford County. A session of interviews was completed in mid-April.

The entire Marvo team extends a special word of thanks to our contributing underwriters who are spearheading the project: Joe and Debbie Graviss of Graviss McDonald's Restaurants, Pisgah Community Historic Association, Woodford County Historical Society, CastlePost, Calmes Family Association, Midway College, and Glenn and Sandi Bromagen. Also, Marvo's sincere appreciation goes out to others who have made contributions to the project.

If you would like to share in this unique opportunity to showcase Woodford County by becoming an underwriter for this project, please contact either Sam Koltinsky (270-625-6815) or sam@marvoentertainmentgroup.com or Dona Wilson at the Woodford County Historical Society (859-873-6786).

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