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CONTACT: CHARLES SMITH-DEWEY

952-223-1247

Original Cow-Christmas tale reappears as perfect Christmas gift for next generation of bovine fans

November 3, 2005 (Lakeville, MN) Six years before anyone ever heard of “Santa Cows” and 10 years before Tim Allen became a substitute “Santa Clause” in the movies, there was a little self-published book by a Minnesota author about a kindly old farmer and his 12 cows who had to deliver the Christmas gifts for Santa and his reindeer one eve.

That book, “Mr. Gonopolis And His 12 Holsteins – A Christmas Story” is back in a 20th anniversary edition with all new full-color illustrations by its original author and artist, Uncle Hyggly. The book, and an audio CD version, are available at the author’s Web site at <http://www.woundedcoot.com> or through Amazon.com.

A simple Christmas gift

The story started as a simple homemade Christmas gift for Hyggly’s six nephews and nieces. He always teased them that “Santa isn’t coming this year -- he’s got a cold and is sending some old farmer on his rounds instead. But the farmer doesn’t bring toys -- all he brings is underwear and socks.”

Hyggly said the story never failed to fill his nephews and nieces with giggles, so one Christmas he decided to write and illustrate a few homemade copies as gifts under their Christmas trees. They excitedly took those copies to school to show friends when Christmas break was over, and soon grassroots demand led him to publish the book.

Book captures true meaning of Christmas

The book is steeped in rural values, such as honesty and helping out a friend in need. Although Gonopolis doesn’t get Santa’s instructions on delivering the Christmas gifts quite right (in fact, he really botches them up), everything works out for the best as he discovers the true spirit of Christmas isn’t the gifts themselves, it’s the gift of *caring*, Hyggly said.

“Several elementary schools have adapted the story into a Christmas pageant,” Hyggly said, citing schools from Hibbing, Minnesota to Annapolis, Maryland. “The heart in the story, and the colorful characters that inhabit it, make it easy to adapt the story to other forms,” Hyggly added, pointing out that the audio CD version of the tale will be playing on radio stations nationwide this Christmas.

For more information, visit the Web site at www.woundedcoot.com.