



"SEVEN PIEGANS"



By Charles A. Beil

North American
Sculptor - Modeler

PHOTO 1965:
BANFF, ALBERTA, CANADA

Charles A. Beil and the "SEVEN PIEGANS"



CALF TAIL
O-TSE-KO-WACH-SO-ES

Charles A. Beil was a young working cowboy when he traveled from his native Colorado to Great Falls, Montana, in 1922. With his enthusiasm for the life of the cowboy, the Indians, and the animals of this region and his passion for modeling them, it was only natural that he soon met another cowboy, who by that time had become world renowned for his Western art and manner — Charles Marion Russell.

The two men became good friends. During the next four years they spent many hours together discussing the history of the west and the art of modeling it. Beil had a gifted talent for modeling and Russell, recognizing this, gave the younger artist many of his own valuable interpretations.

Some forty-eight hours before Russell's death, in 1926, the famous artist asked a friend, Mr. Cooney of the **GREAT FALLS LEADER** to make a visit with him.

"He asked me to come with him to the little studio of Beil in the Kingsbury block, and also asked me to give what publicity I could to the young cowpuncher artist, 'to kinder help 'im along,'" Cooney said.

"He's the best feller I ever seen modeling hosses an' cowpunchers," said Russell, 'an I want y'u to know 'im.' " *

Just five days later, Beil led Russell's empty-saddled horse in the funeral procession.

In the summer of 1926, Beil spent much of his time in Glacier Park, Montana. Along with the wildlife and towering landscape of this region, he spent several weeks among the Piegan Indians, from the near-by Blackfoot Indian Reservation, which adjoins Glacier to the East. It was then that Beil modeled the "SEVEN PIEGANS" from life.

Thus, in Glacier Park in 1926, Charles A. Beil modeled one of the most dramatic portrayals of the North American Indian — "SEVEN PIEGANS." Many years later Beil was asked if, other than his deep fondness for the Indians of North America, there was a particular reason for choosing these seven piegans. Beil said, "They were just good faces." Each face portrays an individual feeling and personality of the plains Indian, and as a group they depict the savage wisdom and pride of the Piegan Tribe. (The Piegan is the largest tribe of the three



TURTLE
SPO-PE



LAST STAR
SA-KO-YE-KA-TOK-SA



CHARLES A. BEIL
(Great Falls, 1926)



WEASEL FEATHER
A-PA-E-KE-MANE

tribes comprising the Blackfoot Nation — Piegans, Bloods, and Siksikas.)

In 1929 a prominent Great Falls citizen and avid collector of Western art, bought the "SEVEN PIEGANS" from Beil. He was Sid Willis, owner of the famed Mint Saloon. Willis placed the set in a glass case in the Mint. They remained until 1956 along with other famous works by Russell, Olaf Seltzer, Joe Deyong, William Standing and many more. The "SEVEN PIEGANS" were acquired in 1956, from the Mint collection, by Dick Flood, founder and president of Western Arts, Incorporated.

In 1930, while traveling through Alberta, Canada, Beil happened to visit Banff. Beil fell in love with Banff and a local girl. Married, he made this picturesque town, perched in the magnificent Canadian Rockies, his home.

Through the years Beil's art and personality have brought him many honors. His sculpture is prized by all who hold the life and history of Western United States and Canada in esteem. Be it the curious, artistic eye of European royalty or the down-to-earth appreciation of a Western cowboy, the sculpture of Charlie Beil is regarded as the best.

Each year, since 1930, a dozen or more trophies, fashioned by Beil, are awarded the winning contestants of the Calgary Stampede.

Queen Elizabeth II and the Prince Phillip own and prize works of sculpture by Charlie Beil. The Queen's father, King George VI, was also a collector and admirer of the cowboy artist's works. Beil's sculpture is found in the collections of museums and Western art enthusiasts throughout the world.

On May 27, 1968, the University of Calgary honored Beil by having a "CHARLIE BEIL NIGHT." At this time they proclaimed Beil a "Doctor of the University of Calgary."

It is with great pride that Western Arts, Incorporated, introduces the dramatic set of Western bronzes "SEVEN PIEGANS" by one of North America's greatest sculptors of the Western scene, CHARLES A. BEIL.



MEDICINE BOSS RIBS
AO-YE-SO-SA-ME



TWO GUNS WHITE CALF
NA-TO-KE-NA-MACH-K-
OH-NES-TE-POK



EAGLE CALF
NE-NA-BE-TA-NES-TA