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Telling the tale of a white Valley Christmas

By AMANDA HARRIS
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The imaginative minds behind three photo-filled books documenting the Christmas 2004 snowfall will make a stop in Harlingen today to sign copies of their publications.

They're on a book-signing tour that will stop at the H-E-B grocery store on 613 S. Expressway 83 in Harlingen from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. today and the H-E-B grocery store at 1103 Morgan in Harlingen from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sunday.

Kathryn Childers, of Corpus Christi, said she and her son, Clark, thought of creating the book as they watched the snow fall that Christmas Eve.

Clark was visiting home from California, and he and his mother "just stood there, like everyone else, in total amazement," she said.

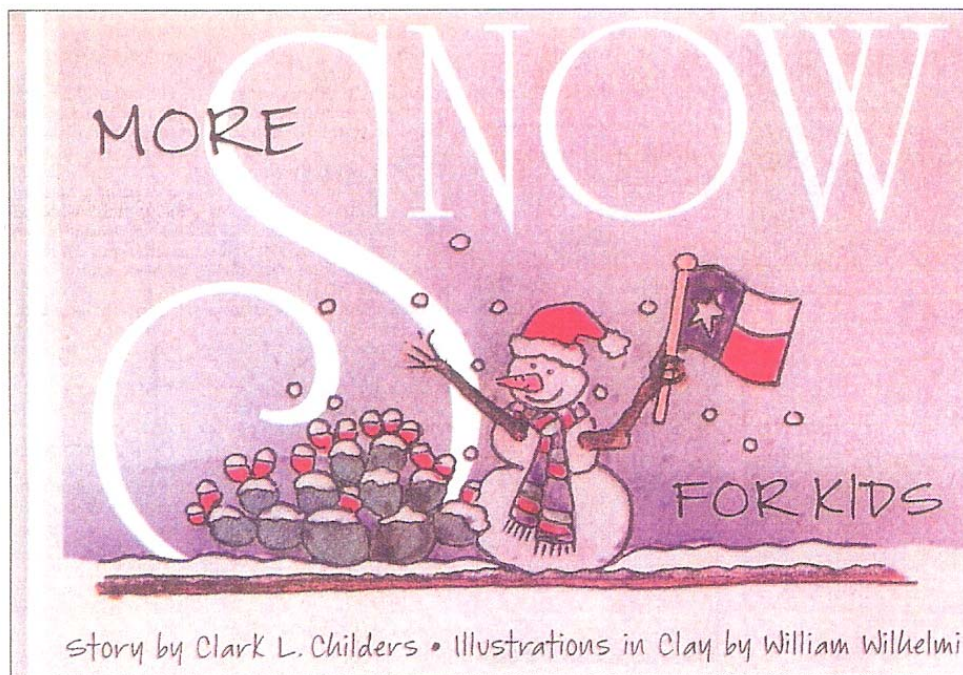
They thought of the large amount of pictures that would be taken that night and the next morning by people living in the "snow field" of South Texas, or the area from Dallas to Victoria down to the Rio Grande Valley, Kathryn said.

Kathryn created RedCab Publishing and worked with H-E-B to collect photos that captured the meteorological event.

H-E-B held a photo contest in 2005, and the winning entries and others were compiled to make the first volume, "Snow."

Then, in 2006, another contest was held and the second volume, "More Snow," and a children's book, "More Snow for Kids," were created.

The first book, "Snow," contains more photos of nature, and the second "More Snow," contains more ranch scenes and scenes from the Rio Grande Valley — or a more Texas feel, Kathryn said.



Courtesy image

The book "Snow" focused on the Christmas snowfall of 2004, two sequels "More Snow" and "More Snow for Kids," are now available.

Clark, a screenwriter, wrote the story in rhyme for the children's book, and renowned potter William Wilhelm of Corpus Christi created the illustrations for the children's book on clay tablets, Kathryn said, giving the book a "warm, homemade cookie feeling."

The three books make a complete set, and can be published at H-E-B grocery stores in Texas, with proceeds

from sales this holiday season going toward H-E-B's Year of Literacy efforts, and their goal is to raise \$40,000.

Proceeds from the sales of the first volume in 2005 totaled \$20,000 and went to a naturalist project in Rockport, Kathryn said.

"Everyone you talk to — I have not yet to talk to a single person that said this wasn't one of the most memorable events in their lives," Kathryn said.

Today — H-E-B on 613 Expressway 83, Harlingen from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Sunday — H-E-B on 1103 Morgan, Harlingen from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"Snow: The South Texas Christmas Miracle 2004" — \$14.96
"More Snow" — \$14.96
"More Snow for Kids" — \$11.21
"Snow Carols — Songs to remember for the South Texas Christmas Miracle" commemorative CD by Garcia/Garcia — \$8.98

If books are unavailable at an H-E-B location, go to www.texasnowbook.com for more information.