



Memories of '04 continue in *More Snow: The South Texas Christmas Miracle*, Vol. 2.



More Snow For Kids: The True Story of the South Texas Christmas Miracle will go on sale this fall.

South Texas snow, FOR KIDS

Two new books tell about the South Texas '04 miracle

BY CASSANDRA HINOJOSA
Caller Times

The snowmen have vanished and the white stuff has long since melted, but the spirit of Christmas 2004 will live on forever in the hearts of Coastal Bend residents who witnessed the moment.

Many memories are shared in the photo book, "Snow: The South Texas Christmas Miracle 2004," which was published by Kathryn Childers, released in late October 2005 and sold more than 50,000 copies.

"Those 10,000 (copies) were gone by the first of November (2005), so we reprinted and reprinted and in those three months, it sold better than Harry Potter in this region," Childers said.

Now two more books in the collection will be available in local H-E-B stores in the fall in time for Christmas — "More Snow: The South Texas Christmas Miracle Vol. 2" and "More Snow For Kids: The True Story of the South Texas Christmas Miracle."

"More Snow For Kids" was written by Childers' son, Clark Childers, an entertainment industry writer in Los Angeles, who was in town the night it snowed. Illustrations were done by local artist William Wilhelm.

Clark Childers, 27, visited last month to help facilitate the project and meet with Wilhelm. Childers has penned other children's projects, but "More Snow for Kids" is his first published work for little ones.

The children's book "includes" drawing illustrations, clay work, photography and literature," Childers said.

The 44-page book tells the story of the snowy Christmas Eve night in rhyme.

"You can read it in five minutes and



William Wilhelm works on an illustration for the book, *More Snow For Kids: The True Story of the South Texas Christmas Miracle*.

tell a whole story," he said.

Once the story was written, it went to Wilhelm, a local ceramist whose works have received national attention and have been shown at the Smithsonian's Renwick Gallery in Washington, D.C., and in New York City. Wilhelm had never done a book illustration.

"Bill's famous in this town as an artist. He's an international leg.



Clark L. Childers has authored the 44-page book that tells the story of the snowy Christmas Eve night in rhyme.

end," said Kathryn Childers, who has known Wilhelm since 1973.

Instead of drawing on paper, Wilhelm scratched the images onto a glazed clay tile, which helped create the illusion of depth, and natural pigments were painted onto the piece, producing

More see BOOK 1E



ABOUT THE BOOK

"More Snow: The South Texas Christmas Miracle Vol. 2" will sell for \$14.95 and "More Snow For Kids: The True Story of the South Texas Christmas Miracle" will sell for \$11.21 at H-E-B stores throughout Texas this fall.

SNOW EXHIBIT

On Oct. 31, an exhibit featuring the 44 clay tiles used by William Wilhelm to illustrate "More Snow For Kids: The True Story of the South Texas Christmas Miracle" will be on display during Community Day, the grand reopening of the Art Museum of South Texas. The display will be on the Johnson building first floor. Children will design clay tiles and can have their books signed.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

"More Snow for Kids" author Clark Childers, who moved to Los Angeles three years ago to become a screenwriter, happened to be in Corpus Christi when it snowed in 2004.

Childers just finished the screenplays, "The Service," based on his mother, Kathryn Childers' life in the Secret Service and "Stay the Tempest," based on his grandmother's (Leura P. Childers) love about the Galveston hurricane of 1900.

He has written other children's stories, including "Sally the Dog" and "The Clowns of Floor Color Plot" about Clowns Who Care, a local group of 23 women who dress as clowns and play weekly visits to sick children at Oriscott Children's Hospital.

SNOW SONG

Song to be sold in conjunction with "More Snow for Kids: The True Story of the South Texas Christmas Miracle."

The brother-and-sister duo GarciaGarcia made up of Sally Garcia (formerly Sally Kaveze) and Ruben Garcia, who lives in Nashville, have co-written a song with Clark Childers that will be offered in conjunction with the book "More Snow for Kids: The True Story of the South Texas Christmas Miracle."

The 4-minute song is titled "Let the Snow Fall on South Texas" and was recorded in Nashville at Red Horse Records.

The single, which combines classical and country guitar, mandolin, sleigh bells and some Spanish lyrics, will be available online at garciagarciamusic.com and redhorserecords.com.

Sally Garcia plans to keep the cost under \$5 to make it a stocking stuffer. GarciaGarcia also plans to record a Spanish version of the song.

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Instead of drawing on paper, William Wilhelm scratched the images onto a glazed clay tile, which helped create the illusion of depth, and natural pigments were painted onto the piece, which later became a book illustration.



Illustrator William Wilhelm (from left), publisher Kathryn Childers and author Clark L. Childers go over a dummy of the book last month at the Wilhelm/Holland Gallery.

BOOK FROM 1E

whimsical and vibrant images. At first, the team worried that the designed clay tiles wouldn't be flat enough to be scanned for the book, but the images transferred with no problem.

"They ... gave me the pages that had the part of the story and the photographs that would go with the story. I would use those as inspirations to create the drawings," Wilhelm said.

The clay process used by Wilhelm took about a week to complete and included time for the clay to be dried, fired in a 2,300-degree kiln, glazed and then drawn on. After Wilhelm created the image on the glazed tile, he then refired it. In all, Wilhelm used 250 pounds of clay for the project.

"His drawings are like the mortar that really ties (the book) together," Clark Childers said. "When you have these random photographs, they don't really stick together. (The illustrations) lead you through the story."

Kathryn Childers refers to the project as "heaven sent" because all fell into place despite the fact the books were the first she had published.

She said she was able to get the job done within a "five-mile radius" from her office.

"Everybody told me (I)



Author Clark L. Childers describes the illustrations by William Wilhelm as the mortar that ties the book together.

couldn't do it financially without going overseas without printing in China or Japan and I just wasn't willing to do that," Childers said. "I just felt it was a lame-duck project that needed to be done."

"Thousands of amateur and professional South Texas photographers, Growwald Printing which printed the books, and sponsor H-E-B were involved."

"H-E-B has really been our partner because they not only hosted the contest to collect the pictures, but they then agreed to distribute the book and essentially helped me get the story out there by selling the

books," she said.

From the sales of the first book, \$20,000 was donated to Aransas First, a nonprofit environmental group. A portion of both new books sold through the holidays will benefit H-E-B's Literacy Program.

"(The snow) is the first really wonderful thing I have heard repeated and repeated as probably one of the most significant moments in (the community's) lives that they'll never forget," she said.

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