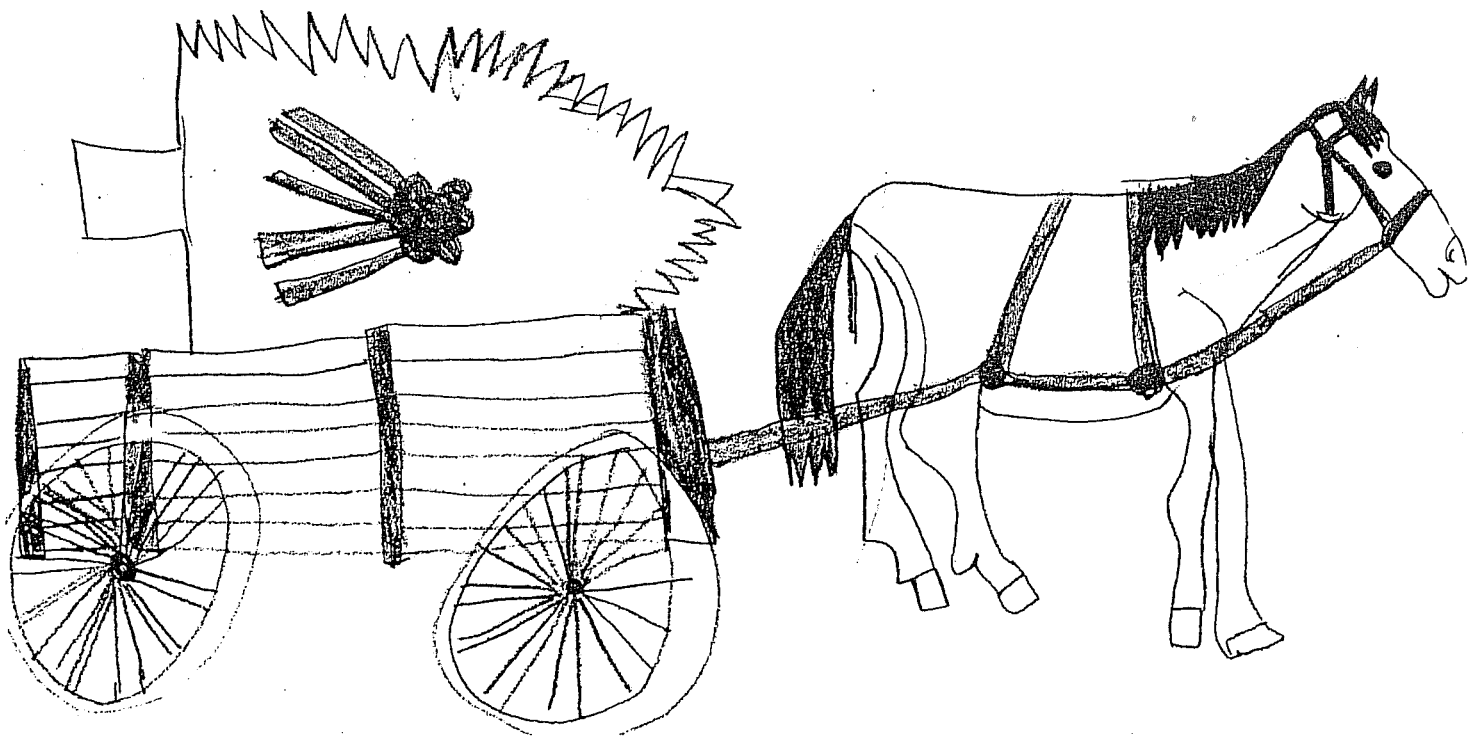


The Traveling Tree

Written and Illustrated by:

Mrs. Young's Third Grade Students
Bridle Creek Elementary School



The Traveling Tree

*Written and Illustrated by:
Mrs. Katrina Young's
Third Grade Class
Bridle Creek Elementary School*

Kayla Brewer

Mary Cunningham

Jason Dye

Aaron Groves

Beth Kirk

Kimberly Paisley

Caysee Perkins

Sierra Southard

Collin Young

Henry John Crede

Ethan Darnell

Autumn Foore

Cheryse Hall

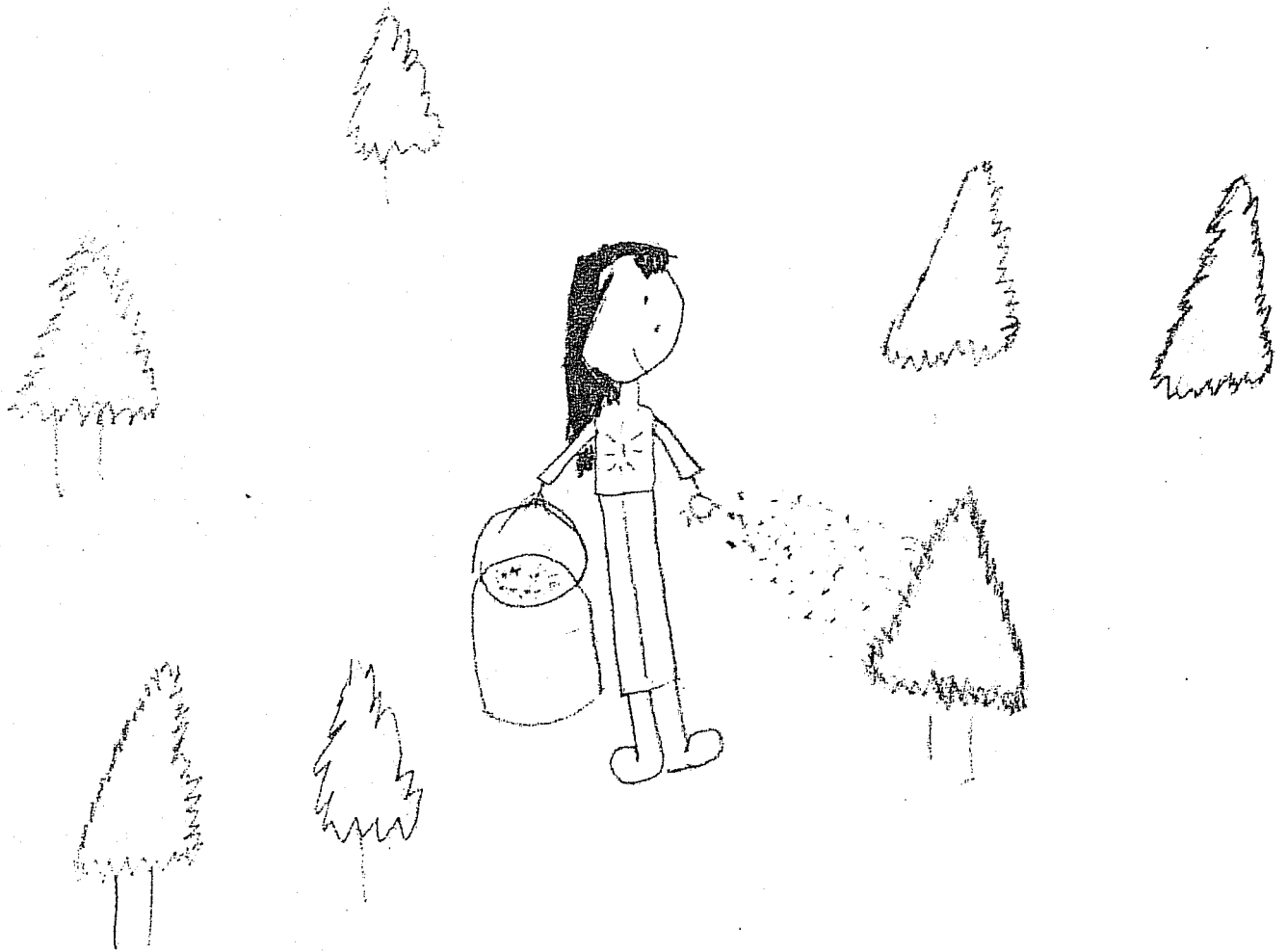
Kalynn Kirk

Tyler Payne

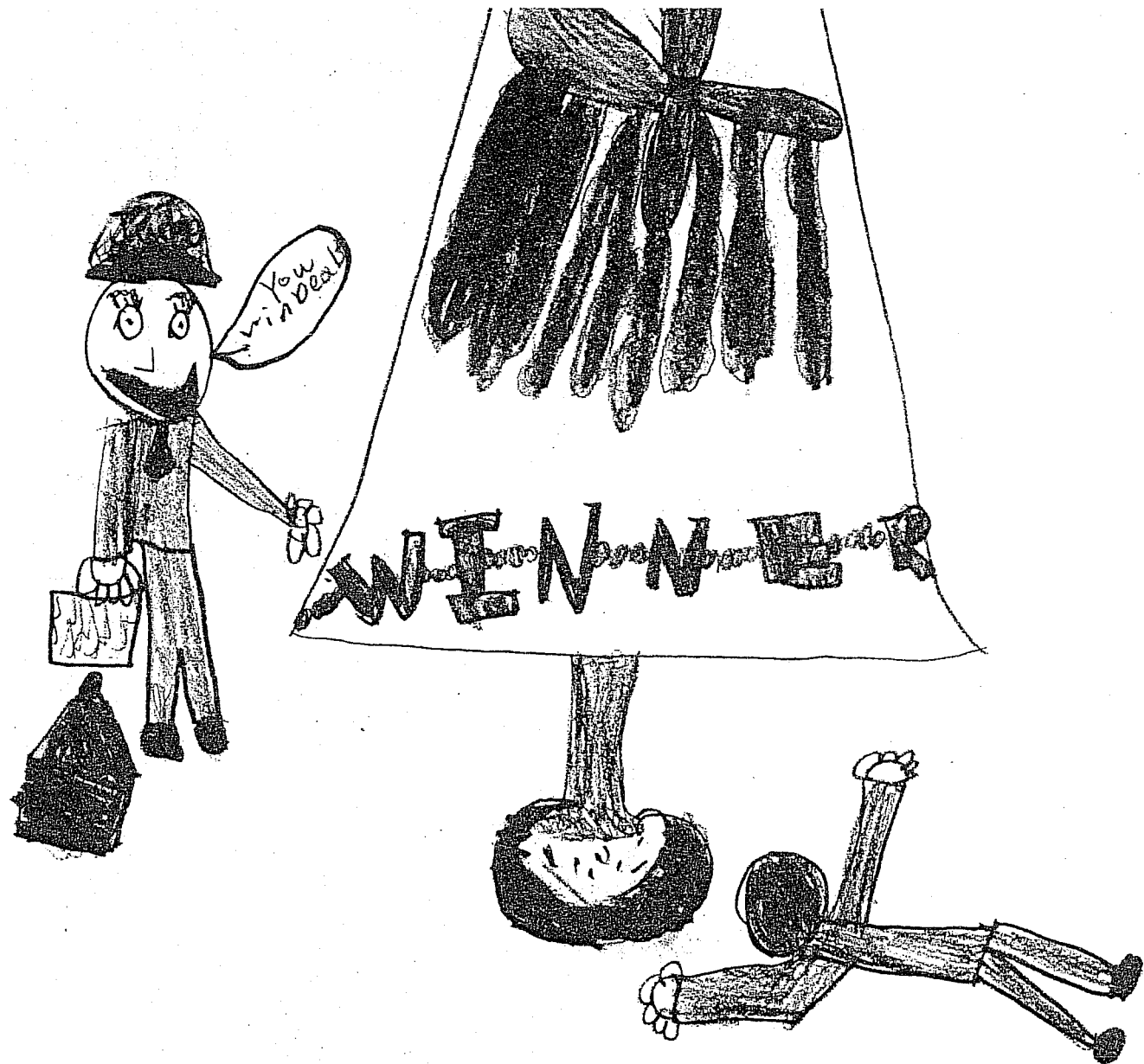
Jessie Roten

Christopher Weaver

We would like to give our thanks to Earl and Betsy Deal for sharing their special story with us. And to Mrs. Eileen Elrod for putting this project together.



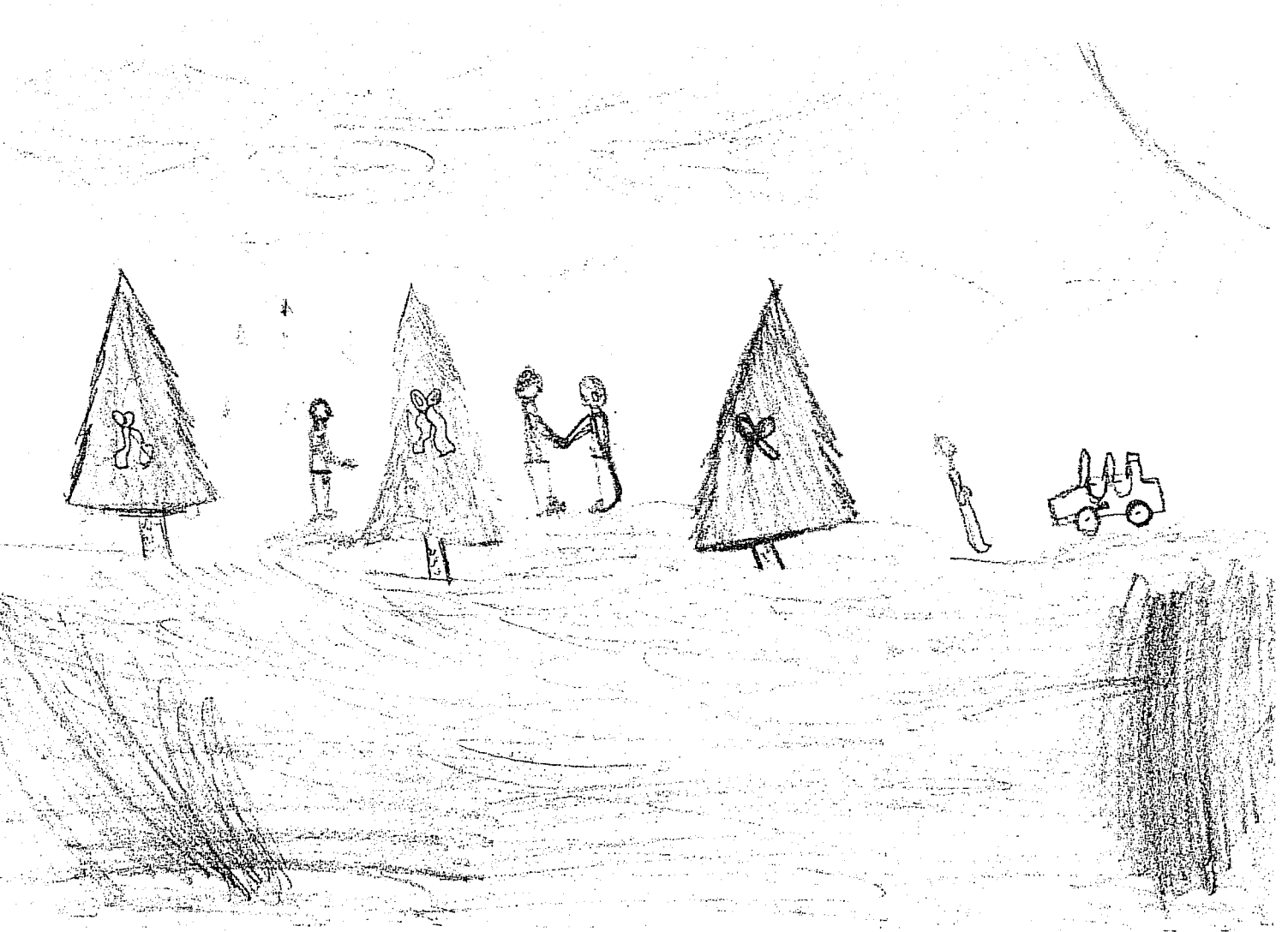
One chilly morning there was a small Fraser Fir tree growing on a Christmas tree farm in North Carolina. While the small tree was growing, the Deal family cared for it. The tree grew taller and wider, until it was very big. After 20 years, the tree was almost 18 feet tall.



One day in the year 2004, the Deal family traveled to Mt. Harmony, PA. There a national Christmas tree competition was being held. The judges looked for the most beautiful tree. A tree from the Deal's farm, Smokey Holler, won, and was named the Grand National winner! Now the Deals had the honor to take a Christmas tree to the White House.



The Deals had a special Fraser Fir tree in mind to take to the White House. But it still needed time to grow. So they chose to wait until the following year for their tree to be the nation's Christmas tree.



On October 20, 2005 a large gathering of people met at the Smokey Holler Christmas Tree Farm. In addition to the Deal family, there were politicians, reporters, and White House representatives who came to check out the trees. They were in search of three trees. One tree would be for the White House Blue Room, one tree for the Oval Office, and one tree for the Bush's private residence. The Deals had tagged their special tree in hopes that it would be chosen for the Blue Room.



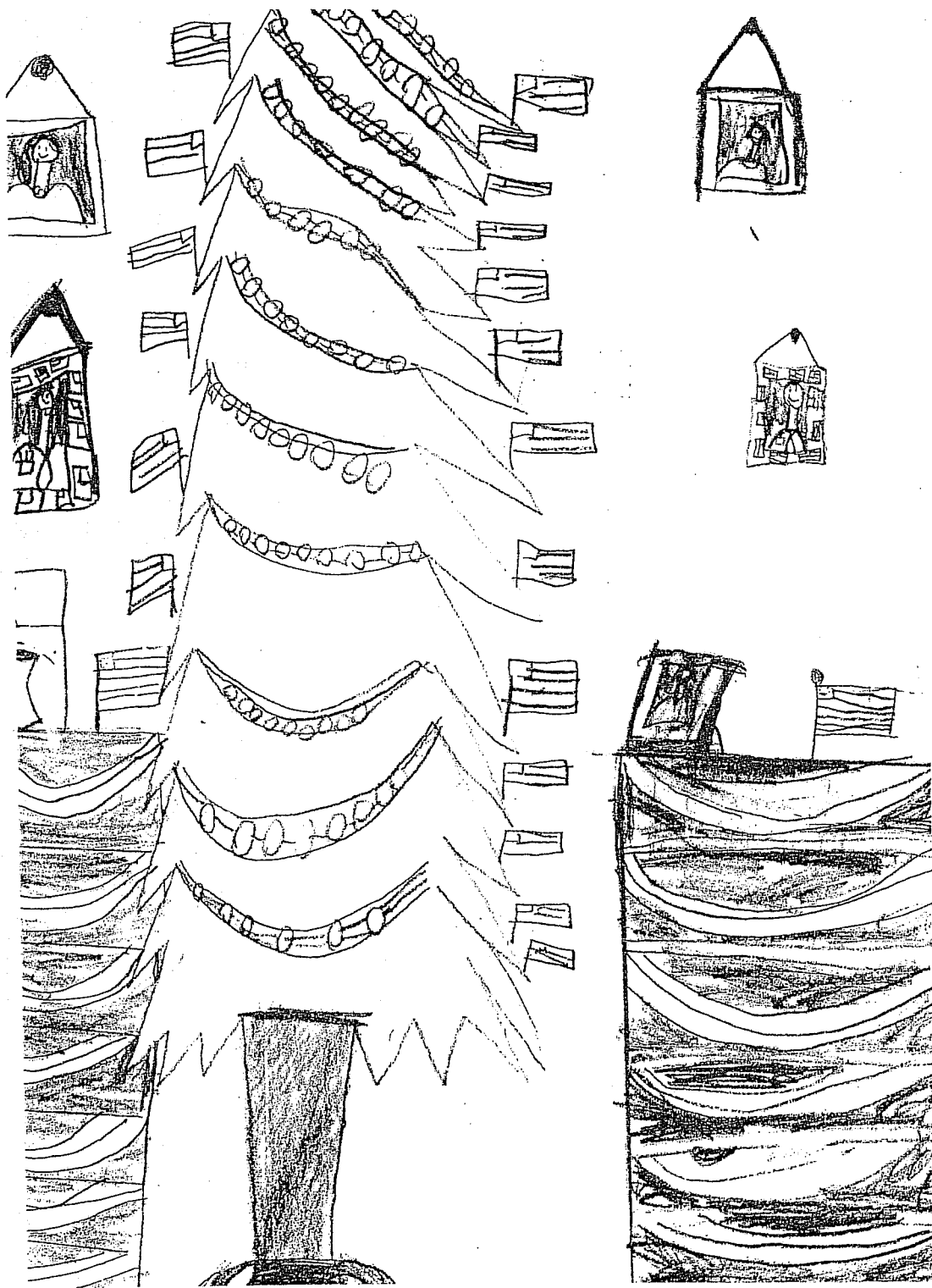
It was very exciting having White House representatives looking for the most gorgeous tree. Finally, White House Chief Usher Gary Walters, and Grounds Foreman Mike Lawn, placed a red, white, and blue ribbon on the Deal's special tree. The small Fraser Fir tree had grown to become the White House Christmas tree!



On a clear November day they worked to cut the tree down, but there was a big rock in the way! As they cut the tree, the rock made the blades on the chainsaws go dull. It took five chain saws to finally cut it down! Then it took ten people to carry the tree to the truck. The beautifully painted truck was provided by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture. The trees were now on their way to the White House!



When the trees arrived at the White House, the special tree was placed in a horse drawn wagon. Two horses pulled the wagon, and the special tree was presented to Mrs. Bush in front of the White House.



The trees were taken into the White House. The special tree was set up in the Blue Room. Volunteers, including the Deals, decorated the tree. Visitors enjoyed the special tree throughout the Christmas season!

The Authors & Illustrators



Kayla Brewer



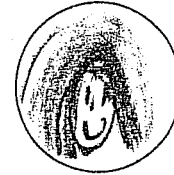
Henry John
Crede



Mary Beth
Cunningham



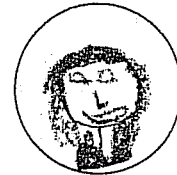
Ethan Darnell



Autumn Foore



Aaron Groves



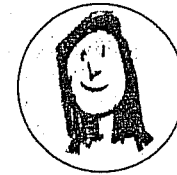
Cheryse Hall



Beth Kirk



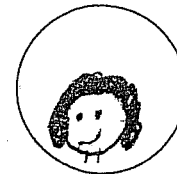
Kalynn Kirk



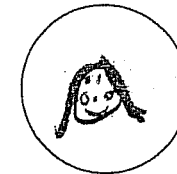
Kimberly Paisley



Tyler Payne



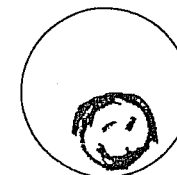
Caysee Perkins



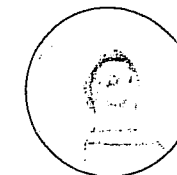
Sierra Southard



Jessie Roten



Jason Dye



Christopher
Weaver



Collin Young

Presentation of Blue Room Christmas Tree

Mrs. Bush... On behalf of our Family, our Friends who support us every day, and all of The Christmas Tree Growers in North Carolina and the Nation, we present this Gift of God, to You, the President and The People of the United States.

It is our hope that you can picture this Friend of Man growing on a Hill Top Overlooking the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina, where it has been tended And nurtured for the past 24 years in Anticipation of it becoming, the centerpiece Of someone's Celebration of Christ's Birth And Our Salvation.

It is our wish that it will be viewed as a Symbol of Hope, Joy and Peace by Everyone who passes by it.

Earl, Betsy, Buddy and Meg Deal
On the Occasion of the Presentation of
The Blue Room Christmas Tree, The White House
November 28, 2005

Third Grade Class at Bridle Creek School wish to thank

Betsy and Earl Deal
For sharing the story

Mount Rogers Area Christmas Tree Growers Assoc., Inc
For funding to print the story

Mrs. Katrina Young
For making learning fun

