



# News ON THE Move

*Christmas Tree Edition 2006*

*Volume 10*

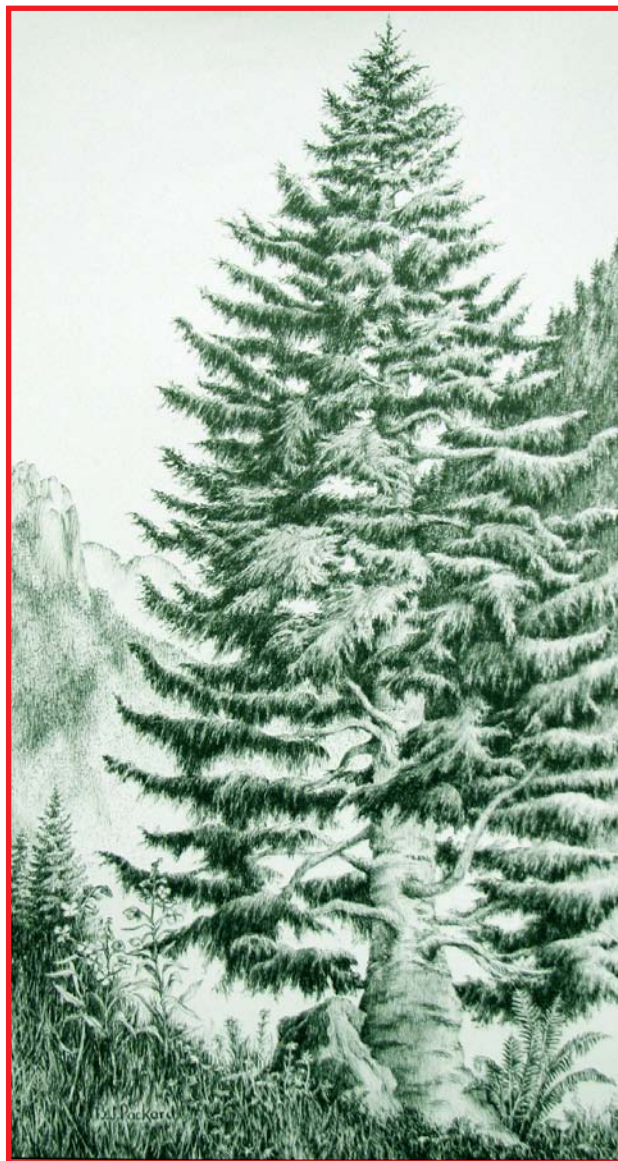
## *Capitol Christmas Tree - 2006*

National Van Lines was once again selected to transport the Capitol Christmas Tree which will stand on display this holiday season on the west front lawn of Capitol Hill, facing the Washington Monument. The tree was cut Nov. 1 from a site in the Olympic National Forest in Washington State, and then journeyed to the "other Washington" on a specially designed, extendable trailer.

Olympia artist Barbara Joslin Packard was selected to draw the 2006 Capitol Christmas tree, and she created this finely detailed, ink and pen drawing of the 65-foot Pacific silver fir. Packard, 79, is a lifelong artist and nature lover whose portfolio of oils, watercolors, ink and woodcuts is full of nature scenes of places she has visited and lived, from the Enchanted Valley in the Olympic Mountains to Portage Glacier in Alaska to almond trees in bloom in Spain.

The Olympic National Forest selection committee chose Packard to be the national Christmas tree artist based on a review of her work. This past August, she was escorted to the tree and spent an hour alone with

it, making sketches and soaking in the nuances of the tree and its surrounding habitat.



She named the portrait "Mist in the Valley," and also created a poem about the tree, which was read at the reception in DC honoring the sponsors of this year's event. It's clear that she had a tinge of regret that the tree's life had to end. "I enjoy being connected to that tree," she said. "I still see it in its natural setting."

The tree traveled to the nation's Capitol covered by a tarp and kept hydrated on a the flatbed truck provided by National Van Lines. Before the cross-country journey, the tree stopped in communities across Washington state for some mini-celebrations.

Packard's original portrait will be framed and presented to Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth to hang in his Washington, D.C., office. A poster has

been created of the print and is available on the official site - [www.capitolchristmastree2006.org](http://www.capitolchristmastree2006.org)





The tree was cut in the Olympic National Forest on November 1st.



The cut tree was supported by crane and then transferred to the flat bed trailer.



Until we could get the tree down the mountain, the flat bed was not extended full length.



Here the additional span was added to the trailer.



A view from the tip of the tree as the tarp is positioned over the framing on the flat bed.



Gordy Grove, Roger Harl, Dan Giles (Fontaine Trailer) and Mark Savage (US Forest Service) plot the cross-country course.



## PASSING THROUGH THE NATION'S HEARTLAND



Willie Perry, New Products Driver of the Year 2004, handled the ornaments and companion trees.



Gordy Grove, Washington State resident, hauled the "Big Tree."







## This Tractor/Trailer



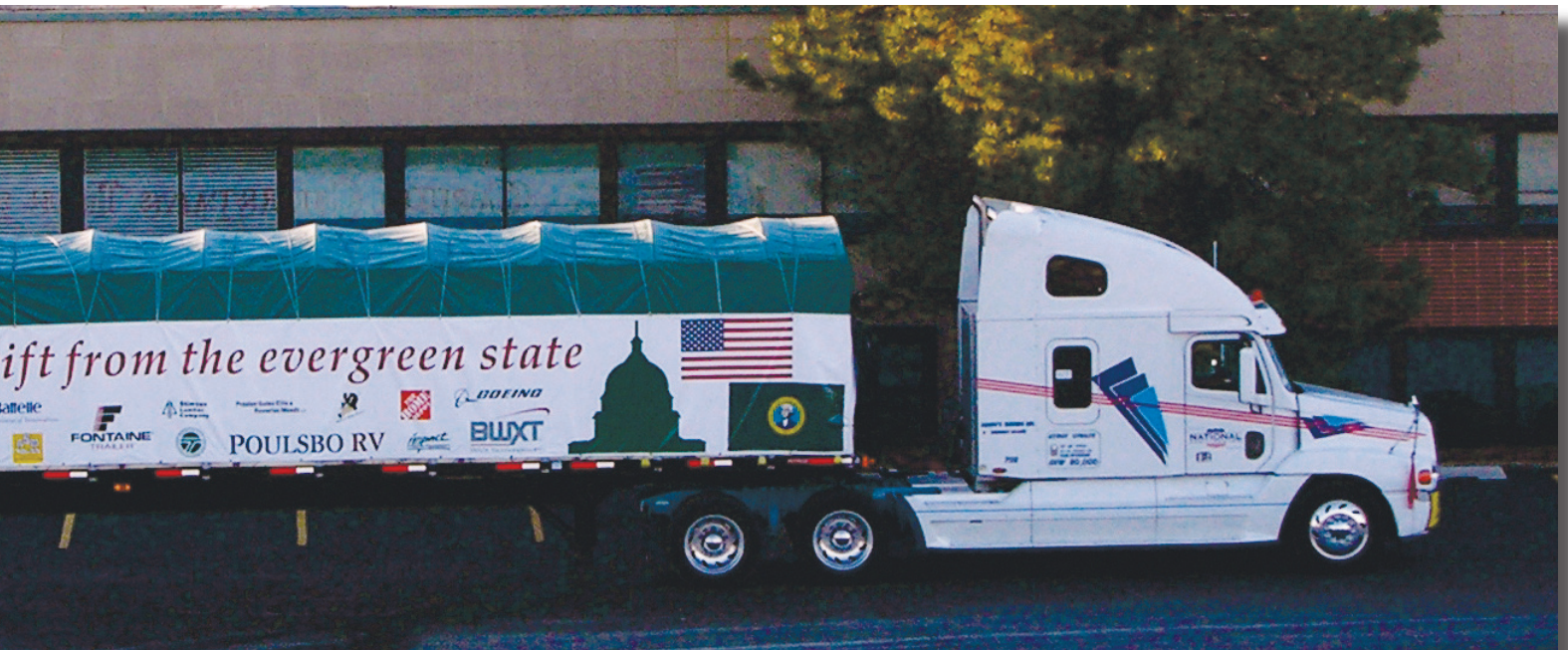
Maureen Beal thanks  
Gordy Grove for  
transporting the tree.



National Van Lines employees get a photo  
opportunity with the tree.

*On Wednesday, November 22nd, the tree arrived in Broadview Illinois, where National Van Lines employees and honored guests greeted the caravan.*





**is 95' Long!**



3rd and 4th Graders  
from the Chicago  
Choir Academy  
Charter School  
added a joyful touch  
to the program.



Maureen and Gordy  
were interviewed by  
Charlie Wojciechowski,  
NBC News Chicago. We  
were featured at 4, 6  
and 10 PM.







The last stop before entering DC was the 4-H Center in Chevy Chase, Maryland.



Willie Perry at the 4-H Center.



The tree arrives at the Capitol lawn before daybreak.



The 65' Pacific Silver Fir being set up on the west lawn.





The crew uses a crane to add last minute touches to the ornaments the day before the lighting ceremony.



Dick Scaffa, Gordy Grove, Maureen Beal, Roger Harl and Mike Yost in front of the Illinois column of the WWII Memorial.



Twilight - just before the lighting ceremony.



## *The Lighting Ceremony*



Micah with his parents, Chief Petty Officer, Alvin Joe and Mom, Jennifer.

Continuing a tradition begun in 1964, the 2006 Capitol Christmas Tree was lit by out-going Speaker of the House, Dennis Hastert (R-IL) and 8-year old Micah Joe, Tracytown Elementary School student. Micah was selected in special drawing conducted by Washington State of all the students who contributed the 3000 handmade ornaments

that were used to decorate the Capitol tree, and the companion trees which were delivered to the various Capitol Hill offices.

"It is so wonderful and such an honor to be here tonight in the nation's capital as we light what we all believe from the other end of the country is the best holiday tree ever," Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) said at the event. "I am very proud of everyone in my home state who helped make this happen - all of our staffs who worked so hard; everyone who helped bring this tree out here; everyone who has worked incredibly hard, especially the young children who helped decorate this tree. So, tonight we share with the nation what makes our state so spectacular: a bit of our spirit, a holiday tree."

Alan Hantman, the architect of the Capitol, praised National Van Lines' driver Gordy Grove in recognizing the private sector support of the Capitol Christmas Tree project. In lighting the tree, Hastert reminded the crowd of the origin of the holiday, "As we go into this Christmas season and begin the celebration with our family and friends, I would hope that this year we spend time reflecting on the true reason for the season of Christmas."

The lighting ceremony was followed by a reception at the Botanical Gardens, where "First Mike," husband of Washington State Governor, Christine Gregoire, once again recognized Gordy Grove and National Van Lines for their contribution to the project.

According to Maureen Beal, "The whole experience was rewarding, and it was such an honor to be selected to serve for a second time. I am proud of our drivers, and it was wonderful to see them personally recognized for their part in this project."



### **NEWS ON THE MOVE**

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