



Wheelchair-bound youngster participates last year.

## *BEDRIDDEN CHILDREN WILL WIELD BRUSHES IN BEAUTIFYING PROJECT*

Four years ago artist Ed Massey started "the most rewarding project anyone can ever be involved with" — decorating the Beverly Hills oil tower.

Bedridden children at an Escondido hospital are taking part in the project.

When the nearly \$1 million "Project 9865" — named for the address of the 165-foot tower — is completed in November, it will brighten the neighborhood and the lives of those who worked on the project, Massey said.

Thousands of hospitalized children are creating colorful panels that will encapsulate the tower, which can be seen by some 20 million cars on nearby freeways, as well as Beverly Hills residents who pass the gray structure every year.

"We will visit every hospital in the state (of California) that has a pediatric unit and invite every child to participate," said Massey, who founded the project with brother Bernie Massey.

Last week, Ed Massey, equipped with paint brushes and panels, stopped at **Palomar Medical Center** to get the local touch by at least three children confined to their beds.

"The are all excited about this," said Tamara Shackelton, a spokeswoman for the Palomar Pomerado Health System, which oversees the Escondido hospital.

Massey even has special tools, such as telescopic paintbrushes for children confined to wheelchairs, and brushes extending from a special sneaker (sponsored by Nike) for children who have lost a limb.

San Francisco-based Dinwiddie Construction agreed to disassemble and reassemble some 100 panels from the tower. The law firm of **Pillsbury Madison & Sutro** will do legal work pro bono.

When the project is finished, it will be the largest monument in the Western United States created by children.

— Marion Webb