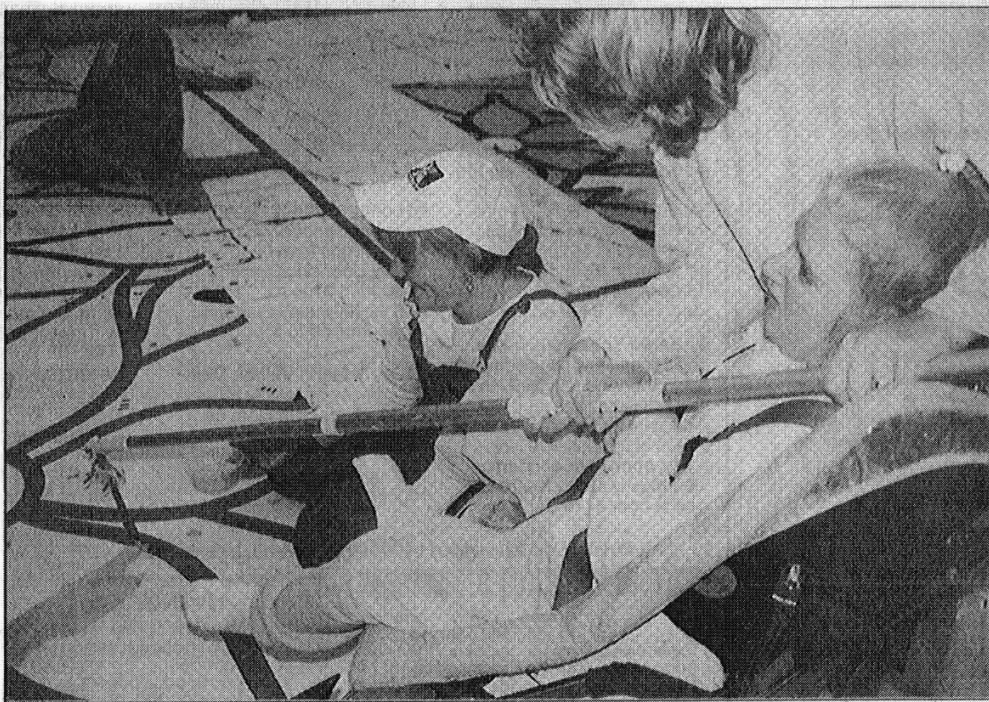


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Worth noting/*Creative therapy program*



ANDREA MAURIO/NEWS-PRESS

Cottage Hospital patient Chantelle Southward (in wheelchair) receives help from volunteers on painting project.

Young patients help create art project

Pediatric care patients at Cottage Hospital in Santa Barbara took part last week in the creation of what eventually will be a huge piece of art.

As part of a creative therapy program called Project 9865, the youngsters painted individual floral panels that will cover a 165-foot oil tower in Beverly Hills that organizers claim to be the largest monument in the western United States.

Each side of the tower will represent one of the four seasons, transforming the monument into a colorful collaboration and a tribute to the legacy

of the children who helped create it.

According to Susan Nassberg of Project 9865, the tower is 13 feet taller than the Statue of Liberty and has three times the painting surface area of the Sistine Chapel ceiling in Rome.

Project 9865 involves tens of thousands of California children and is part of a larger creative therapy program called Portraits of Hope, a program aimed at enhancing the quality of life for hospitalized children and seniors at adult care centers.