



PAINTING THE TOWN—Brothers and Beverly alumni Ed and Bernie Massey paint a panel of the oil derrick with a hospitalized child.

PAINTING THE Oil derrick

By ASHLEY DALEY

With the absence of the usual noise and activity of physical education classes, the east gym was transformed into a site for artistic expression and community involvement through volunteer work several weeks ago.

Beverly students had the opportunity to participate in painting base coats on two of the 100 panels that will cover the oil derrick adjacent to Beverly's track and to make get well cards for the hospitalized children who will be painting a flowered pattern on the panels.

"We travel all over and wondered when we were going to come back to Beverly," Beverly alumnus Ed Massey who, along with his brother Bernie, developed the project. "Beverly students get to see the fruits of all the labor of all the kids throughout the state."

Bernie Massey echoed his brother's sentiments regarding the significance of bringing the project to Beverly.

"There are 200 schools across the state that are participating [in the project] and Beverly will be the school that is the recipient of this incredible monument," Bernie Massey said.

Students were able to participate from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. March 30 for community service credit. Several teachers brought their classes to the gym during the day to paint, color and write get well messages.

"When we're running on the track, we'll look up and see the tower and when we're going to Century City with our friends we'll see the tower," said freshman Donna Pouladian, who was involved with bringing the project to Beverly. "The tower will be everywhere."

The panels Beverly students put base coats on are two of the largest on the derrick and are a part of the spring season floral motif which will face Olympic Boulevard, according to Bernie Massey. One of the four seasons will be represented on each side of the derrick.

"Every [hospitalized] child who participates in the project gets ten get well cards," Bernie Massey said. "There are 4,000 kids in hospitals [that will participate] and we need to make 40,000 cards."

"The cards from students at Beverly where the tower is [located] is really going to be something

Please see OIL DERRICK, page 2

Highlights

Vol. 72 No. 17

BEVERLY HILLS HIGH SCHOOL

Friday, May 7, 1999



PORTRAIT OF THE ARTISTS—History teacher Leonard Stern's class decorates get-well cards for the hospitalized children who will paint Beverly's oil derrick.

Oil derrick panels come to Beverly for students to paint

Continued from page 1

special for these kids because it makes [the project] tangible for them."

The cards are mixed up geographically meaning that cards colored by Beverly students will end up all over the state, Bernie Massey said. The cards are imprinted with a black outline of the flower that will be seen on the panels.

Messages written in the cards from Beverly students included the following:

"I truly admire your bravery for dealing with something so hard. Just remember to have fun whenever you can and to smile a lot...My thoughts are with you."

"Life is beautiful. Cherish. Enjoy."

"Every time I look at the tower I'll think of you."

Panels painted with base coats in Southern California will likely go to hospitals in Northern Califor-

nia, according to Ed Massey. The brothers will visit any hospital, even if there is only one child who wants to paint there.

"We're about halfway done with the painting process right now," Bernie Massey said. "We are either in a hospital or school or with a youth group every day. We expect that the installation will take place before the end of the year."

The project first began four years ago, according to Ed Massey.

The 100 old panels will be taken down at the same time the 100 new panels are put up. One hundred and twenty ton cranes will be used to exchange the panels, Ed Massey said. Dinwiddie Construction, the builders of the Getty Museum, has donated funds to install the panels.

The Masseys are currently looking into taking up similar projects in other states as well as in countries in Africa and Asia. Ed Massey is hoping the oil derrick

project will generate interest that would allow for other such projects.

The Massey brothers previously visited Beverly Hills elementary schools where students there were involved with the project by painting base coats and coloring cards.

Social studies teacher Leonard Stern has been involved with the project for two years.

"Since I teach under the shadow of the oil derrick [Room 112] what better person [than me] to get involved," Stern, who has visited hospitals with the Masseys, said.

"We go to hospitals with art, music and balloons," Stern said. "It's like a big party. This [the project] is really inspiring to get well."

"We take for granted the Beverly Hills' community, but to them it's like 'Wow I painted something in Beverly Hills.' That's a big event [for them]."