

Hospital Second Home to Family



GETTING THE WORD . . . Cast members of the Torrance Recreation Department's production of "Hansel and Gretel" are pictured here as they check out scripts for the production. Lori Hansen, assistant director, and Mel Grubb, who will direct the play, hand out scripts to Ken Krech, 12; Marilyn Jones, 14; and Mike Ferraro, 8. "Hansel and Gretel" which features a cast of 60 youngsters, will play at the Torrance Recreation Center Aug. 18, 19 and 20.

(Press-Herald Photo)

"When I was born, I was supposed to be a boy. Then to confuse things further, I arrived on April Fools Day," said Mrs. Diego Burrola, who was born at Torrance Memorial Hospital 32 years ago—the feminine half of fraternal twins.

"Since then I've made 26 trips to the hospital in 32 years, and Torrance Memorial seems like a second home to me and my family," she added.

Mrs. Burrola, a Harbor City resident, said that her family's close relationship with the hospital began on April Fools Day in 1935 when she and her twin brother were born. Richard and Virginia, as the twins were named by their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Cruz Mora, had a combined weight of 14 pounds, 11 ounces which was the hospital's heavyweight record at that time.

EVEN AS newborn infants," laughs Mrs. Burrola, we caused a stir at the hospital.

"It seems my brother preceded me into the world by 30 minutes. One nurse congratulated Dad on his new son and a different nurse brought news of a daughter," she said. The excited father somehow failed to understand he had two babies and decided the hospital was play-

ing an April Fools joke on him. He went to the reception desk, demanded they return his son, or he would call the police.

About then, the doctor who delivered the babies came to the waiting room to offer his congratulations. He was able to convince Mora no one was joking and, in fact, that twins had been born.

IN 1953, Virginia Mora married Diego Burrola, a mechanic working for the Harvey Aluminum Co. During her next nine years, she made four trips to Torrance Memorial for the births of her children—Catherine, 1954; Diego, 1956; Carlos, 1960; and Andres, 1962. Richard Mora, Virginia's twin, married in 1952. All five of his children (one is now deceased) were born at the hospital. They are: Richard Jr., 14; Burdnadette, 12; Cecelia, 11, and Mario, 9.

Two more children in the senior Mora family are their eldest son, Cruz Jr., 34, and Lilly, 18, the youngest and only child still living at the 5; Monica, 3; and Roseann, 25th St., Harbor City.

had to have his eyes covered with a black patch for five days, had only one concern. He didn't want to miss his next scheduled Little League game. Diego is second baseman for the Angels in the Harbor City Little League. His dad, Diego Sr., is the team's coach.

Doctors said it would be impossible for Diego to be out of the hospital in time to play in the game, so his team rashly promised to win it especially for him.

And they did. It was a cliff-hanger 10 to 9, but the Angels handed Diego the win they promised him.

DOCTORS at Torrance Memorial were able to save Diego's eye-sight and when he checked out of the hospital, Diego commented that he sure would miss the good food. But he was glad to go, he said, because he hoped to be allowed to play ball before summer ends.

The Burrolas hoped that was the end of their hospital visits—for awhile anyway. But fate decreed it differently and Virginia and Diego were back at Torrance Memorial in mid-July. This time their son, Carlos, 6, had minor surgery. He recuperated quickly and was back home within a week.

SANDWICHED in between the children's hospital trips, both parents have been patients at Torrance Memorial Hospital. Diego Sr. had his tonsils removed and Virginia entered for treatment of ulcers.

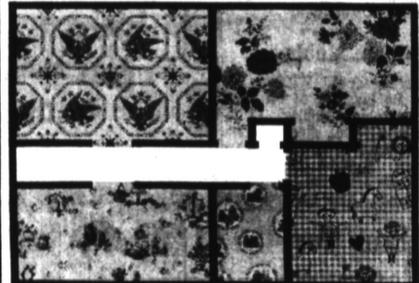
When asked if she referred to Torrance Memorial Hospital as a second home, because she's been there on so many occasions, Mrs. Burrola replied, "No, it's more than that." "I call Torrance Memorial Hospital my second home, because when I'm there . . . I feel safe."

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