

MERCED SUN-STAR

ESTABLISHED 1869

MERCED, CALIFORNIA, TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 1976

PRICE 15

Family Health Center proposed for Los Banos

A task force will be formed to try to bring health services to Los Banos patterned after the Merced Family Health Center and the Livingston Health Center.

About 50 people attended a meeting Wednesday night where Michael Sullivan, a director of the Merced Family Health Center, outlined a proposal for a county-wide system of health centers that would include a Westside center, probably to be located here.

Sullivan said the Merced group had applied for a federal grant through the

Rural Health Initiative that would give \$150,000 to Los Banos, \$200,000 to Livingston and \$300,000 to Merced.

The system provides low cost health care with fees based on the person's ability to pay. Sullivan said anyone would be eligible for the service.

A Los Banos woman who had utilized the services in Merced, talked about a recent problem:

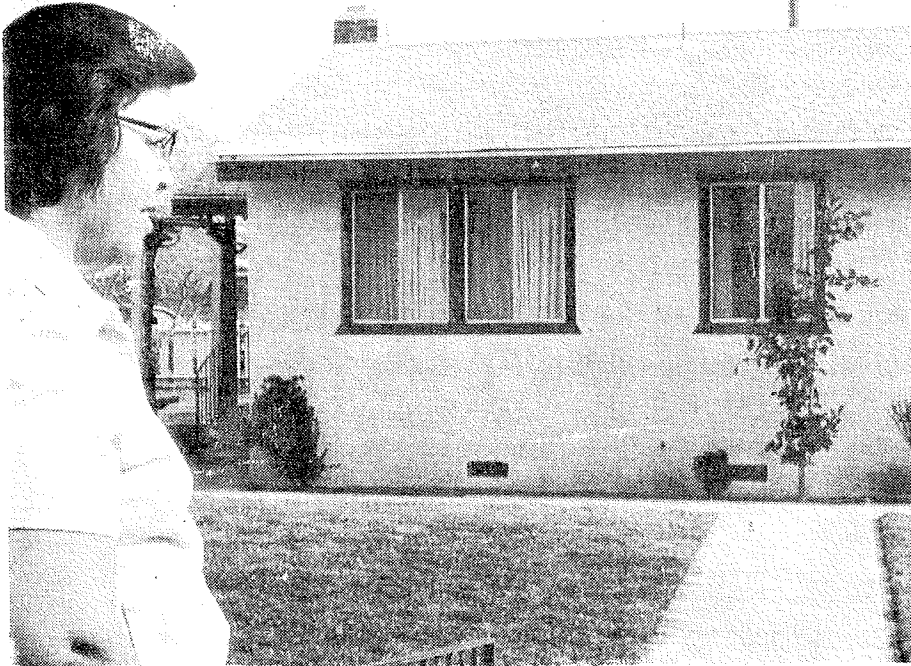
"I had a problem, a bladder infection, that needed immediate treatment. I called a local doctor, but they said I'd have a four day wait. If I'd

waited four days, I wouldn't be here now. I went to the Merced Family Health Center and was charged an initial fee of \$2. I also paid for my medicine.

"This service offers the opportunity for a person to find out immediately what is wrong. They have a lab right in the building and can get the results from tests immediately.

"I believe we have doctors (in Los Banos) who are selfish with their time and knowledge. A system (like the one in Merced) is needed in

(Continued on page 2)



BUILDING SITE — Mrs. Flora Martinez surveys the space where a 4,000-square-foot addition to the Merced Family Health Center will be built. Groundbreaking ceremonies for the low-income facility will begin at 11 a.m. Sunday at the center's Childs Avenue and N Street site in south Merced. Mrs. Martinez, treasurer for the center's board of directors, stands on the porch of the dental building facing the medical building. (Sun-Star Photo)

Set Sunday Groundbreaking For Family Health Center

Groundbreaking will be Sunday for a 4,000 - square - foot addition to the Merced Family Health Center, director Mike Sullivan has announced.

Most of the center's patients are poor, elderly, or migrant workers.

project is scheduled for October. It will cost at least \$150,000, he said, with the federal government paying \$75,000 and the center's operations providing the rest.

The festivities also will celebrate the center's first year at Childs and N, he said.

The building will link the center's dental and medical facilities at Childs Avenue and N Street in south Merced. It will contain waiting space, examination rooms, a conference room, a pharmacy and a new laboratory area, Sullivan said.

Sunday's ceremonies will last from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., he said, with refreshments, music and games. Groundbreaking will follow speeches.

Pete Cassinerio of Los Banos, chairman of the Merced County Board of Supervisors; representatives of the Merced City Council and the federal Health, Education and Welfare Department; and possibly Assemblyman John Thurman (D-Modesto) are expected to attend, the director said.

He said completion of the