

1946

The Culvers household

seen by Pirmín Trecu*

This description of the children in The Culvers colony (pictured right) first appeared in the August 1946 number of Basque Home News, produced by the Carshalton Basque Children's Association. How many of these niños do you remember?

Félix: Is hardly ever at home as he works in London and has a lot of activities at the Spanish Club, but when at home, he is a useful member of the community.

Terechu: His sister, is a good mother to us boys, and takes a great part in the running of the home when she comes back from her nursery job. She is a group leader.

Joe: A farmer and the envy of most of us for his suntanned skin. He can be a keen attendant at meetings and discussions, but is too fond of films and of going out in the evenings.

Felicianita: His sister and our shy girl, though she is now beginning to lose some of her shyness.

Coque: Is one of our artists, and the most popular boy at the home. Everyone admires his good heart and sense of humour. He is our President, and is working hard for a forthcoming exhibition.

Javier: His brother, and our shy boy. He has a good job in a garage, where he has been over two years. He cycles to Brighton regularly on Sundays to see his second brother.

Popeye: An easygoing boy. Fond of music and tennis which he practises on his return from the office in London. A regular Promenade Concert goer.

Caireles: Has lately become a part-time member of the staff, and is also an artist and has an admirable studio made from what was once a pigsty. He is Popeye's brother.

Manolita: One of our only twins now. She seems very happy as she has a position she likes. Her hobby is reading love stories, which she does by the dozen.

Paquita: Is her other half, and is a children's nurse to one of our friends. She too is taking music and practises often. She also reads a lot, but not quite in the same style as her sister's taste.

Lore: She is my sister and is taking a nursing career, hoping to go soon into a hospital. She is a very useful member of the home and helps in all there is to do.



Pirmín:* I am an art student, but hope to become a Ballet dancer at the Sadler's Wells School where I have been attending in the evenings. My only standpoint is that I never seem to be able to find a place to practise my pirouettes.

Eduardo: Is still at school. He was first in English last term! Hobbies: playing cards and other table games, at which he is quite clever.

J Luís (Crio): Also at school. Has a crippled hand, but he does however paint and draw a lot. His best friend is Coque, whom he follows all the time.

Raimundo: Is a very carefree boy who never takes anything seriously, not even his home jobs. He is very fond of flowers, though; and plans to be a grower of rare plants.

Ruben: A new member of the house, who does not talk a word of Spanish. He is a very ardent communist, and a very good person to argue with. He has already become a group leader.

Ramón: The third group leader. He is the only good actor in the home, and takes all the main parts here and in London.

Pepito: We all think that he is the dirtiest of the lot but of course he says it is because he works in a garage!

Herminio: He is a pioneer boy who has of late started a workshop with Javier. His hobby is Electrical engineering, but he works in an office.

Angelito: Joe's pal. He has discovered recently that his real love is farming. Bread rationing has been a big blow to him.

Nicolás: A newcomer too. The most "Spanish looking" of us all because of his black thick out-of-date side-whiskers.

Kerman: Our journalist; he works at Reuter's. Of a rather quiet disposition, but a good sport.

José Luís: At a boarding school in Wales. We only see him in the holidays. He is going to be a doctor.

Cesáreo: He is very worried at the moment as he is going to France to join his family and does not know how he is going to fit with them. He is one of the eldest in the home, and a very useful member of the community.

Mrs Temple: She is the oldest woman member of the staff. I don't mean in age, but in number of years having been at the home. She is, among very many other things, a marvellous cook, and we are very sorry about the flour rationing because she won't make us those lovely cakes for parties.

Laura: She has been with us for about a year as a member of the staff. She married while here and is going to have a baby. We are all very anxious about it. So, of course is:

Jerónimo: the father, who is now living with us until they can find a home of their own. He has just been demobbed.

Pepe:** Is our father, and of course, the main figure in the house. Besides doing a bit of cooking and many other things, he gives us classes in Spanish and produces our plays, and deals with the money, and so on.

* Sadly, Pirmín died on 12 July 2006.

** This is Pepe Estruch, the theatre director.