

NLV Hospital Breaks Ground For Expansion

"Building for the Future" was the theme for the festivities as North Las Vegas Hospital, 1409 E. Lake Mead Blvd. officially broke ground for expansion of its alcoholism treatment program.

The CAREUNIT is a comprehensive inpatient program, staffed by an interdisciplinary team of alcoholism professionals, including a medical

director, program coordinator, alcoholism therapists, clinical psychologist and specially trained nursing staff.

"North Las Vegas has a tradition of expanding its facilities and services to meet the needs of our growing community," states William E. Bennett, administrator. "The CAREUNIT has been an important part of the hospital and its services

for 4½ years. Beginning with only 10 beds, it has been operating at 120 percent of capacity for the last year," he goes on.

"Recently, with the help of the State Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse and the State of Nevada Department of Health Planning and Human Resources, we obtained clearance to build our new wing which will increase our

capacity to 32 beds."

Participating in the ceremonies was Governor Bob List, Congressman Jim Santini, Mayor Daines of North Las Vegas and other dignitaries.

"We are very excited about the expansion," states B. Lee Karns, President of Comprehensive Care Corporation, Newport Beach, California, which manages the CAREUNIT

for the hospital. "North Las Vegas was the first hospital in the State of Nevada which recognized the tremendous need for quality alcoholism treatment services beyond just detoxification or 'drying out.' It is still the only full service acute general hospital in Nevada offering such a program."

Among the attendees at the ceremony were

the alumni of the CAREUNIT. "These people are why we are here," says Gus Sonnenberg, Program Coordinator. "They are representatives of the almost 1000 persons who have completed our three to four week inpatient program since its inception. According to our records, close to 70 percent are staying sober and have returned to their jobs and the community as active, productive persons."

One of these people is Patty Coffeen. Patty was the 34th patient to go through the CAREUNIT. She has been sober ever since and now helps others to recover as one of the Alcoholism Therapists on the treatment team.

"Four and one-half
(See Hospital page 13)

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Fire Education

Each year, over 300,000 people suffer fire-related injuries and more than 8,000 die.

During the calendar year 1979, there were no reported fire-related injuries or deaths in Neighborhood Strategy Areas I or II. However, there were several hundred thousand dollars in property damage reported. In NSA I, there was a total of 29 building fires and 21 false alarms reported. NSA II also had 29 building fires reported with 8 false alarms.

Bearing these statistics in mind, the Las Vegas Fire Department's Education Division through Fire Safety Education and Home Inspections will work to reduce these statistics on the local level. The Education Division will be working out of Fire Station number 7, 1201 Miller.

Funding for this program was made possible through Community Development Block Grant Program, Department of Funds Coordination, Richard Blue, Jr., Director.

Home Inspections began August 4, 1980.

The Fire Safety Education and Home Inspection program is composed of two organizational units: Home Inspections and Fire Safety Education. The total approved budget (See Fire, page 20)