

## Neonatal Center Nursery Feted

If all the guests of honor show up at the sixth anniversary of the Southwest Neonatal Center March of Dimes Nursery at Sunrise Hospital Medical Center on Oct. 18 it could be one of the biggest "birthday parties" in history.

More than 2,000 babies have been treated — and more than 93 percent saved — at the facility, and pediatrician-neonatologist Bernard Feldman, M.D., and his devoted staff can be termed "proud parents" in the truest sense.

According to Feldman, some 5 percent of all live births in Clark County, Ely and nearby California communities have need of the life saving equipment and specialized care provided by the unit.

"We get them every day," Feldman said. "Some of them were so tiny, as small as 1 lb. 9 oz., it's just wonderful to see them now as healthy normal first graders."

The key word in that statement is "normal," according to Feldman, because the alternative of lifetime institutional

care of a brain damaged child can cost as much as half a million dollars.

"The preventative care in this unit makes it possible for the endangered babies to become healthy, contributing members of society," he said.

So highly thought of in the medical world is the Sunrise unit that Fellows — post residency physicians — are assigned each month by the University of California at San Diego to further their education in their specialty.

One such fellow, J. Parker Kurlinski, M.D. — who is affectionately called "Kurli" by the parents of his wee patients — has joined the neonatal staff full time.

An on-going educational program for all area physicians and other health care professionals is also part of the ever-enlarging task of the staff, with UCSD providing lecturers for 35 sessions a year.

Costs for the 30 bed unit, which will probably have to be expanded as the area's population and birth rate increases,

are paid in a number of ways, Feldman said.

An annual grant from the March of Dimes, Crippled Children Services of the state, State Aid to Medically Indigent (SAMI), private insurance and private payment plus a sizeable grant each year from Sunrise all keep the unit functioning.

In addition, private donations are frequently made to the nursery.

Not to be overlooked in the financial picture is the fact that each year Sunrise Hospital writes off in excess of \$1-million in bills that parents are unable to pay for the care.

"No baby who needs us has ever or will ever be turned away," Feldman says, and the depth of his dedication and caring comes thru loud and clear.

Asked just what would happen if all the babies and their parents do show up at 2 p.m. on Saturday for the anniversary party in the auditorium at Sunrise Hospital, Feldman laughed and said "I guess we'll have to get more cookies and punch. And we'd love it."

## Sentinel Calendar



**EXPLORING AWARD OF MERIT** — Honored for his outstanding contribution to the Exploring division of the Boulder Dam Area Council is Robert E. Lindsay, pictured above. Presentation of the award was made at the recent Exploring annual recognition meeting held at the Moyer Student Union at UNLV.



**PAMALA GOYNES** recently received a scholarship from the local chapter of the national sorority Phi Delta Kappa, Inc. She is currently attending Prairie View College in Texas.

**T H E N I C** REHABILITATION CENTER has nominated Terry Morris, administrative aide, for the Handicapped Employee of the Year Award. This competition is sponsored by the Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped. Morris, 20, is the daughter of Mrs. Berteal Morris.

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