1963: Dr. Donald Lentz becomes Chief Laboratory Technologist
Dr. Donald Lentz became Chief Laboratory Technologist and had one employee. By 1981, with technological advances, he was up to six full-time technologists, one technician, and three laboratory aides.

1964: Dr. Robert Bradshaw is hospital’s first anesthesiologist
Dr. Robert Bradshaw committed over many years of service at Alamosa Community Hospital becoming the hospital’s first anesthesiologist. "Anesthesiology became a recognized medical specialty in 1941 with the founding of the American Board of Anesthesiology. Additional sub-specialty certification was established for anesthesiologists with special interests in critical care medicine in 1986 and in pain management in 1990." (PSANES.org)

1966-87: Conejos County Hospital continues to grow
The Conejos County Hospital continues to grow with the addition of a long term care unit along with expanded services such as lab, x-ray, pharmacy, and therapy. Advances in technology especially in the laboratory, along with continuous community support, lead to building expansions. CCH and the La Jara Clinic staff grows as they welcome new doctors, offer specialty services and participate in local and self-held health fairs.

1968: Partnerships with ASU and TSJC
The hospital begins a long history of nurse education through partnerships with Trinidad State Junior College and Adams State College (now University).

1973: Hospital Gray Ladies
Addition of the Medical Professional Clinic was built and leased to physicians. The Clinic was built directly south of the existing hospital and connected by a ramp. The building was later demolished for construction and expansion in 2008.

1975: First medical staff representative elected to the hospital board
Dr. R. Paul Wagner, M.D. Ophthalmologist, was the first medical staff representative elected to the hospital board. Dr. Wagner recalled, "Everyone was excited to have real eye care here, and sometimes I had to tell an emotional patient what something I could diagnose. I came here in 1972 and they changed that in 1975 when they started hiring ER Physicians. That really made a huge change and increased the quality of care. I was part of the physicians group that eventually vacated the Medical Office Building south of the hospital, as it always leaked and flooded, and joined the SLV Professional Corp. and moved into the Physicians Services at 2115 Stuart Avenue."

1979: Betty Young is the first female trustee appointed to hospital board
Dr. Les Slitzer joins the ACH staff as an orthopedic surgeon. Dr. W. C. Riley completed a residency in pediatric anesthesiology.

1981: Hospital payroll was at 160 employees

1985: Paul Herman becomes the Executive Director
Paul started his healthcare career in 1971 as a resident at Denver General Hospital. He was the Emergency Medical Services Administrator at the City and County Denver for four years and then in 1975 became the Assistant Administrator at Swedish Medical Center. Before becoming CEO in Alamosa in 1985, he served as CEO at Kenmoor Memorial Hospital for eight years, bringing a wealth of experience to the position at SLVMC.

1987: Hospital Board of Trustees begins adoption of new name for the hospital
The Conejos County Hospital continues to grow with the addition of a long term care unit along with expanded services such as lab, x-ray, pharmacy, and therapy. The growth relied on a community that was heavily involved with fundraising and donated services, such as church and civic organizations providing hours of landscaping, extensive upgrades and cleaning. The early years saw patient care enhanced by the presence of “candy stripers” who were trained in caring for patients’ non-medical needs. Hospital Auxiliary/SROs are successful annually and grow in size and participation each year. The Conejos County Hospital receives support from local American Legion Posts and surrounding towns including Berlin, Antonito, Manassa, and Romeo. CCH equipment upgrades and advances in technology especially in the laboratory, along with continuous community support, lead to building expansions.

1969-1987: Conejos County Hospital continues to grow
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