

LUTHERAN HOSPITAL

1906-1910: Dr. E. L. Frieberger moved to Alamosa

Frieberger moved his surgical practice from his home to a hospital on Main St and Hunt Ave in Alamosa (Alamosa's first established Hospital, present day Porter Realty Building)

1908: Dr. C.L. Orr operated a hospital from his home

(west of present day Bistro Rialto)

1918: Dr. Davlin moved his hospital to 715 Main Street

(present day, between St. Ives and Treasure Alley)

1920's-30's: Cornum Hospital, aka Alamosa Club House

Served mostly as a site for maternity and babies (present day Pizza Hut location) "Appendectomies and tonsillectomies commonly were performed there, and many babies were delivered. The drawback of this hospital was the necessity of taking patients from the upper floors to the surgery below by stretcher, and then returning them by the same cumbersome means." (1)



Frieberger Building, (pictured 1981, now Porter Realty)

1927: Lutheran Hospital Association of the San Luis Valley officially formed

On December 7, 1927, the Lutheran Hospital Association of the San Luis Valley was purchased from Dr. Davlin at 715 Main Street, Alamosa. It remained at this location for ten years with its newly established Board of Directors.



Lutheran Hospital Association of the San Luis Valley, May 12, 1938, 715 Main Street, Alamosa, Colorado

1927: Davlin hands Hospital to Lutheran Hospital Association

"Davlin was a busy man with a thriving practice, so in 1927, he decided to reduce his burden by giving up the hospital. Accepting the responsibility of running the institution was the newly-organized Lutheran Hospital Association." (1)

1927: O.A. Hiller President of Hospital Association Board

O.A. Hiller was a long-time executive of the American National Bank and one of the founders of Trinity Lutheran Church. (1)

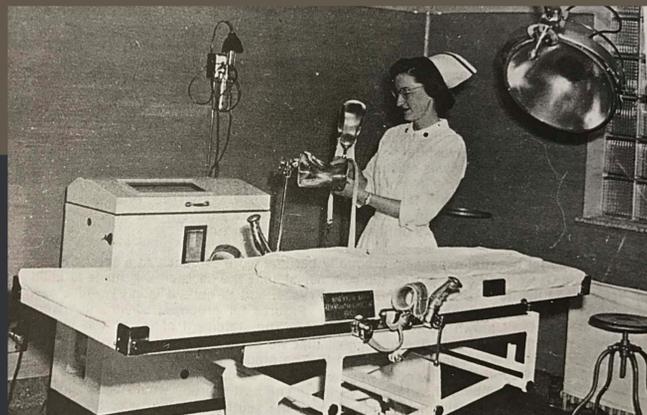


Miss Lulu Noess, deaconess nurse, 1930, Hospital Superintendent, 1934-1941

Dr. Charles A. Davlin, pioneer physician, surgeon, and hospital administrator, 1929

1929: Nurses needed

In order to become a state certified hospital, registered nurses were needed. Esther Houser graduated from Fort Wayne Lutheran Hospital School of Nursing in 1923. Her classmate was Miss Clara Dienst, a Deaconess who worked at the Lutheran Hospital in Alamosa as the Superintendent from 1932-34. Miss Dienst sent a telegram to Esther requesting that she come work in Alamosa. She looked on a map and thought it would be warmer than Cleveland because it was so close to New Mexico. She also had a romantic notion from reading Westerns, so she decided to travel "out west." She took the passenger train through Denver, which was filled with cowboys returning from the stock show, and was disappointed none of those cowboys had any six-shooters on their hips. Miss Dienst greeted Esther in the early morning of January 19th, 1929 and the hospital, located across from the Rialto at 715 Main Street, held a warm welcome since several of the nurses were from her same college.



Delivery Room, Obstetrics Department 1950's

1935: Talk of building a new hospital begins

"Talk began to surface around town concerning the desirability of constructing a new hospital, preferably one with 50 beds. Taking the lead in the community were Dr. Sidney Anderson and Mayor Everett Cole." (1) In 1935, Reverend Henry Niermann, newly-inducted Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Alamosa, was elected to the board and served in various capacities for 14 years.

1937: Reifel becomes Hospital Director

Business Manager Leo Reifel was hired. In 1941 with the departure of Miss Lulu Noess, the last Deaconess to serve as Director, Reifel became Hospital Director.



Old Lutheran Hospital Building becomes the Alamosa Daily Courier, 1938

The real story of Alamosa Community Hospital and its predecessor, Lutheran Hospital, has been its growing capacity to deliver essential healthcare to people of the San Luis Valley

-Professor Gordon E. Gillson

Excerpts from board minutes which reflect the pay scale in the 1920's-30's.

	1927-1930	1931-1933
Miss Amelia Doctor	\$ 75.00 per mo.	
Miss Dorothy Taylor	\$ 60.00 per mo.	
Miss Hunter	\$ 50.00 per mo.	
Miss Sabre	\$ 40.00 per mo. (Gen helper)	
Miss Jack	\$ 30.00 per mo. (Hall sweeper)	
Miss Olive	\$ 20.00 per mo. (Cook)	
Mrs. Mortenson	\$ 15.00 per mo.	
Tom O'Hall	\$ 10.00 per mo. (Fireman)	

	1927-1930	1931-1933
Bank Earnings	\$11,912.95	\$10,368.00
Less Allowances	608.26	15,768.00
Expenses		
Salaries	\$5,791.14	\$7,261.00
Telephone & Telegram	47.31	1,111.11
Fuel	67.00	263.88
Water	16.78	83.85
Light & Power	30.37	1,168.30
Cash Collected during June, 1936	\$14,026.44	\$ 84,287.00
Cash Paid Out during June, 1936	\$11,081.15	\$ 89,941.00
Total Expenses	\$10,546.76	\$ 89,941.00
Patients admitted	375	318
Obstetrical Deliveries	47	21
Nursing Days Hospitalists, Obstetricals	1,114	1,221
Cash in Bank	\$13,129.78	\$ 10,056.00
Accounts Rec.	\$17,811.29	\$25,396.26
Res. for Dep. of Equip.	3,722.73	\$14,502.90