

Doctor Dominador Perido
Physician and Surgeon
By: Brian Neuman and Joseph Iman

Doctor Perido is a Morton County physician and surgeon; he is a vital asset to the community. Dr. Perido was born in the Philippines in 1941, in a small town on the southern end of the Philippines. He was first interested in the medical field when he was a senior in high school. However at the time he was more interested in carpentry. When a priest saw his grades in biology were so high, he encouraged Perido to be more than a carpenter. Dr. Perido now looks back and says "...and I think they were right, because I've never been a good carpenter." Dr. Perido obtained his first degree at the University of Santa Tomas in Manila in 1968. He began his residency at a US Air Force base in the Philippines.

When Dr. Perido came to America, he had to recertify his degree by going into training for a year. Then he chose to obtain another degree in surgery so he went back to school for around four years and took his board certification. It wasn't easy for Dr. Perido when he was taking his residency in the 1970s, due to the hospital's lack of concern of the number of hours that a surgeon has worked. His residency was taken in New York so there were many patients at many hours of the night, and there were only a few interns and residents on call at night. Dr. Perido's salary as an intern was around 2,000 dollars a year. Gradually more money was added on over the course of his internship and residency. As a senior resident Dr. Perido made about 17,000 dollars, which he stated was a low salary for someone living in New York. As a resident, Dr. Perido didn't make enough money to support himself, so he (and many other residents) had to get a "moonlight job." When he wasn't on call or working, he would go to another hospital and work in the emergency room.

In Elkhart, Kansas, when Dr. Perido first began working at the Morton County Hospital, office calls were around \$5 or \$6 per day. Although inflation has affected many businesses, Dr. Perido thinks that inflation hasn't really affected the hospital. Dr. Perido, who was one of three hundred residents, was the only one to come to a small town. Dr. Perido is glad he came to a small town; he said that every time he goes to a class reunion everyone seems to congregate around him and ask him how it is to work in a small town. Dr. Perido was on his way to work in Florida when he came to Elkhart. Malpractice insurance had just risen from \$2,000 to \$15,000 in a short amount of time (Kansas was one of the only states that malpractice was still \$2,000). He stopped in Elkhart just to gain a little money to make it to Florida and then fell in love with Elkhart and never left.

Technology has changed significantly since Dr. Perido became a doctor; C.A.T. scans used to take up to one hour, now one takes less than eleven seconds. Dr. Perido says it's hard to separate himself from his personal feelings. Since Elkhart is a small town, as soon as someone gets hurt Dr. Perido will know who it is; it's impossible to separate himself. The community helped raise money to build the hospital and is very active in the hospital. Dr. Perido says the community has helped him more than he has helped them.