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**(Neb.)-Retired Hemingford Doctor Recalls Times During 50 Years Of Practice**  [Listen](#)



By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 01/31/2013 09:26 AM

*Photo: Dr. John Ruffing and wife Patricia*

(CHADRON)-It's been about a month now since Dr. John Ruffing officially retired from his medical practice in Hemingford. Not only did not Dr. Ruffing practice medicine for over 50 years, but he spent his entire career, minus a one-year internship in Chicago, running the Hemingford Clinic.

Ruffing grew up on his family's ranch in rural Sioux County and eventually graduated from Loma Linda University in California in 1960. While serving the Public Health Service in a two-year commitment in Chicago, he received a call from Hemingford asking to come operate the clinic, as the former doctor had suffered a heart attack. Through an interesting turn of events, Ruffing was released from his internship a year early and was back in Hemingford to set up shop in August 1961.

Ruffing says many things have changed since he began practicing medicine in the early 60s.

\*Listen to story for sound bite\*

Ruffing says there were challenges and stressful times during his career, but there were many rewarding times as well. He said one of his favorite parts of being a doctor was...

\*Listen to story for sound bite\*

Having grown up in northwest Nebraska, Ruffing never had a burning desire to live and practice anywhere else.

\*Listen to story for sound bite\*

Even though Ruffing and his two nurses have now retired from the Hemingford clinic, it remains open with a new medical director, Dr. David Isom, and principle physician's assistant Brittany Bower at the helm. Dr. Ruffing says other physicians and physicians' assistants will rotate through the clinic as needed.

Make sure you tune in to Thursday's community focus at 4:40 p.m. right here on KCSR for more of our conversation with Dr. Ruffing.

(Questions? Comments? E-mail [roxie@chadrad.com](mailto:roxie@chadrad.com).)

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