

by Jayne Cannon

PHARMACIES: Co-owners, Harry Race Pharmacy and White's Pharmacy, Sitka, Alaska.

AGE: Dirk, 64; Trish, 63. (They are the same age for three days in July.)

FAMILY: Two children, Taylor and Soren.

EDUCATION: Trish, Oregon State College of Pharmacy, 1980; Dirk, South Dakota State College of Pharmacy, 1985.

MEANT TO BE: Trish returned to her hometown of Sitka after pharmacy school. After a few years, she decided she wanted to see more of the world, and she made plans to leave Alaska. Her boss found an adventurous recent pharmacy school grad, Dirk White, to replace her. He arrived in Sitka, hit it off with Trish, and her plans to leave town went by the wayside. They married a few months later and celebrated their 35th anniversary last fall.

ISLAND LIVING: Sitka is on Baranof Island in southeast Alaska and is accessible only by plane or boat. It's a big island (4,811 square miles), making Sitka the largest incorporated city in the U.S. It's not always snowy, but it rains a lot. "We have two kinds of weather," Dirk says. "Cold and wet, and warm and wet."

NOT SO DIFFERENT: The Whites encounter a few misconceptions about Alaska life. The most common question is, "How do you get your meds?" "I tell them they float them in on icebergs or bring them by dog sled," he says with a laugh. "The truth is that we still [dispense] like everyone else. There's some inconvenience, but we always say it's the price we pay for living in paradise."

NCPA'S VALUE TO US: It's a long trip, but the Whites try to get to as many conventions as they can. "It's kept me active politically," Dirk says. "There's that old saying – 'get into politics or get out of pharmacy.' It's true. Your business depends on it. NCPA keeps that going for us."

Photo by Keith Fredrickson



**Trish White, RPh
Dirk White, RPh**