



American News Photo by Russ Keen

Shirley and Cliff Syhre have donated thousands of hours to the Senior Nutrition Program in Brown County. Today the Syhres are discharging their duties at the Moose Lodge, one of seven places where such meals are served in Aberdeen.

'Time to retire — again'

Russ Keen
American News Writer

...ast call for coffee made by Cliff and Shirley Syhre. They've got other things brewing now, and are checking out today after 13 steady years of volunteer work with Senior Nutrition Program in Aberdeen. They'll be honored at a party from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. today at the Moose Lodge. "It's been rewarding," said Cliff. "We've enjoyed it. But it's time to retire — again." In less than a year after his retirement from the Aberdeen American News as advertising manager in 1980, Cliff started up as a volunteer for the meal pro-

gram. Shirley was a bookkeeper for the Standard Oil Co. bulk plant in Aberdeen before she retired and started volunteer work. The Syhres have been making coffee and friends for years at the lodge, where from 60 to 80 seniors show up weekdays for a hot noon meal. The Syhres arrive long before lunchtime. "They always make it a point to have the coffee ready," said Elaine Arntz, manager of the nutrition program in Brown County. "So people kind of use the lodge as a gathering place in the morning — like the old corner store where friends and families used to meet." After they plug in the coffee pot, Shirley and Cliff clean tables,

set out napkins, salt and pepper, and prepare food tables. They order supplies and line up other volunteers for the serving line. The Syhres stick around until everybody goes home and the dirty dishes are taken back to the kitchen at the Aberdeen Recreation and Cultural Center. Their combined volunteering figures out to more than 16,000 hours of unpaid labor. "We've done it just to meet the people," said Shirley, "and just to help people out." They could — but don't — eat a free lunch. Like most people 60 or older who eat lunch at the lodge, the Syhres pitch in the suggested donation of \$1.50 per meal.

"They've done a lot of extra things that wouldn't be found in the job description," said Arntz. "They've given over and above what most volunteers do. You don't find people like them every day. It's going to be a while before we'll be filling their shoes." Cliff and Shirley will continue to stop by the lodge from time to time. "And we'll still volunteer a little bit," Shirley said. "But we plan on doing some other things instead." They'll be traveling, as well as relishing the simple pleasure of staying at home in the mornings. "Why, we've hardly ever gotten to stay at home to do our gardening or anything," Shirley said. "So we're going to enjoy our yard."