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NEWS

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CYRILE VAN DUSER,
UM EMPLOYEE 27 YEARS,
TO RETIRE JULY 1

MISSOULA--

By Connie Revell
UM Information Services

"I've been a busy gal," said Miss Cyrile Van Duser, accurately summarizing her 27 years of active service as a University of Montana employee. Miss Van Duser will retire July 1, as UM Student Union publicity director. In a news interview following announcement of retirement plans, she told the extent of her service to the University, the Missoula area and the entire state of Montana.

Miss Van Duser was born in Houghton, Mich., and was raised near Lewistown, Mont., where she attended high school. Her father, the late Herbert D. Van Duser, was a civil engineer and contractor for construction of The Milwaukee Road railway company through Montana and spur railways out of Lewistown and Bozeman.

Miss Van Duser received her bachelor's degree in English at the University of Montana in 1927. Following graduation she returned to teach drama and English at Fergus County High School, Lewistown, until 1932. She later taught in Bonner, Mont., and headed the English and journalism department at Havre High School from 1938-41, before coming to UM.

While she was teaching journalism at Havre High School, the newspaper editor there was chosen to edit the track meet edition of the Montana Kaimin, as was the tradition at that time.

During this time Miss Van Duser was interviewed and hired as the new director of the UM Student Union. "She got the Student Union program off the ground," said UM Dean of Students, Andrew Cogswell, who worked with Miss Van Duser at that time.

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Asked her duties as Student Union director, Miss Van Duser replied, "I ran the whole thing." She was responsible for the activities program, which included song fests, theater activities, community concerts, coffee hours and free bridge and dancing lessons. Her office was in what is now the Fine Arts Building on the Missoula campus. A group called the Student Union Executive Committee, comprised of seven students and five faculty members, was directly in charge of campus affairs at this time, and Miss Van Duser aided them in their activities.

When the Student Union was moved to the Lodge, she retained her post as director for the first month to help it become established there. She then transferred to the UM News Service where she became home town news editor and took over as University photographer.

Three years ago Miss Van Duser assumed her present position as publicity director of the Lodge (Student Union). "I had been helping the yearbook staff in my spare time since I first came to the University," she explained. "I helped put together an annual during the war in 1945, and I've been assisting with yearbook production since."

Miss Van Duser also has seen many active summer months. She has graduate credit hours from UM, the University of Washington and Northwestern University. She received a degree in photography from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern in 1940. Other summer activities have included work of the Great Falls Tribune and a job heading the UM summer recreation program for the UM Student Union. She has served as a tour guide to Glacier and Yellowstone National Parks as part of the latter program.

In addition to her duties at UM, Miss Van Duser has found time for a wide variety of hobbies. She is Missoula director of the Montana Institute of the Arts (M.I.A.), a statewide organization concerned with the arts, including history, writing, fine arts, crafts and photography. She has been a M.I.A. member for 18 years.

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Miss Van Duser makes handsome costume jewelry of silver, gold and various types of stone. She first became interested in making jewelry while teaching crafts to Campfire Girls in Lewistown. She has taught jewelry making to M.I.A. members eight years. "I cut my own stones, so that makes me a rockhound, too," she added.

Two events during her stay at the University have made her especially proud. One was her initiation into the Blackfoot Indian tribe during one of the summer tours she helped to conduct. The other was the fact that she was chosen in 1960 to contribute a piece of her jewelry to the State Historical Society, which houses the state M.I.A. permanent collection.

Asked her retirement plans, Miss Van Duser said, "There are a few pictures I want to take, and some jewelry I want to make. I want to enjoy my home and travel a bit." She hopes to enjoy leisure time after her many active years.

"Her retirement will be quite a loss to the University," said Dean Cogswell. "She'll be very hard to replace."

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