Allie had good recipe for friendship

Retired chef worked with many agencies to prepare tasty meals for urban poor

GREG BUIUM EDMONTON Journal Staff Writer

fie" Simons was a maverick. mutzvan. his Jewish roots and had a bar At 80 Mr. Simons rediscovered By any measure, Alfred, or "Al-

all-natural seasoning. merits of Spike, a special brand of while holding forth about the ries of volunteer projects which to cook for 120, without a recipe, ciation to the St. Anthony's Coltook him from the Epilepsy Assolege for Boys. He was also known When he retired he began a se-

didn't have a vindictive bone in his bodv." nus younger brother, Morris. "He less people I ever knew," recalled "Alfie was one of the most self

others organizations. Club, Goodwill, the Jewish Seniors' Drop-in Centre and many membered for the endless hours urday at the age of 85, will be rehe spent working for the Rotary Mr. Simons, who died on Sat-

at the heart of how he helped out. called George Ford, chairman of the Robertson-Wesley United "Alfred was truly a chef," re-More often than not, food was

> program devoted to supplying er had any recipes written down free dinners for the poor. "He nev-

after joining the program in meals once a month at the westhundreds of hot and healthy side church. He retired last fall Just right, that is, for serving

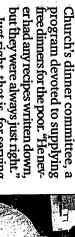
ents: Spike, garlic and fresh dill had a set of mandatory ingredimark dish, Ford said, however, he Mr. Simons didn't have a trade "If it didn't have dill it wasn't ed

and again to sample Mr. Simons cooking — or just because they ible for Alfred," Ford said. Many people came back time

so easy to talk to and he had such "Everybody wanted to work in the kitchen," Ford said. "He was great stories.

fred was there." never felt like work at all when Al "It was fun being around him.

when it opened in the early involved with the organization Centre said Mr. Simons became of the Jewish Seniors' Drop-in Alice Abells, a former presiden



loved his company.

"When I think of Alfie," Abells

Alfred Simons, left, helps prepare a meal for the poor with Janet Hughes, back left, Lois Butler, Lois Ford and George Ford, front right.

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said, "I think of the drop-in centre, and then I think of the kitchen."

ago with his first wife, Dora. dinner he made there 50 years She recalls an outstanding fish

community

centre, serving on its board and later acting as the photo archivist was involved in all aspects of the He was a legendary chef, yet he

man. He really remained so comeven when he was still a young very, very good with the elderly year-old Abells said. "He was "What didn't he do?" the 83-

> passionate all through his life." ply an irreplaceable figure in the To Ford, Alfred Simons is sim-

a person without prejudice of any everybody," Ford said. "He was life has just been ever so much better." Since I met him six years ago my kind, just a marvellous man. "He acted the same way with

day at 2 p.m., at Chesed Shel Mr. Simons' funeral service is to-

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