Ann Rydalch enjoys duties

BY BEN J. PLASTINO
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Ann Rydalch, procurement analyst with Catalytic, an INEL contractor, has always enjoyed the political sector but little did she realize she would be serving as state senator.

That's exactly what she is doing now, accepting the appointment of State Sen. William L. Floyd, R-Idaho Falls, to serve as his replacement for about the last half of the current session.

Floyd named her as his substitute to begin serving Feb. 21 when he felt it was an emergency for him to resume his duties as manager of Southland Potato Produce Co. because of the erratic potato market.

Mrs. Rydalch has been intensely interested in politics in recent years and is presently vice chairman of the Idaho Republican Party and also vice chairman of the Lincoln Day Association which annually sponsors the Lincoln Day Dinner in Idaho Falls.

However, she has been active in a wide spectrum of Republican politics and has been prominent in campaigns of recent years. For example, she was the east Idaho coordinator for the gubernatorial campaign of Lt.Gov. Phil Batt in the 1982 campaign.

"I like this job and I hope I can serve the remainder of this session," she said while at her Senate desk.

She probably will because there is only a week or two remaining and Floyd has indicated he likely will not return this session.

In replacing Floyd, she also became automatically a member of Commerce and Labor, Agricultural Affairs and Judiciary and Rules committees. In the shift, Floyd yielded his chairmanship of Commerce and Labor to Sen. Bill Moore, R-Hayden Lake.

She said she is interested in all the political phases but especially education in view of her teaching at Bonneville High School several years.

She pointed with pride to two bills she carried on the floor, both of which passed the senate by wide margins.

One provided for elective abortion and passed 28-7. The other provided for smaller credit unions to have alternative choices of insurers and passed unanimously 35-0.

Sen. Ann Rydalch

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Mrs. Rydalch also said that in her present capacity at the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory and working with the Greater Idaho Falls Chamber of Commerce she is intensely interested in business affairs.

"I am interested in agriculture as I was raised on a farm." she said. "I also have been interested in legal affairs and I find my work with the Judiciary and Rules committee fascinating."

A former Miss Idaho Falls, she is married to Vernal Rydalch, Bonneville County coroner and laboratory technician at Riverview Hospital. They have six children.

She explained she has taken leave from her present position to serve as a legislator.

"Being a longtime resident of Bonneville County and closely associated in community affairs I think I know what the people of my district want," she said. "I try to vote along that line.

"I especially like the association with my colleagues in the Senate on both sides of the aisle."