

Richardson says she enjoys work as Sen. Symms' aide

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BY BEN J. PLASTINO
Post-Register political editor

Mrs. Dixie Richardson has always been interested in politics as a Republican but she hardly expected to become as much involved as she is today.

She is now the administrative assistant in the Idaho Falls office of new U.S. Sen. Steve Symms, the first time in history that U.S. senators have established two permanent offices in Idaho Falls.

"I love the work," said the personable Mrs. Richardson. "I think dealing with the public to help them with problems is a challenge. Senator Symms has stressed we are to help people as much as we can."

She said she is doing considerable case work, mostly dealing on unemployment, death benefits, veterans, dealing with governmental agencies, Teton Dam claims and many others that affect the federal government.

"It gives me an opportunity to meet people," she said.

She said the office is receiving requests from many of those who formerly contacted U.S. Sen. Frank Church, but she said in her work there is no room for politics, only public service.

She said many of the case originated here and are completed at the Symms office in Washington while other cases originate in Washington and are completed here.

She, along with other new Symms assistants in Idaho, last week attended an orientation meeting at Boise conducted by Phil Reberger, Symms chief assistant.

She said she has direct communication and telecopier services with the Washington office. Symms has retained the same telephone number as Church had and is located in the Russell Building, Room 125, a short distance from Room 245, which Church had.

The Symms Idaho Falls' office is located on second floor of the Federal Building, C Street and Park Avenue, adjacent to the one occupied by the McClure office where Loudine Hook is in charge.

Mrs. Richardson is the wife of Melvin Richard, veteran public affairs and sports director with KID radio, FM and TV.

The family has lived here 23 years, five years in Idaho Falls and the last 18 years in Ammon. Her husband was Ammon mayor at one time.

She has done volunteer work for a number of community activities, was secretary to the president of the Idaho First National Bank and worked at Utah State University and two radio stations as secretary.

She has been an active Republican worker as a volunteer and served on a number of committees.

She was selected from a field of a dozen applicants.

She studied journalism, was salutatorium and won a scholarship while at Boxelder High School in Brigham City, Utah.

The Richardsons have five children, a son attending Bonneville High School; a daughter a student at Ammon Elementary School; a son, just married, at Ricks College; a married daughter teaching at Pocatello while her husband is attending ISU and to graduate this spring; a son studying political science at Ricks and another son on an LDS Mission in Finland.

Mrs. Richardson has been substitute teaching the last three years.



Post-Register/Robert Bower

Symms assistant

MRS. DIXIE RICHARDSON, Idaho Falls, is the office assistant in the Idaho Falls office of new U.S. Sen. Steve Symms.