

## ATMC Improving Services To Majority Of Customers

BY SUSAN USHER

Changes underway by Atlantic Telephone Membership Corp. on two exchanges will improve services to more than half the cooperative's customers at a total cost of about \$2.5 million, spokesman Percy Woodard said Friday.

ATMC began switching both its Holden Beach and Seaside-Calabash exchanges over to electronic computer offices this month.

Additional toll cables or long-distance lines also are planned, he said, which should make it easier to get outside the area when dialing. Also, "remote" offices will be installed to improve the quality of service received by customers at the end of the line on both exchanges—the Calabash area of the 579 exchange and soon, Sunset Harbor on the 842 exchange.

"It's going to make a world of difference for those two exchanges. I think it will improve services tremendously," said Woodard of the changes underway. "They've had a lot of problems."

The two exchanges serve more than half ATMC's customers—4,300 on the Calabash-Seaside exchange and 3,500 on the Holden Beach exchange.

Among the most noticeable changes brought about by the computerized offices, customers will no longer hear a clicking sound when dialing and should get a dial tone immediately.

But the changeover also requires a change in dialing habits: from now

on, customers on the two exchanges will have to dial all seven digits rather than the last five when making a call to someone on the same exchange.

The switch-over was made for 579 numbers the night of Monday, Jan. 7, while the Holden Beach exchange will be switched over about midnight Jan. 21, not Jan. 14 as first scheduled.

Customer information has already been programmed into the system and the wiring completed, but the actual moment of switch-over still requires the manual pulling of "carbons" or protectors by hand from the old mechanical system and manually pushing in new carbons into the com-

puterized system, a process that takes about one hour with several people working, Woodard said. Then the system must be tested, both for local service and long-distance access.

Installation of a remote office, Woodard said, "should help the Calabash-Carolina Shores area quite a bit. They're at the far end of the line. You have to amplify it, but you still have problems with touch-tone dialing and especially with homes that have more than one phone."

Work has begun on the remote office for Calabash. The prefabricated building will be set up on a concrete slab in a field behind the Calabash Volunteer Fire Department. Installation of the toll cables has been delayed pending arrival of all the materials ATMC ordered back in July and that were scheduled for delivery in October, Woodard indicated.

Financing for the improvements came from a Rural Electrification Authority loan approved last year.

### Timber Sales Program Set

A program designed to help woodland owners develop a plan for timber sales will be held Thursday, Jan. 24, at 7 p.m. at the Agricultural Extension Office at the county government complex in Bolivia.

Sponsored by the Brunswick County Woodlot Committee, the program will feature W.E. Gardner, an extension forest resources specialist from N.C. State University.

Among the topics Gardner will

cover include evaluating timber for volume information, seeking bids and the sale of by-products that woodlot owners have, such as pine straw and poles.

The meeting is open to all woodlot owners who are thinking of selling timber. For more information contact the county forest ranger, the soil conservation office, the Farmers Home Administration office, or the Agriculture Extension Service office.

### PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

#### Eighteen On UNC-W List

Eighteen Brunswick County students attained the fall semester dean's list at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

For dean's list honors, a student taking 12 to 14 hours must earn a quality point average of 3.5 or better with no grade less than B, while students enrolled for 15 or more hours must earn a 3.2 average with no grade less than B.

Students on the list are as follows: Jean Arthur Jones, Leland; Cindy Ann Campbell, Route 1, Winnabow; Ellen Gore Milligan, Route 1, Ash; Jill Annette Hubbard, Long Beach; Charles Edward Blake, Southport; Judy Abbott Sneed, Route 3, Leland; Paul Simpson Chipley, Ocean Isle Beach; Sibyl Outcast Thearling, Leland; Renee Denise Pellom, Route 2, Leland;

Also, Timothy J. McGinn, Sunset Beach; Jamie Pilkenton Chestnutt, Southport; Bruce W. Dillard, Shallotte; Gloria Faye Lloyd, Leland; Barbara Ann Williams, Route 1, Bolivia; Beverly Bryant Marlowe, Supply; Judith Lynne Jones, Long Beach; Dale Marus Lewis, Route 1, Leland; Rose King Cook, Route 4, Leland.

#### To Head Bike-A-Thon

Patricia E. Poulos of Holden Beach has been named 1985 Cycle for Life Chairman for the Shallotte area by the North Carolina Chapter of the Leukemia Society of America.

Riders will soon be seeking sponsors for the upcoming bike-a-thon. Proceeds will be used for research into leukemia, still the number one killer disease of children, and patient aid, including \$319,655 in research

projects granted within the state and financial assistance to 550 leukemia patients in the state.

#### Airman Promoted

Stephen M. Baccary, son of Paul M. and Lois Baccary of Route 1, Ash, has been promoted in the U.S. Air Force to the rank of senior airman.

The 1978 West Brunswick High School graduate is an aircraft armament specialist at Langley Air Force Base, Va., with the 1st Equipment Maintenance Squadron.

#### Service Recognized

Atlantic Telephone Membership Corp. recognized employees with five, 10 and 25 years of service at an awards dinner and Christmas party held in December.

Wilson Arnold of Supply received a 25-year service pin for his work as a BEMC director. Employees Steve Long and Dan Russ were recognized for 10 years of service and Eugene Cox, Ginger Sellers, Phyllis Hewett and Delane Stanley for five years of service each.

#### Lauzon On List

Anne Lauzon, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D.E. Lauzon of Shallotte, has been named to the Brevard College honor roll for the 1984 fall semester.

Students named to the honor roll must attain a 3.0 academic average or better on a 4.0 scale.

#### Completes Basic

Airman Wexler E. Gause, son of Thurman L. and Edie M. Gause of Shallotte, has been assigned to Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, after completing basic training.

He will now receive specialized instruction in aircraft maintenance.

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### Courses Offered

A clothing and textiles "update" seminar will be held Wed., Jan. 23, from 10 a.m. until noon at the Brunswick County Extension Service office in Bolivia.

New fabrics, equipment, notions and the like will be demonstrated and a 1985 fashions preview will be available.

For more information contact Pearl W. Stanley, home economics extension agent.

Also, Mrs. Stanley has available home study course in money control and baby care.

"Money Control" can help both families and single persons or those with regular or seasonal jobs in better managing their household income.

"Baby Talk" is a series of 12 monthly leaflets for parents of babies under one year of age. It begins Jan. 21.

To obtain either item at no charge contact Mrs. Stanley at 253-4425.

### To Sponsor Classes

Brunswick Technical College will sponsor a 21-hour wallpaper hanging course at the Supply campus starting Monday, Jan. 21.

Classes will be taught each Monday from 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. by Harry Figott. Students will learn to choose and use correct tools, to estimate wallpaper needs and cost, and to use elements of color, pattern, and texture in creating continuity.

Registration, which includes a fee of \$15, will be held Monday during the first class meeting.

Also in January, a cake decorating class will be held at West Brunswick High School on Monday and Thursday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. starting Jan. 21.

Students will meet in room 128 for the course taught by Betty Jo Edge. A registration fee of \$19 will be collected at the first meeting Monday.

For more information, contact the Continuing Education Department at Brunswick Technical College.

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