Bell System "Superswitcher" More Efficient And Versatile

Superstars may come and go, but the Bell System's biggest Electronic Switching System (ESS) -- dubbed the "superswitcher" -- continues to get better.

Since its debut in Chicago in early 1976, the superswitcher has gone to work in 55 locations across the country -- handling 30 percent of all long distance phone calls.

The superswitcher, actually a stored-program controlled electronic switch, was the first to switch telephone calls through the Bell System network in digital form. It was designed to handle 550,000 calls per hour -- four times more than the electromechanical system it replaced. It also needed only one-fourth the space of the earlier system and cut maintenance costs by more than half.

Subsequent improvements by Bell Laboratories engineers have reduced its space requirements, energy needs and operating costs for many equipment frames by an additional one-half to threequarters. Also, its maintenance and call-handling capabilities have been improved through software innovations. For instance, a so-phisticated new "language" --called EPLX (ESS Program Lan-



BETTER THAN EVER AFTER FIVE YEARS-

Jim Foster, an engineering supervisor in the Bell Laboratories "superswitcher" development labs at Naperville, Illinois, makes a series of tests on

quage Extended) -- enables promore etticiently and accurately. grammers to program the system The system is designed to ope-

a unit of the No. 4 Electronic Switching System (ESS), which recently celebrated its fifth anniversary in January.

rate reliably -- with only a few hours downtime during its service

themselves to move into jobs that more fully utilize their

talents and reap better financial rewards...jobs that include

Opportunities in Charlotte's Southern Bell operation are

enhanced by the System's paid employee benefits. Health,

dental, and educational benefits only mention a few of the

many extras that come with employment with Southern Bell.

These Bell employees are a part of the 4,000 person work

force in Charlotte-Mecklenburg.

highly technical skills and administrative management.

Nife of about 40 years. And hard-ware and software packages called "generics" are issued yearly to give the system new features as well as make it more economical. The first "generic" added the

feature of Common Channel Interoffice Signaling (CCIS) which passes call-handling information over separate high-speed lines instead of using the network's voice-circuit paths. The rapid nationwide introduction of this feature is speeding up the connection time for long distance calls and paving the way for new customer services

With the second "generic," compact integrated circuit memory devices -- operating four times faster than earlier memory equipment -- were put to work in the system. A digital "echo suppressor" was added to improve the quality of transmission over long distances - especially on satellite circuits

The superswitcher became an overseas traffic switcher in 1978, when it was equipped to handle two international signaling standards.

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Curt Peters ...Public Relations



Rhonda Kendrick ... Engineering



John Johnson ... Engineering



Shirley Smalls Switched Services



..Account Executive

thanks to Southern Bell.

them move up in their profession.

Doris Banks

Residence

of the giant telecommunications industry.



Bell People Make The System Work

Larry Randolph

In Charlotte these people make life a little easier for you;

The Bell System is on the move and these Southern Bell

They come from a wide range of backgrounds...high school

graduates to masters' degree recipients. They didn't start at

the top...many, in fact, started as operators and telephone

installers...but their knowledge and hard work have helped

employees have and are moving right along with it.







Fred Harris ... Switched Services

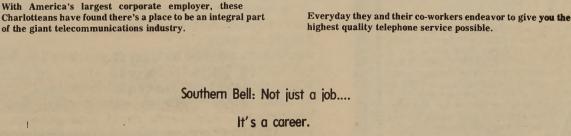


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Switched Services



Diane Phifer ...Business

