



EXHIBIT CAR - Southern Railway's Exhibit Car, a rolling museum filled with photographs, models, dioramas and slide presentations, brings to the public the story of a modern, innovative railroad. The exhibit car

will be at the Kings Mountain Depot when the city climaxes its 200th anniversary celebration of the Battle of Kings Mountain on October 7.

Southern Bell Has Filed For New Rate Proposal

Southern Bell today filed with the North Carolina Utilities Commission a comprehensive rate proposal to produce an additional \$68.2 million in annual revenues on services the company provides within the state.

Included in the request, however, are proposals that would reduce some charges and give customers greater opportunity to control their telephone bills.

Alan Thomas, vice president in charge of Southern Bell's North Carolina operations, said the proposal provides for increases in local monthly service rates of \$1.85 per residence customer and \$3.95 for business customers with a single-party line and one basic Southern Bell telephone set.

The company also proposed increases for such optional services and equipment as Touch-Tone service, Triline sets,

private number listings and such business offerings as private branch exchange (PBX) systems and key telephone sets.

The increases would go into effect in 30 days unless suspended by the Commission.

Commenting on the filing, Thomas said Southern Bell continues to suffer the effects of rampant inflation during a long and continuing period of high customer demand "to which we must respond, and, of course, to which we want very much to respond. In spite of our aggressive effort to moderate these effects, we have been unable to achieve even the authorized level of earnings established last February when the Commission granted a 5.7 per cent increase in our revenues." Thomas said this pattern has been true for more than a decade.

"It is the accumulation of these experiences that makes it

imperative that we waste no time in once again applying for revenue relief," Thomas said. "Excessive inflation is tough enough for businesses which start from a point of adequate earnings. It is tough enough for businesses which have the ability to re-price—within marketplace constraints—to alleviate deteriorating earnings. For utilities—which must hurt for an historic period before they can react, which cannot re-price at will, and which must invest during good times and bad—excessive inflation, has a smothering effect on earnings."

Thomas said the company actually needs a revenue increase of \$110.3 million. Because of the Bell system's nationwide commitment to hold price increases within national anti-inflation guidelines, however, the request has been pared to \$68.2 million. "It's a difficult decision to cut \$42.1 million you know is justified when you're already carrying—for a business that touches nearly every household—the nation's finest record for fighting inflation and for exercising price restraint, and then are hit by runaway inflation. When earnings for more than a decade have not even measured up to Commission-authorized levels, much less investor expectations, it's more difficult still," he said.

He noted that while the company's overall rate proposal calls mostly for higher rates, it also provides opportunities for both residence and business customers to soften the impact on their total phone bills.

"With this filing, we propose a triple the opportunity for customers to save 25 per cent on in-state long distance calls they dial themselves," Thomas said. "The present daytime discount calling period is one hour a day—from 12 noon to 1 p.m. We are proposing three hours—from 8 to 9 a.m. and from 12 noon to 2 p.m."

This daytime discount—coupled with the present evening, night and weekend discounts—means there would be only six hours a day, Monday through Friday, when customers would pay the full rate on calls they dial themselves.

"Looking at it from a savings standpoint, discount calling would be available more than 80 per cent of the time. This is not only an opportunity for saving but also a means of substantially enhancing the convenience of discount calling for business as well as residence customers," he said.

In addition to expanded discount calling, the company also proposed to make available an optional, low-use budget service for residence customers served by the company's new, all-electronic central offices. This equipment makes it economically possible to "measure" the amount of service a customer uses.

Thomas said the optional, low-use measured service option while available to any residence

Church Honors Miss Ollie

In an impressive service Sunday Morning, August 31, at 11 a.m., the East Gold Street Wesleyan Church honored Mrs. Joe Wheeler (Ollie) on her birthday for 30 years of service as church treasurer.

Ollie was escorted to the platform by her husband and seated by Pastor Leroy Cox, who gave a brief history of her life and then presented her with a corsage of yellow sweetheart roses.

The program began by the congregation singing the Doxology and reading in unison the Twenty-third Psalm and singing "Amazing Grace". This scripture and song were her favorites during these past weeks while she was hospitalized for lung surgery.

Jonas Hayes and Betty Whidden sang "Welcome Back" which he composed for Ollie's Day. They also sang "One Day at a Time". Brenda Biddix and Bobby Goodson sang "I've Discovered the Way of Gladness."

Greetings were then read from the former Pastors and Pastor Leroy Cox whom she had served under.

The immediate family was recognized and given the privilege to share some humorous events that had happened in their childhood days. A letter was read from her husband, Joe.

They were: Mr. and Mrs. Larry Slycoard (Gloria), Mr. and Mrs. Ronnie Wheeler (Joy), Mr. and Mrs. Steve Ingle (Betty), Mr. and Mrs. William Wheeler (Beth) and Kevin Wheeler.

Letters were then read from friends who had grown up in the church and from the Biggerstaff Furniture Company, where she is now employed.

In behalf of the East Gold Street Wesleyan Church a tribute was read by Juanita Jackson who presented her with one red rose representing one heart full of Love, Joy, Peace, Longsuffering, Gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance. These remarks were given as sentiments of the church.

Pastor Cox presented Ollie with a money tree in behalf of the church and her many friends. Then a receiving line was formed for the friends to give their congratulations and best wishes to her for serving so faithfully for 30 years.

Audrey Biddix presided at the register and book of memories to be given to her.

OFFICER INJURED

KMPD Sgt. Bob Hayes, veteran police officer, suffered painful bruises last Tuesday when he suffered a fall from the back steps of the old City Hall on Piedmont Ave. Hayes was treated at the hospital and will be "off his feet" for about 10 days. The freak accident occurred as the officer was leaving the police station for patrol duty.

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