

Southern Bell Files For Rate Increase

From 8B

customer where it would be offered, should be particularly helpful in meeting the needs of customers on low or fixed incomes, or those with minimal calling needs.

Under this option, customers would pay between \$6.15 and \$7.05 a month, depending on the number of telephones in their local calling area, for unlimited incoming calls and nominal amount of outgoing calling. Outgoing local calls would be measured in much the same manner as long distance calls—according to distance the call travels, duration of the call, and the day and time of day the call is placed. Measured local calls would enjoy the same time-of-day discounts as intrastate long distance calls.

This service will not be available at this time due to the type central office serving our area.

If approved, the service would be available immediately in exchanges serving a third of the company's approximately 880,000 residence customers in North Carolina. Under present plans, the service would be available to nearly 75 per cent of the company's residence customers by year-end 1985 and to 100 per cent in 1989.

In addition to the \$1.85 increase in basic monthly residence service rates, customers in 17 exchanges will receive additional increases amounting to 20 or 25 cents a month because the local calling scope within these exchanges has grown into the next higher rate grouping. Business customers in these exchanges would receive additional increases of 50 or 65 cents a month. These 17 exchanges are: Fairmont, Lumberton, Pembroke, Rowland, Lattimore, Lawndale, Cleveland, Lin-

colnton, Shelby, Anderson, Castle Hayne, Wrightsville Beach, Scotts Hill, Enka Candler, Black Mountain, Swannanoa and Kings Mountain.

The Southern Bell proposal also includes decreases in charges for many intrastate long distance calls to bring them in line with interstate calls, resulting in a saving, Thomas said.

The initial rate period on all operator-assisted calls would be reduced from the current three-minute minimum to a one-minute minimum. The first-minute and additional-minute rates would be the same as for direct-dialed calls. There would be an added charge for the operator's assistance, amounting to 30 cents for a customer-dialed credit card call, 70 cents for collect and bill-to-third number calls, and \$1.70 for person-to-person calls.

Other elements of Bell's rate proposal include the following:

—Proposed rates for service connection charges for residence customers would range between \$40.10 and \$61.55, depending on how much work the company has to do to connect the service and how much customers can save by picking up the telephone sets at a Southern Bell PhoneCenter Store and installing the sets themselves. Present service connection charges for residence customers range from \$18.20 to \$36.75.

—Proposed service connection charges for business customers with single-line service and one basic rotary dial Southern Bell telephone set would be \$81.15. The present charge is \$48.10.

—A change in the method of charging for a residence extension with a basic Southern Bell set was also proposed. The net effect of the change would be to reduce the monthly charge for such an extension from \$1.25 to

\$1.10 a month.

—The monthly charge for private number listings (those numbers not listed in telephone directories and not available through Directory Assistance) would increase by 15 cents, from \$1.60 to \$1.75 a month.

—The charge for additional listings in the company's White Pages telephone directories would increase 10 cents a month for both residence and business customers. The residence charge would go from 75 to 85 cents a month and the business charge from \$1.10 to \$1.20 a month.

—The company proposes to charge for requests made to the operator for verifications and

interruptions. The proposed charges are 35 cents for requests for verifications and line status conditions and 75 cents for interruptions. There would be no charge for verification of the status of emergency agency number, or if the line on which verification is requested is out of order. Southern Bell says verifications and interruptions cost the company hundreds of thousands of dollars a year. The proposal to charge for such services would put the burden for such costs on customers who request the service, and not on the general body of telephone users.

Thomas said that even with the proposed rate increases, the

telephone would remain one of the best bargains available to North Carolina consumers. He said the bill for basic service now takes a smaller percentage of the average family's income than it did 20, 10 or even 5 years ago.

"The telephone provides instant access to millions of other phones around the world and the convenience, companionship, security and peace of mind such access provides," Thomas said. "Yet it costs less than half a tank of gasoline or a small bag of groceries or a meal for four at a fast-food restaurant."

Speaking of the optional measured service proposal, he said it would help the company to ensure universal service at a

fair and reasonable rate level.

"Our success to date in keeping basic service prices at very low levels is being jeopardized by three developments," Thomas said. "Sustained inflation has drive the cost of providing service to record levels. Second, the today's competitive environment the subsidies that optional and business services make to basic residence service are rapidly eroding. And, finally, the restructuring of our industry as ordered by the Federal Communications Commission and pending Congressional legislation has made the status of current subsidies unclear. All of this adds uncertainty to rate-setting as we have known it in the past."

David Hinshaws Wed Saturday

From 1B

table. Serving punch were Mrs. Irvin M. Allen, Jr. and Miss Christine Still.

A four-tiered pink and white wedding cake was topped with a bridal nosegay and was cut and served by Mrs. Jacob Cooper and Mrs. Paul Hendricks from a round table which was decorated in pink and white. Champagne punch was served in the family room.

Dr. and Mrs. C. Jeff Mauney greeted guests and Dr. and Mrs. W. L. Mauney introduced the receiving line which included the bride couple and parents of the bridegroom. Assisting in receiving and entertaining were Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Knox Winget of Gastonia, aunt and uncle of the bride, Mr. and Mrs. Lee McIntyre, Mr. and Mrs. L.E. Hinnant, Mr. and Mrs. George Houser, Mr. and Mrs. Garland E. Still of Gastonia and Mr. and Mrs. W. K. Mauney, Jr. Miss Laura Carpenter and Miss Julie Durham presided at the register.

For traveling, the new Mrs. Mauney chose a pink and white two-piece suit, a Nardis Original, with navy accessories and lifted the orchid from her bridal bouquet.

Dr. and Mrs. William Lawrence Mauney of Kings Mountain are parents of the

Brunch Honors Miss Mauney Mr. Hinshaw

Miss Jennie Gray Mauney and David Hinshaw, whose wedding took place Saturday, were honored on their wedding day at an 11 a.m. Wedding Brunch at the home of Mrs. Jacob Cooper on North Piedmont Avenue.

Entertaining with Mrs. Cooper were Mrs. George W. Plonk, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wilson and Mr. and Mrs. W. K. Mauney, Jr.

Upon arrival, members of the two families and the wedding party were served appetizers in the living room which was beautifully decorated with arrangements of pink roses.

The bride's table in the dining room was overlaid with white linen cutwork and held a central arrangement of pink roses in a silver epergne. Smaller tables, where guests were seated, were overlaid with white linen and centered with miniature arrangements of pink roses and clematis. Pink and white place cards marked the places of guests, and Miss Mauney's place was marked by a pink and white shoulder bouquet and a hostess gift.

Labor Day Get-To-Gether For Murrays

A Labor Day weekend get-together at the home of Mrs. Y.F. Throneburg honored her son and daughter-in-law, Bill and Beverly Throneburg, who have been visiting from Salt Lake City, Utah.

Joining in a supper gathering were Mrs. Throneburg's brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. W.L. Murray of Maiden, her brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. W.A. Murray of Hickory and her sister, Mrs. Ransom Mann of Forest City, and her brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Ray W. Murray of Marion.

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SEPT. 15th, 1980

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BREAKFAST BUFFET MONDAY THRU FRIDAY

— 6:00 till 10:00 A.M.

Sausage Links or Patties
Crisp Fried Bacon
Hot Buttered Grits
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