County AT&T Facility Being Made Bigger

HILLSBORO -- An extensive construction project is currently under way at the American Telephone and Telegraph Company's central office six miles north of Hillsboro, according to Rader Walker, manager.

The enlargement will consist of 23,000 sq. feet of space, distributed among the four floors of the building on Highway 21.

G. T. Laflin, Hillsboro central office chief, said the new space will house additional automatic switching equipment designed to increase circuitry along the Hillsboro - Memphis microwave radio relay route and provide for additional private line network facilities.

Microwave, an outgrowth of the wartime research programs which developed radar, was johnny-on-the-spot when demands for more communications channels zoomed after World War II.

The first radio relay routes were capable of carrying 2,400 two-way telephone circuits. To-day, major microwave routes can transmit 16,800 telephone conversations, and by 1967 capacity will leap to 22,800.

Microwaves, like light waves, travel in approximately straight lines. Since they don't follow the earth's curvature, they are focused and aimed from tower to tower until they reach their destination. It takes less than one

watt of power--just enough to light a flashbulb--to send thousands of messages over each 30mile jump.

Work on the site north of Hillsboro began Oct. 30. All major construction should be completed by June 1, 1965. Prime contractor for the job is Davey & Moen of Mason City, Iowa.



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