

(From page 5)

electronic technology in the telecommunications industry." Mrs. Lyttle said. "And the RLM allows us to extend this technology at other switching centres at a much faster pace and at less cost than if we had to build complete new switching offices of the traditional type."

When the cutover took place on January 8, Blackstock subscribers will be affected as follows:

\* Dial tone will have a different sound and on rotary dial sets, there will be no click heard in the receiver as the dial returns to rest.

\* Dialing should start as soon as dial tone is heard. If there is a delay, the equipment may time out and it will be necessary to hang up and dial again.

\* When dialing to other exchanges, the caller may find a noticeable pause from the finish of dialing until the phone rings. This is caused by the transition from one type of switching equipment to another.

\* All seven digits must be dialed for local calls.

\* ANI takes effect but only for customers with individual or two party service. Those with four party service will still be required to give numbers to the operator.

\* These optional features will be available: Call Forwarding, Speed Calling, Three-way Calling, Call Waiting, Touch Phone.

Blackstock customers were given details of all the changes in an account insert which accompanied their monthly bills from Bell.

(Turn to page 7)

## Bell spends \$400,000 to put Blackstock in digital age

Bell Canada has spent nearly \$400,000 to put telephone subscribers in the Blackstock '986' exchange into the digital age. Orma Lyttle, local Bell manager said last week.

Effective January 8, 1983, the exchange was served by high technology digital switching equipment. This will not affect the normal monthly phone bills, said Mrs. Lyttle.

On the same date, subscribers no longer had to give their number to an operator when they dialed their own long distance calls. Under a system known as Automatic Number Identification (ANI) this informa-

tion and the length of calls will be registered by computers for billing information.

The Blackstock switching centre is located in the village of Blackstock, serving a mainly agriculture/residential area with some cottage development along the south shore of Lake Scugog. Until January 8 it was utilizing step-by-step mechanical equipment to process calls.

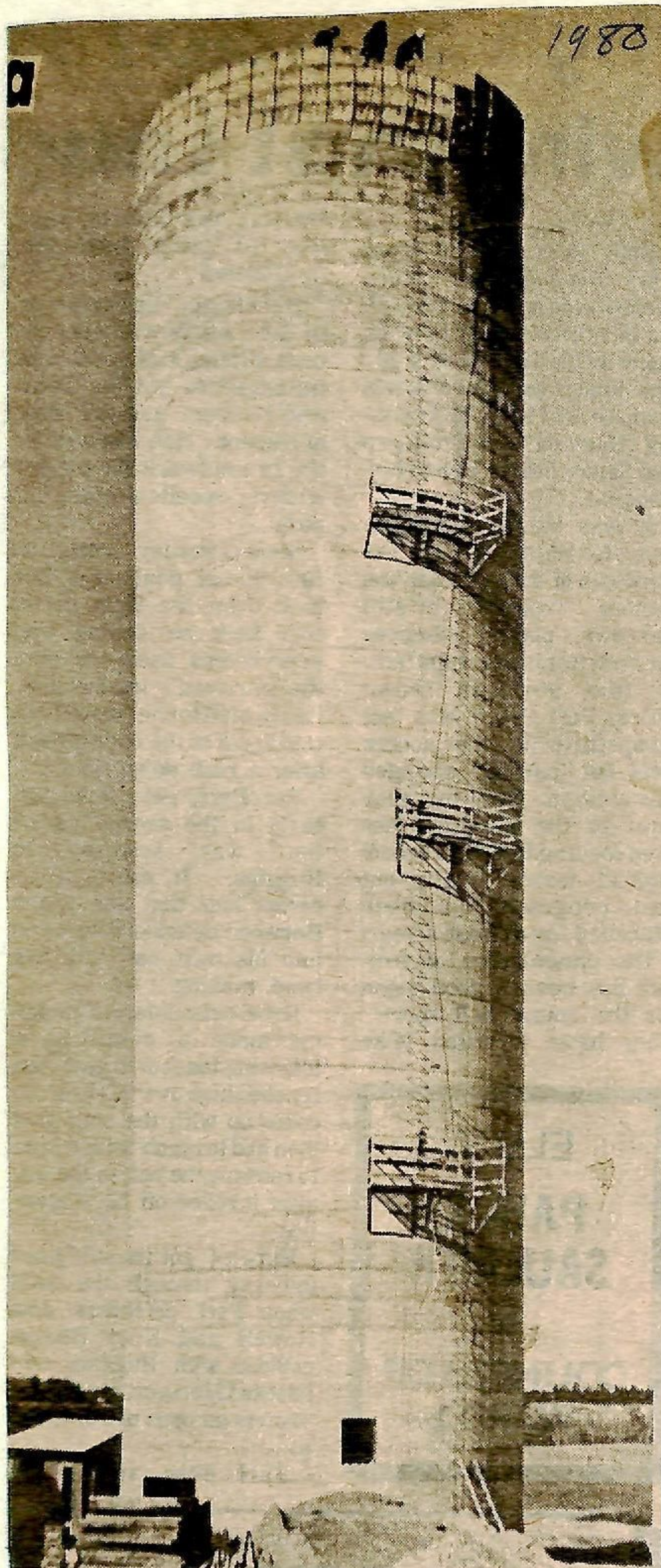
A Remote Line Module (RLM) has been installed in the Blackstock centre and will act as a satellite of a high-capacity DMS-100 switching machine located in Oshawa.

The Blackstock RLM will

initially handle more than 1,260 customers. High capacity can be introduced by the installation of Add-On modules to the DMS-100 and the RLM.

DMS provides a digital (code) method of transmission instead of analog (waves). The quality of transmission is improved, less copper wire is needed, provide equivalent service and the DMS machines take a lot less space than analog switchers.

"DMS machines use the most advanced micro-



The big one, going up and up to a total of 124 feet. Workers were pouring the last few feet on Friday of this silo on the farm of John Bonsma near Blackstock. It will hold 2600 tons of shelled corn, and will be equipped with aircraft warning lights on top.

## water billing s

Durham Region is about to implement a new system for billing its water customers.

The new system, called cyclical billing, was introduced to Regional councillors last week. Although it won't add anything to the water bills of the Region's 55,000 customers, councillors and members of Durham Finance Department expect there will be initial confusion on the part of the public.

Essentially, what the proposed new system will do is drastically reduce the bill processing period after the meter is read. Currently, because all bills are processed at the same time, it takes up to 63 days for a customer to receive the bill after the meter has been read.

A report to council last week indicates the cyclical system is used by all major public utilities and has several advantages. It eliminates the workload "peaks

and valleys" in the billing process and will allow customers to correct a water or plumbing problem much more quickly.

For example, the present billing system for three months of water consumption ending on June 30 means a customer does not get that bill until the end of August. A water or plumbing problem started in April, for example, would not come to the customer's attention until the bill is received until the end of August.

Under the new system, Durham's 55,000 residential water customers will be divided into 12 groups, and each group split into seven billing districts. Port Perry, for example, will be in group seven, billing districts 28 and 40. Residents of Blackstock on municipal water will be in group one, billing district 27.

The new system is slated to start on April 9, and the

## Family escapes burning house

An early morning fire February 19 caused extensive damage to the home of Mr. and Mrs. James Sleep at R.R.3, Blackstock.

There were no injuries as the family, including seven year old Bristol and 13-year old Blayne managed to get

out of the house unharmed.

Apparently, the family was awakened by the sound of running water from a burst pipe.

Fire officials suspect the blaze may have broken out in a basement room which contained a combination wood-oil furnace.



A Sunday afternoon fire destroyed the farm house and all contents owned by Harold Medd on the Purple Hill Road west of Blackstock. The blaze broke out

about 2:00 p.m. and is thought to have started from maple sap which was being boiled off near the house.