

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 19529.

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of the
 PICKWICK STAGES SYSTEM,
 a corporation, and the
 MT. LASSEN TRANSIT COMPANY,
 a corporation, for authority to increase
 the joint one way fare between Sacramento
 and Westwood.) Application No. 13880.

Libby & Austin, by Frank B. Austin, for applicants.

George Scruggs, for Sacramento Northern Railway and The
 Western Pacific Railroad Company, interested parties.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

This is an application of the Pickwick Stages System, a corporation, and the Mt. Lassen Transit Company, a corporation, both organized under the laws of the State of California, seeking authority to increase the joint one-way fare between Sacramento and Westwood from \$8.68 to \$9.18. The fare of \$8.68 is now published in Motor Carriers' Tariff Bureau Tariff C.R.C. No. 12, F.J. Coulter, Agent, and became effective October 21, 1926.

A public hearing was held at Sacramento March 13, 1928, before Examiner Geary, and the application having been submitted is now ready for an opinion and order.

In Application No. 11087, Decision No. 14916, May 12, 1925, the Shasta Transit Company (predecessor in interest of the Pickwick System under a transfer of the operating rights in Application No. 13170, Decision No. 17409, dated October 1, 1926),

and Mount Lassen Transit Company were granted authority to establish joint passenger fares between Sacramento and Westwood and between Redding and Westwood. The fare of \$8.68 here under consideration was at the time of decision in Application 11087 in effect via three other routes, namely, the Western Pacific to Paxton, thence Indian Valley Railroad to Crescent Mills and Scott Stage line; via the Western Pacific to Keddie and Mt. Lassen Transit Company; and via the Sacramento Northern to Chico and the Sacramento-Westwood-Susanville Stage Line. There was also a service via the Southern Pacific through Fernley, Nevada, at a fare of \$10.18.

The Mt. Lassen Transit Company purchased all of those stage lines, and by authority of this Commission in Application No. 12389, Decision No. 16411, April 5, 1926, was authorized to readjust all of the fares of the consolidated system. This adjustment was made not to increase the net revenues of the Mt. Lassen Transit Company but to remove many inconsistent, discriminatory and unjust fares found to exist by reason of the struggle for the traffic between the prior operators. The fare of the Mt. Lassen Transit Company between Keddie and Westwood was increased 50 cents. Following Decision No. 16411 the Southern Pacific Company published a fare of \$9.18, effective April 15, 1926, between Sacramento and Westwood via Red Bluff. The Western Pacific, effective July 6, 1926, also published the fare of \$9.18 via its two gateways through Paxton and Keddie, and it is to meet this fare and make the charge over the four routes uniform that this application was filed.

The distance between Sacramento and Westwood via the route under consideration is 224 miles, divided Pickwick Stages Sacramento to Red Bluff 138 miles, and Mt. Lassen Transit Company Red Bluff to Westwood 86 miles. That portion of the route between Red Bluff and Westwood is through a mountainous territory, over

The summits and passes of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, where route conditions frequently render traffic very difficult. An exhibit shows that this branch of the Mt. Lassen Transit Company between Red Bluff and Westwood is not now being operated at a profit. In order to establish this proposed joint fare each of the carriers must shrink its normal local fare.

We are of the opinion the proposed fare of \$9.18 between Sacramento and Westwood via the Pickwick Stages System and the Mt. Lassen Transit Company is a reasonable fare and that these applicants should be permitted to make the change in order to place the fare via all four routes on a parity.

O R D E R

This application having been duly heard and submitted by the parties, full investigation of the matters and things involved having been had, and basing this order on the findings of fact and the conclusions contained in the opinion, which said opinion is hereby referred to and made a part hereof,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Pickwick Stages System, a corporation, and the Mt. Lassen Transit Company, a corporation, be and they are hereby authorized to establish a joint one-way passenger fare of \$9.18 between Sacramento and Westwood, the Pickwick Stages performing the transportation service between Sacramento and Red Bluff and the Mt. Lassen Transit Company the service between Red Bluff and Westwood.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 30th day of March, 1928.

Chas. J. [Signature]

Thos. J. [Signature]

W. J. [Signature]
Commissioners.