

Decision No. 20389.

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

In the matter of the application
of the LOWER LAKE FARMERS TELE-
PHONE ASSOCIATION for authority
to discontinue certain service.

Application No. 14752.

Louis Jago, for applicant.
J. G. Marshall, for Northern California Tele-
phone Company, an interested party.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

Lower Lake Farmers Telephone Association, unin-
corporated, asks permission to discontinue the use of certain
telephone lines for the transmission of messages between
Lower Lake and Kelseyville, and between Lower Lake and Middle-
town.

A public hearing was held in this matter before
Examiner Williams in Lakeport on August 21, 1928, at which time
the matter was submitted.

Applicant owns and operates a telephone central office
in Lower Lake, Lake County, California. Communication with
outside points has been maintained principally over a combina-
tion subscribers' and toll line extending between Lower Lake
and Middletown. This is a so-called "grounded" line which is
quite heavily loaded with subscribers' stations and is not
capable of supplying the quality of long distance service that
is desired by applicant's patrons. The Lower Lake Farmers
Telephone Association seeks to abandon the present inadequate
toll service so that others may provide improved and adequate

service in lieu thereof.

Northern California Telephone Company through its representative, Mr. J. G. Marshall, stated its willingness to construct a copper toll circuit between Lower Lake and Middletown, but at that time was unable to give a definite date of completion of such line. This Commission is now in receipt of a written statement from Northern California Telephone Company that the necessary construction work could be completed by January 1, 1929, barring right of way difficulties and adverse weather conditions.

No objection to the granting of this application was made at the hearing and it appears that service to the public will be improved and the interests of applicant's patrons will be subserved by the granting of the application as requested.

O R D E R

Lower Lake Farmers Telephone Association having made application to the Railroad Commission for authority to discontinue certain service, a public hearing having been held and the matter being now ready for decision,

The Railroad Commission hereby finds as a fact that applicant should not be required to continue the operation of its toll telephone circuits between Lower Lake and other points after the establishment, by Northern California Telephone Company, of toll facilities to outside points at the switchboard of applicant at Lower Lake.

Basing its order on the foregoing finding of fact and upon other findings of fact contained in the opinion which

precedes this order,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Lower Lake Farmers Telephone Association be and it is hereby authorized to:

(1) Discontinue long distance telephone service between Lower Lake and Middletown and sever its combination subscribers' and toll line at or near its intersection with the northerly grant line of Guenoc Rancho, in Section 12, T. 11 N., R. 7 W., and to permanently separate the remaining sections.

(2) Discontinue long distance telephone service between Lower Lake and Kelseyville over a line, the property of Kelseyville Telephone Association, and disconnect the telephone line of Kelseyville Telephone Association at the switchboard in Lower Lake unless the Kelseyville Association severs and permanently disconnects the resulting portions of its line, at or near a point one-quarter mile east of the western boundary of Section 34, T. 13 N., R. 8 W.

(3) Cancel and withdraw rates for service to be discontinued as set forth above.

This order is conditional upon and will become effective as of the date of the commencement of commercial operation of toll service between Lower Lake and Middletown by Northern California Telephone Company.

This order will become void if toll service operation by Northern California Telephone Company, between Lower Lake and Middletown, and discontinuance of toll service by

applicant as above set forth are not completed on or before July 1, 1929.

For all other purposes the effective date of this order shall be twenty (20) days from and after the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 10th day of October, 1928.

Leon Whitall

W. J. [unclear]

[unclear]

[unclear]

W. J. [unclear]
Commissioners.