

Decision No. 21112.

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

In the matter of the application
of
NORTHWESTERN PACIFIC RAILROAD
COMPANY, for permission to re-
move station agent from its
station at Cazadero, California.

Application No. 15344.

R. W. Palmer, for applicant.
A. F. Weston for Railway Express Agency.
E. I. Donohue, for residents of Cazadero,
Protestants.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

In this proceeding Northwestern Pacific Railroad Company requests permission to discontinue the maintenance of a station agent at Cazadero, on the Guerneville Branch, in Sonoma County, California.

A public hearing was held in this matter before Examiner Satterwhite on April 8, 1929, at Santa Rosa.

Cazadero is located on Austin Creek, a tributary of Russian River and is the terminal of the Guerneville Branch of applicant. The business transacted at Cazadero Station for the twelve month period ending November 30, 1928, as shown by the application, is as follows:

Revenue from passenger tickets sold, . . .	\$972.15
Carload freight forwarded & received, . . .	2,975.15
L. C. L. freight forwarded & received, . . .	1,713.32

Cost of maintaining agency,	1,779.82
---------------------------------------	----------

The greater portion of the Company's business at the

agency is transacted during the summer season.

Along Austin Creek, in the vicinity of Cazadero, there has developed a comparatively large summer resort colony. In addition to the many privately owned resorts, the City of Berkeley owns and operates a large summer camp at Cazadero. These resorts are patronized by large numbers during vacation time, traveling both by train and auto. Most of those who travel by train buy their round trip tickets at the point of origin and no portion of this revenue is included in the revenue of Cazadero passenger business shown above. These people, for the greater part, have baggage to be handled and have other business in and about the station. The agent at Cazadero renders service to these people, although the revenues derived from their transportation are not credited to Cazadero station.

The record shows that a considerable amount of less than carload freight is handled in and out of Cazadero. In the event that the agent is removed, this freight would undoubtedly be left in the freight house, either at shipper's risk, or under some arrangement of maintaining a key in the vicinity.

Freight service is handled by extra freight trains, normally operated twice a week, which arrives at Cazadero as early as 9:00 A. M. and as late as 3:00 P.M. Freight trains leaving Cazadero have the same variation of departure. With these variations in arrival and departure, the shippers or receivers on the line would spend a considerable amount of time waiting for trains if they did not wish their freight left unprotected at the freight house, or put to considerable inconvenience.

This station agent affords a service to the permanent

residents of the district, due to the fact that many of them live at considerable distances from the station and when freight is received for them they are notified by the agent through the mail. The nearest agency to Cazadero is at Duncan Mills, located a distance of about eight (8) miles to the south. Likewise, when they have freight to be forwarded, it can be signed for by the agent and properly taken care of pending the time it is loaded on the train. The granting of this application was opposed by a number of witnesses from the district as well as a representative from the recreation department of the City of Berkeley.

It appears to the Commission that the maintenance of this agency is reasonably necessary for the convenience of applicant's patrons, especially during the summer time and that this application should be denied.

O R D E R

Northwestern Pacific Railroad Company having made application for permission to discontinue its station agent at Cazadero, Sonoma County, California, a public hearing having been held, the Commission being apprised of the facts, the matter being under submission and ready for decision, therefore

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the above entitled proceeding be and it is hereby denied without prejudice.

The effective date of this order shall be twenty (20) days from the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this ~~16~~ day of May, 1929.

Proctor

Deaney

Quinn

Leon Whitely

W. R. R.

Commissioners.