

Decision No. 21751.

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the matter of application of the NORTHWESTERN PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY for authority to close agency at Corte Madera, County of Marin, State of California.

Application No. 15863.

In the matter of the application of the Railway Express Agency for authority to abandon its agency at Corte Madera, County of Marin, State of California.

Application No. 15901.

R. L. Hillebrand, for Northwestern Pacific Railroad Company.

R. S. Elliott, for Railway Express Agency.

H. C. Symonds, for Town of Corte Madera.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

In Application No. 15863, Northwestern Pacific Railroad Company requests authority to close its agency at the station of Corte Madera, Marin County, and in Application No. 15901, Railway Express Agency requests authority to close its agency at said station.

A public hearing in these matters was conducted by Examiner Satterwhite at Ross on September 18th, 1929, at which time these matters were consolidated for hearing.

Corte Madera is located on the railroad line of applicant, Northwestern Pacific Railroad Company, between Sausalito and San Rafael. The nearest agencies to Corte Madera are Sausalito, 6.1 miles south, and Larkspur, 0.8 miles north.

Northwestern Pacific Railroad Company contends that the

amount of business transacted at Corte Madera does not warrant the maintenance of an agent. Revenues derived from this station for the twelve months' period ending March 31st, 1929, were as follows:

Passenger tickets, single, round trip and commutation,	\$10,773.00
Carload freight forwarded and received, .	1,058.83
L.C.L. freight forwarded and received, . .	745.43
Expense of maintaining agency,	1,858.07

The business of the Railway Express Agency is handled by the railroad company's agent on a commission basis. The earnings for the twelve months' period ending July 30th, 1929, amounted to \$997.25, and the commission paid to the agent amounted to \$99.72, or an average of \$8.31 per month. An unsuccessful endeavor was made by the Express Agency to employ a local resident as express agent; therefore, request is made to abandon the express agency if the railway agency is withdrawn. In the event these applications are granted, Railway Express Agency will receive shipments at car door and leave prepaid shipments on station platform at receiver's risk.

The Town of Corte Madera protested the granting of the request to abandon this agency, on the ground that if the agent were removed it would work a hardship on the residents of the town, in that they would then be required to go to Larkspur, 0.8 miles distant, to receive agency service and, furthermore, that it was their opinion that freight business at Corte Madera would, in the future, increase to a point where the agency would be profitable.

The record shows that methods are now being used on the electric trains whereby all passenger tickets can be cared for by the conductor and baggage can be checked on certain of those trains. With respect to carload business, it appears that this class of business can be handled without a resident agent. An agent's

service, however, is most needed for the handling of L.C.L. freight but we find that the revenue derived from this class of business is relatively small, being less than \$750.00 per year, and it appears to the Commission that the public service resulting from maintaining an agent at this point does not justify the expense of maintaining the same, when consideration is given to the fact that an agency is maintained within a distance of .8 of a mile.

After due consideration of all the evidence in this proceeding, it appears that the maintenance of an agent at Corte Madera, by either the railroad or the express company, is not justifiable and that these applications should be granted.

O R D E R

Northwestern Pacific Railroad Company having made application to abandon its agency at Corte Madera, Marin County, (Application No. 15863) and the Railway Express Agency having made like application (Application No. 15901), 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 permission and authority be and it is hereby granted to Northwestern Pacific Railroad Company to remove and abandon its agency at the station of Corte Madera, County of Marin, subject, however, to the following conditions:

(1) Applicant shall maintain the station of Corte Madera as a non-agency station.

(2) Applicant shall post notice at said station of Corte Madera, notifying the public of the removal of said agent, for at least ten (10) days before said agent is removed.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that Railway Express Agency
be and it is hereby authorized to abandon its agency at Corte
Madera, Marin County, provided, however, that said applicant's
train messenger will receive express matter at car door and dis-
charge prepaid express matter at said Corte Madera Station.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 5th day
~~November~~
of October, 1929.

Thomas D. Lott

A. J. Lewis

Ernest Scott

M. J. Lee

Commissioners.