

Decision No. 25771.

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of (a) SOUTHERN PACIFIC COMPANY for authority to establish part-time agencies at the stations of Tipton and Pixley in the County of Tulare, State of California, and (b) RAILWAY EXPRESS AGENCY, INC., to establish a part-time agency at each of said stations.

Application No. 18700.

ORIGINAL

BY THE COMMISSION:

ORDER

Southern Pacific Company, a corporation, joined by Railway Express Agency, Inc., a corporation, on February 7, 1933, petitioned the Railroad Commission for authority to establish part-time agencies in lieu of the present full-time agencies at both Pixley and Tipton, in Tulare County, California, located on Southern Pacific Company's main lines between Los Angeles and San Francisco via San Joaquin Valley.

Accompanying the application is a comparative statement showing the amount of business transacted by Southern Pacific Company at these stations; which statement is as follows:

Items	Pixley		Tipton	
	Period	Year	Year	Year
	Ending	Ending	Ending	Ending
	Dec. 31st	Dec. 31st	Dec. 31st	Dec. 31st
	1931	1932	1931	1932
Passenger tickets sold,	23	17	75	33
Number less-than-carload shipments received,	373	302	1,034	415
Number of less-than-carload shipments forwarded,	44	54	368	91
Number of carload shipments received,	34	18	119	30
Number of carload shipments forwarded,	210	124	254	71

The company alleges that the Pixley station statistics prior to August, 1931, were destroyed by fire.

A study of the station records shows that during the year ending December 31, 1932, the expense to maintain both stations amounted to \$3,474, principally agents' wages and that the revenue derived from passenger tickets and less-than-carload shipments received and forwarded amounted to \$2,194.

The express revenue derived during the year ending December 31, 1932, on all shipments forwarded and received at Pixley, amounted to \$563.82 and at Tipton to \$498.37. The station agent at each of these points takes care of both the railroad and express business.

Both Pixley and Tipton are located between the agency station of Tulare on the north and the agency station of Earlimart on the south, a distance of 22.4 miles, Pixley being 5.6 miles north of Earlimart and Tipton 10.4 miles south of Tulare.

Applicant, Southern Pacific Company, alleges that under present conditions the revenue derived at said stations does not warrant the continuance and maintenance of a full-time agent at each of said stations and that the business can be adequately handled by the maintenance of an agency at Pixley from 10:15 A.M. to 12 M. and 1:00 P.M. to 1:30 P.M. and at Tipton during the hours of 8:00 A.M. to 10:00 A.M. and 1:45 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. approximately. When the agent is absent from either of these stations during business hours the company plans to store less-than-carload shipments in warehouse and provide a telephone, to be located outside of the depot, for patrons to communicate with the agent at the adjacent station for the purpose of ordering cars and obtaining information on other railroad business; the keys for the said warehouse and the telephone to be obtainable from a custodian at or near said stations.

Railway Express Agency, Inc. proposes to maintain an agent at each of the two stations involved during the same hours as does the railroad. When the agent is absent express shipments can be tendered to or received by express messenger at the car door of the trains stopping at said points.

The California Farm Bureau has signified, in writing, that it does not object to the granting of this application.

It appearing that a public hearing is not necessary herein and that the application should be granted,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Southern Pacific Company and Railway Express Agency, Inc., respectively, are hereby authorized to establish a part-time agency at Pixley and Tipton in Tulare County, California. The approximate hours the agencies are to be open each week day are as follows:

Pixley 10:15 A.M. to 12:00 Noon  
1:00 P.M. to 1:30 P.M.

Tipton 8:00 A.M. to 10:00 A.M.  
1:45 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.

The authorization herein granted is subject to the following conditions:

- (1) The part-time operation of these agencies shall not result in an increase in fare for Southern Pacific Company's passengers boarding trains at these points.
- (2) During the absence of agent, less-than-carload freight shipments shall be stored under lock in the company's warehouse at each location and the company's telephone shall be made available to patrons. The keys to both the warehouse and to the telephone shall be obtainable from a custodian located at or near said station and a notice shall be maintained at both warehouse and telephone advising shippers where the keys may be secured.

- (3) Railway Express Agency, Inc. shall, during the absence of agent, continue to handle express shipments moving into or out of said points, provided they are tendered to or received from express messenger at car door of train stopping at said points.
- (4) Applicants shall notify the public of the establishment of the proposed part-time agencies by posting a notice in advance for at least ten (10) days in a conspicuous place at said stations.
- (5) Applicants shall, within thirty (30) days thereafter notify this Commission, in writing, of the change herein authorized and of their compliance with the conditions hereof.
- (6) The authorization herein granted shall lapse and become void if not exercised within one year from the date hereof, unless further time is granted by subsequent order.

The authority herein granted shall become effective on the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 27<sup>th</sup> day of March, 1933.

P. L. Scully  
Leon O'Connell  
W. J. C.  
M. B. Harris  
W. L. ...  
Commissioners,