

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 11049.

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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In the Matter of the Petition )  
to increase fares of LIBERTY : Application No. 8059  
BUS LINE, under Rule VII. )

ORIGINAL

Richard W. Brannon for applicants.

BY THE COMMISSION,

O P I N I O N

The applicant herein is a co-partnership composed of W. R. Brannon and Richard W. Brannon, and is engaged in operating a passenger stage line between San Diego and the base hospital at Camp Kearny, a distance of 16½ miles. The present one-way and round trip fares between these points are 56 cents and 93 cents, respectively, which it is here proposed to increase to 60 cents and \$1.00.

A public hearing was had on the application before Examiner Eddy at San Diego on August 28, 1922, on which date the matter was submitted and is now ready for decision.

The bus line owns no equipment, but leases three cars and employs the owners thereof as drivers, paying therefor \$2.30 a round trip for the use of the car, and \$1.00 for the service of the driver. If the increased fares be granted, the drivers will be allowed an additional 20 cents a round trip for the lease of their equipment. For the use of these cars, the applicant last year paid \$9,106.85, and to the operators thereof, as wages, \$4,017.30. The expenditures for bonds and licenses amounted to \$1,096.32; for casual station help, \$449.95; station rent, \$480.00; general expenses, \$504.00; and proprietors'

salaries, \$2,400.00. The gross revenues for the year 1921 were \$18,539.19; the expenditures were \$18,072.70, leaving a profit for the year of \$466.49. The gross revenue for the six months ending June 30, 1922, were \$9,792.31, and the expenditures \$9,436.74, leaving a margin of \$355.57. The business during July of this year is said to have been conducted at a loss of \$15.00.

The applicant has been operating a service to Camp Kearny for some years. Early in December, 1920, the Camp Kearny hospital was opened as a tuberculosis hospital, the military activities of the camp having ceased. The automobile stage service of the applicant was extended to the hospital, resulting in an increase in the round trip mileage from 30.5 miles to 33 miles. During 1921 nearly 500 patients were quartered at the hospital; at the present time there are 238 patients and 17 enlisted men. The record indicates that the officers own their own cars and the government provides a bus for the use of the nurses. Many of the patients are able to secure transportation without cost from the hospital to San Diego in machines of passers-by, but call upon the applicant for return transportation. The number of passengers handled from San Diego to the hospital during 1921 was 20,573, and from the hospital to San Diego 16,552, a difference of 4,021. This difference for the first six months of 1922 was 1,561 passengers. During 1921 there were available 63,352 seats, of which 37,125 were occupied and 26,227 empty.

The Medical Officer in charge of the hospital and the Post Commander of the American Legion, after an investigation, have expressly asked that the desired increases be granted.

The testimony further showed that the hospital at Camp Kearny is to be discontinued by the U. S. Government and when final action is taken the service of this applicant cannot be continued by reason of lack of patronage.

The Commission does not look with favor upon the operations of a common carrier with leased automobiles, but in view of the fact that at best the service will probably not be continued for more than a few months, this feature need not here be considered as controlling. We believe the application should be granted.

O R D E R

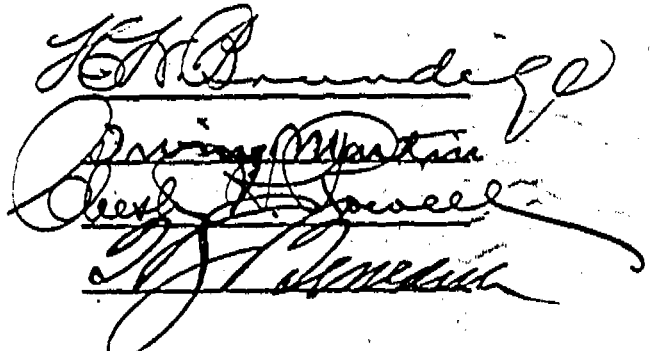
A public hearing having been held in the above entitled proceeding, evidence submitted and the Commission being fully advised,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that W. R. Brannon and Richard W. Brannon, co-partners doing business under the fictitious name of Liberty Bus Line, be, and they hereby are authorized to establish, effective ten (10) days from date hereof, the following rates for the transportation of passengers between San Diego and the United States Government Hospital at Camp Kearny:

One Way Fare - 60 cents, Thirty day limit.

Round Trip - \$1.00 - Thirty day limit.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 31 day of October, 1922.

  
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COMMISSIONERS