

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

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ORIGINAL

Decision No. 1216

In the Matter of the Application of)
F. E. LAUMANN and THE PACIFIC TELEPHONE)
AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY for permission the)
one to sell certain telephone property)
and retire from certain territory in and)
around Fulton, Sonoma County, California,)
and the other to buy said telephone prop-)
erty and re-enter the same territory.)

Application No. 901.

F. E. Laumann in propria persona.
J. T. Shaw for The Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Co.

GORDON, Commissioner.

O P I N I O N .

This application involves the sale of a small telephone exchange serving thirty-five patrons in and adjacent to the town of Fulton in Sonoma County, California, by F. E. Laumann, the present owner, to The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company, the withdrawal of the former from this territory and the entry of the latter into the same territory.

At the hearing of this application, it was shown that there are, as of the present date, but one business and four residence telephones located within the town and thirty farmer line telephones in the surrounding community being served through this exchange. Of this number only those within the town, together with the lines connecting them with the exchange and the necessary switchboard and accessory office equipment, are the property of the owner of this exchange. The remaining thirty telephones and farmer lines, together with accessory subscribers' station equipment are the property of the subscribers or patrons.

The present owner of this exchange, aside from operating this telephone system, is engaged in other business pursuits to which he desires to devote his attention; and aside from continuing to act as local agent for The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company, he desires to withdraw from the telephone business.

Connection for long distance telephone service to points beyond Fulton is had with the system of The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company, which company has joined in the application for permission to take over this property, as described in the bill of sale attached to and made a part of the application as Exhibit "C", and to re-enter this field. In so doing, it is willing to assume the responsibility of providing necessary telephone service to this community.

The rates now charged patrons of this exchange for telephone service are as follows:

Business telephones.....	\$1.50 per month.
Residence telephones.....	.50 per month.
Farmer line service.....	.25 per month.

Under the latter rate farmer line patrons own and maintain their own lines and telephones.

The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company in its application asks the permission of the Commission, if this application is granted, to charge local exchange rates at Fulton similar to rates now in effect at similar exchanges operated by it in this state. These rates are set forth in detail in its Exhibit "A" which is attached to and made a part of this application and which in part are as follows:

	<u>Business</u>		<u>Residence</u>	
	<u>Wall Set</u>	<u>Desk Set</u>	<u>Wall Set</u>	<u>Desk Set</u>
1 party	\$2.50	\$2.75	\$2.00	\$2.25
2 "	2.00	2.25	1.75	2.00
4 "	-	-	1.50	1.75
Extensions	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00

While the Commission is not specifically asked in the application for permission to increase rates, it is obvious that to allow this schedule to be placed in effect would be equivalent to allowing an increase in the rates. From Mr. Laumann's testimony, it was apparent that his patrons have not been apprised of rate increases and, while there are but five patrons thus in-

Involved, the Commission specifically withholds its present approval of the proposed rates. The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company, through its representative, agreed to assume responsibility for any objection which might arise as a result of applying the proposed schedule and, in the event of complaint of the rates being made, to make such adjustments as to the Commission may seem reasonable and proper.

No other objection appearing and it appearing to the Commission that the public convenience and necessity will be subserved by the granting of this application, the following order is recommended.

O R D E R .

Application having been made to this Commission by F. E. Laumann and by The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company for permission the one to sell certain telephone property and to retire from certain territory in and around Fulton, Sonoma County, California, and the other to buy said telephone property and to re-enter the same territory as a public utility, and a public hearing having been held thereon and no adequate reason for objection thereto appearing,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the application of F. E. Laumann to sell that certain telephone property as set forth in applicant's Exhibit "C", referred to in the Opinion in this Order, and to retire from certain territory in and around Fulton, Sonoma County, California, and of The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company to buy said telephone property and to re-enter the same territory operating a telephone system as a public utility and to publish, file and place in effect rates for exchange and long distance toll service be and the same is hereby granted.

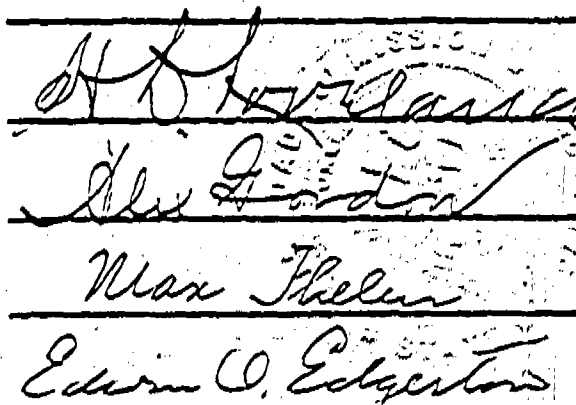
PROVIDED that as to rates for exchange service, this permission is not to be taken as approval of the rates since the Commission has not yet passed upon their ultimate reasonableness.

AND PROVIDED FURTHER that as to rates for long distance toll service which the applicant, The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company, desires to place in effect for this exchange shall be subject to such modification as may be provided for in this Commission's decision No. 1082 in Application No. 2 and Case No. 407 so far as said decision may be applicable in this case.

This order to be and become effective upon the execution on the part of these applicants of a conveyance by which title to said telephone property at Fulton, Sonoma County, California, is to be transferred to The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company by the said F. E. Laumann.

The foregoing Opinion and Order are hereby approved and ordered filed as the Opinion and Order of the Railroad Commission of the State of California.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 22nd day of January, 1914.


H. B. [Signature]
[Signature]
Max Thelen
Edwin O. Edgerton
Commissioners.