

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 2560

## BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the matter of the application of  
Chas. P. Snyder, doing a telegraph  
business under the name of The Angels  
Telegraph Company, for an order auth-  
orizing him to discontinue telegraph  
service.

Application No. 1648.

Chas. P. Snyder, for The Angels Telegraph Company.

A. H. May, for The Western Union Telegraph Company.

Jas. T. Shaw, for The Pacific Telephone and Tele-  
graph Company.

GORDON, Commissioner.

OPINION

This is an application by Chas. P. Snyder, doing a public telegraph business under the name of The Angels Telegraph Company between Angels Camp and San Andreas, for an order of this Commission authorizing him to discontinue the operation of his line for telegraph service. The Western Union Telegraph Company now operates a telegraph office at San Andreas, and telegrams forwarded from or addressed to Angels Camp are transferred by Western Union lines at San Andreas.

The applicant has heretofore been engaged in law practice in Angels Camp and in conducting this practice has employed a clerk and stenographer who has also served as telegraph operator. Having been elected to the office of District Attorney of Calaveras County he has discontinued his law practice at Angels Camp and removed his law office to San Andreas, the county seat, which will necessitate the employment of a telegraph operator for no other purpose than handling the telegraph business if this service is to be continued.

A hearing having been held at Angels Camp on June 17th, testimony was introduced to show that the receipts from the oper-

ation of this line since the removal of the applicant's law office from Angels Camp, are not sufficient to continue its operation except at an actual loss. It was shown also that the storms of the last winter have left the line inoperative, since which time telegrams have been forwarded by telephone to and from Angels over the lines of The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company; and it is claimed by the applicant that to place his line in proper repair to render its further operation possible will necessitate the expenditure of further capital which will not be warranted by the receipts.

There appears to be sufficient public necessity for the continuance of telegraph service at this point, however; and to further complicate the situation, The Western Union Telegraph Company, since this application was filed with the Commission, has followed with a further application for permission to discontinue its office at San Andreas on the representation that with the withdrawal of the Angels Camp business the receipts from its San Andreas office will be insufficient to continue its operation except at a considerable loss.

The testimony has disclosed, however, that The Western Union Telegraph Company now maintains a telegraph line with which certain of its other offices in this section are connected, and which passes directly through Angels Camp. It is admitted by that company that the cost of installing an office at Angels Camp and connecting it with this line would be comparatively small, and at the suggestion of the Commission it has secured a location for the establishment of an office and has employed an operator with the understanding that if, after a fair trial it should appear that its continuance may not be sufficiently justified, it may again come before the Commission with an application for permission to discontinue it.

While recognizing the public necessity and convenience in this case, it is also apparent that to require Mr. Snyder to

make necessary repairs to his line and continue under the circumstances to serve the public would result in a personal loss to him. The willingness and readiness of The Western Union Company to assume the responsibility from which the applicant desires to be relieved offers at least a temporary solution of the situation to which I can see no present objection, and upon the condition that The Western Union Telegraph Company shall at once establish its office at this point I am willing to recommend that this application be granted and submit the following order.

O R D E R

Application having been made to this Commission by Chas. P. Snyder, conducting a public telegraph business at Angels Camp, Calaveras County, under the name of The Angels Telegraph Company, for an order authorizing him to discontinue the said telegraph business, and a hearing having been duly held, and it appearing to the Commission, as set forth in the foregoing opinion, that the public necessity and convenience will be protected and subserved by the agreement of The Western Union Telegraph Company to establish a telegraph office in Angels Camp,-

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that this application be and it is hereby granted.

PROVIDED that The Western Union Telegraph Company shall at once establish a telegraph office in Angels Camp under the conditions referred to in the foregoing opinion.

This 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 2nd day of July, 1915.

*July*

*H. S. Loveland*  
*Edwin O. Edgerton*