

# ORIGINAL

Decision No. Y

Decision No. 113 PM

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

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In the Matter of the Application )  
of A. L. HARRIS, doing business )  
under the name of Allendale Ware- )  
house, for permission to increase )  
storage rates. )  
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Application No. 2873.

A. L. Harris in propria persona.

BY THE COMMISSION.

## O P I N I O N

A public hearing was conducted by Examiner Westover on the above application for authority to increase rates from 75 cents to \$1.00 per ton per season, for the storage of grain in what is known as Allendale Warehouse, located at Allendale, Solano County, on the ranch operated by applicant.

The reason assigned for the application is the increased cost of labor and incidentals and particularly the apparent impossibility of knowing in advance just when and how much labor will be needed, especially in receiving grain into the warehouse. This difficulty results largely from the fact that the warehouse is a small one, with a capacity of but 1400 tons, making it impracticable to give continuous employment to a warehouse crew; nor are the premises equipped with labor saving devices. Grain grown in the vicinity is harvested, threshed and sacked in the field by machinery by one operation. The ranchers then haul it as soon as possible to the warehouse for storage. The rush period covers two or three

weeks of hauling and storing, after which deliveries to the warehouse extending over two or three months are somewhat intermittent. This creates the problem of economizing on labor costs, as it is extremely difficult to procure labor in the vicinity for brief periods or fractions of days. The amount of labor per ton required to load grain out from the warehouse into cars is uncertain for the reason that during the latter part of the season, owing to the work of mice and rats and infirmities in sacks, there is a great deal of breakage, and considerable extra labor is required in repairing sacks, resacking grain, ready for shipment, for which labor no extra charge has heretofore been made, although a charge has been made for sacks and twine furnished. The rate paid for all labor about the warehouse is now \$3.00 per day together with board and lodging; and where grain is handled by the ton, 15 cents per ton with a guarantee of the \$3.00 rate.

Applicant stored during the season of 1915 about 660 tons of grain, receiving a gross revenue of about \$500 and during the season of 1916 he stored about 460 tons, receiving a gross revenue of about \$350. These figures are approximate as applicant kept no books. The testimony indicates that for the coming season the grain produced in the vicinity will be three or four times the amount produced last season. One patron of this warehouse stored 1300 bags last year and expects to store 6000 bags this year from substantially the same acreage. It is probable that during the coming season, applicant's warehouse will be used to its capacity.

The warehouse is owned by applicant's mother who receives as rent for the premises two-fifths of the gross storage revenue, which the testimony indicates is the usual rental for warehouse

property in that territory. The building is insured for \$1500 and is valued by applicant at about \$2000.

There was some complaint by ranchers that their teams were compelled to lose valuable time in hauling because of delay in unloading at the warehouse, but this appeared to be a minor matter which might easily be eliminated by cooperation of warehouseman and drivers, the latter to receive reasonable compensation for the service. The rate fixed herein for storage will include all charges for labor of receiving, storing and loading out, and nothing in the order will prevent the interested parties from taking advantage of such economies in labor as may be to their mutual interest.

### O R D E R

A. L. HARRIS operating the Allendale Warehouse at Allendale Station, Solano County, having applied to this Commission for authority to increase his warehouse charges as set forth in the opinion preceding this order, and a public hearing having been held upon said application, and the Commission being fully advised in the premises, it is hereby found that the rates rules and regulations heretofore charged and observed by applicant A. L. Harris operating the Allendale Warehouse, are unjust and unreasonable to the extent that they differ from the rates, rules and regulations hereinafter named, which are hereby declared just and reasonable, and,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that A. L. Harris be, and he is hereby authorized to file within twenty (20) days from the date of this order the following schedule of rates, rules and regulations, and thereafter to charge and collect such rates and enforce such rules and regulations for warehouse service at the said Allendale Warehouse, to-wit:

ALLENDALE WAREHOUSE

Rates, Rules and Regulations.

Storage for grain.....90¢ per ton per season.

Labor of resacking grain and repairing sacks, for the time actually consumed a rate per hour not to exceed current wages for like labor.

Sacks and material for resacking shall be furnished at the expense of the owner of the grain, or may be supplied by warehouseman at actual cost to him.

The storage season shall be understood to extend from June 1st to May 31st following, inclusive.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 12th  
day of June, 1917.

Max Thelen

H. D. Rowland

Edwin O. Edgerton

Frank R. Decker

Commissioners.