

Decision No. 5658

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

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In the matter of the application	}	Application No. 3945.
of W. H. FORD for certificate		
of public convenience and neces-		
sity to operate an automobile		
stage service between Bakersfield		
and Kernville.	}	}

Boyce Fitzgerald for applicant.  
E. J. Emmons for Tibbets and Hand,  
protestants.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

W. H. FORD applies for certificate that public convenience and necessity require him to operate an automobile stage service for the common carriage of passengers and express packages between Bakersfield, Caliente and Kernville, all in Kern County.

A public hearing upon the application was held by Examiner Westover at Bakersfield on August 2, 1918.

Applicant proposes to operate a 1913 model, 8-passenger Simplex touring car on a daily schedule leaving Bakersfield at 8 A.M. arriving at Kernville at 12:30 P.M., leaving Kernville at 2 P.M. and arriving at Bakersfield at 5:30 P.M. The proposed route would parallel the Southern Pacific between Bakersfield and Caliente, a distance of twenty-two miles by rail, and extend from Caliente via Walkers

Basin, Havilah, Bodfish and Isabella to Kernville, a distance of forty-one miles over mountain roads, crossing three mountain ranges.

During the last fourteen years Messrs. Tibbets and Hand have hauled freight over the said route between Caliente and Kernville. Since May, 1916, they have been operating over that route in addition a Packard Twin Six car with a Chandler car in reserve but not on regular schedules. During that time C. F. Bennett was operating a mail and passenger stage until July 1, 1918 when Messrs Tibbets and Hand were awarded the mail contract and Mr. Bennett ceased operating. Since that time Messrs. Tibbets and Hand report that they have been operating regularly on schedule and report four or five passengers per trip and that they can, with their present equipment, care for such business as is offered.

The territory served is very sparsely settled. The principal travel is to and from Kernville, a small health resort, in the vicinity of which there is some mining and cattle industry and beyond which the Southern California Edison Company is doing considerable development work and employing a number of men. After the construction work referred to is completed there will probably be far less passenger travel. During the winter season there is considerable snow at high elevations, making it necessary to operate horse-drawn vehicles.

We are satisfied from the testimony that public convenience and necessity does not require additional service between Kernville and Caliente, where the present service makes a convenient connection with trains; nor between Bakersfield and Kernville, where the trains appear to give

sufficient service.

ORDER

W. H. FORD having applied to the Railroad Commission for authority to operate passenger and express service between Bakersfield and Kernville, via Caliente, a public hearing on said application having been held, and it appearing therefrom that public convenience and necessity does not require the proposed service,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the application be and it is hereby denied.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 10<sup>th</sup>  
day of August, 1918.

Edwin C. Edgerton  
H. Howard  
W. G. Gordon  
Frank R. DeWitt  
Commissioners.