

Decision No. 8372

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of
RAYMOND TELEPHONE COMPANY for permis-
sion to discontinue about five miles
of upper end of Line No. 8 and about
ten miles of upper end of Line No. 12.

Application No. 5194.

ORIGINAL

James Barcroft, for Applicant.

O. L. Everts, for "The Pines" Resort
at Bass Lake, Protestant.

BY THE COMMISSION.

O P I N I O N

In this proceeding Raymond Telephone Company asks auth-
ority to permanently abandon and discontinue service over portions
of two of its present telephone lines in Madera County.

A public hearing on the application was held by Examiner
Westover at Madera on March, 9, 1920.

It is proposed to abandon three and six tenths miles,
represented by applicant to be about five miles, of the upper end
of line known as No. 8 between Hawkins School House and Fresno
Flats, and about ten miles of the upper end of line known as No.
12 between Hawkins School House and "The Pines", a summer resort
located at Bass Lake.

It appears from the testimony that there is at present
only one subscriber now served from that portion of Line No. 8
whick it is proposed to abandon and that the revenue arising out
of its use is not sufficient to justify the cost of its maintenance.

For the year 1919, when there were eight subscribers served from this section of line, receipts from its operation are reported to have been \$30.00 from subscribers and \$10.23 in toll service, a total of \$40.23, with a maintenance expense of \$29.30. With only one subscriber now remaining and paying \$1.50 per month for service receipts hereafter would be less than the cost of operation if business of the year 1919 were taken as a basis.

The testimony relating to the abandonment of the upper portion of line No. 12 shows total receipts for the year 1919 amounting to \$80.09 and maintenance expenses amounting to \$92.90. It appears, however, that in addition to one other subscriber who is dependent on this section of line for service, there is also The Pines Resort with accommodations from May 1st to November 1st of each year for about 275 guests, and during this season it is important that telephone service be available.

The discontinuance of service over that portion of line No. 8 which it is proposed to abandon having been protested since the hearing, further investigation has revealed that at Fresno Flats line No. 8 connects with a Forest Service line extending from that point to Burford Station, at and about which there is a considerable section which is dependent to a considerable extent on this line for telephone service to and from outside points. From a statement of revenues and expenses from January 1st to September 26, 1920, submitted since this investigation, it appears that the total receipts, including toll revenues from Burford Station, were approximately \$22.00 in excess of the total maintenance expense, and approximately \$10.00 in excess of the maintenance expense for the entire year 1919. From this it appears that this service should not be withdrawn. Applicant has consented that this statement be considered in evidence in this proceeding.

It appears further from the testimony that the greater part of the cost of maintaining these two sections of line is incurred during the winter months; that the section of country through which these lines extend is mountainous and at times it is impossible, on account of heavy snows and storms to maintain them, and that it is for these reasons, chiefly, that permission to abandon them is desired.

It has been agreed by applicant to maintain line No. 12 to The Pines during the summer season. Protestant, The Pines Resort, does not object to abandonment during the winter months.

It is our opinion that applicant should be permitted to abandon service on both of these lines between the points hereinabove referred to from November 1st of each year to March 31st of each following year, but that authority to abandon service during the remaining portion of each year should be withheld. The following order is recommended.

O R D E R

Raymond Telephone Company having applied for an order authorizing it to discontinue service over portions of two of its telephone lines in Madera County, a public hearing having been held, the matter having been submitted and being now ready for decision,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that said Raymond Telephone Company be and it is hereby authorized to discontinue service over its line known as No. 8 between Hawkins School House and Fresno Flats, and over its line known as No. 12 between Hawkins School House and The Pines, during the period beginning November 1st of each year and ending March 31st of each following year.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 26th day of November, 1920.

Edwin D. Edgerton
J. D. Long
Stanley D. ...
H. C. ...
Orning Martin
Commissioners.