

Decision No. 9706

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BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of
BLAKE INDEPENDENT TELEPHONE SYSTEM
to abandon telephone service in the
cities of Arcata, Blue Lake and
Fieldbrook, and surrounding terri-
tory, in the County of Humboldt,
State of California.

Application No. 6263.

BY THE COMMISSION.

O P I N I O N

A public hearing was held by Examiner Westover at Arcata upon the above application to discontinue telephone service. No appearance was made by or on behalf of applicant.

It appears from the testimony of witnesses called in by Examiner Westover that the system, which was owned and operated by J. H. Blake, served a portion of Arcata and vicinity, with very few stations in Fieldbrook and Blue Lake. Upon the death of Mr. Blake, about a year and a half ago, the property descended to his widow and daughter, neither of whom were able to operate the system and both of whom have since moved away. Before going, they sold the instruments, materials on hand, and most of the wire to a local electrical concern, which received about 70 instruments, the most of which were found in attics and woodsheds, not in service.

It appears from correspondence with the Commission that the greatest number of subscribers receiving service did not exceed 35, and that 14 of these signed a release of the owners of the system from obligation to serve, stating that they were agreeable to the discontinuance of the service. It further appears

from the testimony given at Arcata that, for a long time, the service had been exceedingly poor and the system out of repair, owing to the poor health of Mr. Blake.

The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company has, for many years, served in Arcata and vicinity, is now furnishing service to several subscribers who formerly were served by the Blake System, and is ready to furnish service to others if and when desired. The people in and about Fieldbrook can also get service in an emergency over the lines of the Northwestern Pacific Railroad and Dalbeer & Carson Logging Road.

It appears from the testimony that notice was given to the subscribers of the Blake System that the service would be discontinued some time ago on a definite date, but neither this fact nor the fact of the prevailing poor service caused any complaint to the Commission. None of the patrons appeared at the hearing, although due notice of the time and place of hearing appears to have been given.

ORDER

A public hearing having been held upon the above entitled application, the matter being submitted and ready for decision, and it appearing from the testimony that the application should be granted and that public convenience and necessity in the matter of telephone service in and about Arcata can be met by utilities now serving in that vicinity,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Blake Independent Telephone System be and it is hereby authorized and empowered to discontinue telephone service in and about Arcata, Humboldt County.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 4th day of November, 1921.

H. B. Rindge
H. J. S. [unclear]
Dr. [unclear]