

Decision No. 26873

# GENERAL

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

In the Matter of the Application of )  
MENDOCINO COAST TRANSIT COMPANY, a )  
corporation, for authority to dis- )  
continue and abandon operation of an )  
auto stage line for the transporta- )  
tion of passengers and their baggage, )  
as a common carrier, for compensation, )  
between Cloverdale and Fort Bragg, )  
California, and intermediate points. )

Application No. 19276.

Sanborn and Roehl, by W. H. Kessler, for applicant.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

The Mendocino Coast Transit Company, a corporation, has petitioned the Railroad Commission for authority to discontinue and abandon entirely its auto stage line for the transportation of passengers and baggage between Cloverdale and Fort Bragg, effective not later than July 1, 1934.

A public hearing was held at Fort Bragg on March 8, 1934, by Examiner Geary and at this hearing the matter was submitted.

This carrier's services were commenced in the year 1928 by authority of our Decision No. 20318 in Application No. 14978, when approval was given for the purchase by this applicant of the rights held by Allen and Curtis between Cloverdale and Fort Bragg and the intermediate points, a distance between the terminals of 85 miles. The authority contained certain restrictions as to the carriage of passengers and property between Cloverdale, Wendling and the intermediate points, which restrictions were removed by our Decision No. 22601, June 30, 1930, and subsequent to this date

applicant has served all points between Cloverdale and Fort Bragg.

Six exhibits were introduced at the hearing, presenting a complete picture of the operations since 1928. The passenger revenue declined from \$8,481.64 in 1928 to \$2,478.16 in 1933, and the number of passengers carried decreased from 2,456 in 1928 to 1,063 in 1933. The decline in revenue and the number of passengers is attributable to the fact that practically all of the lumber mills, with the exception of the one located at Fort Bragg, have discontinued operations, and to the improved highways permitting the more complete use of privately owned passenger automobiles. At the present time, there are no active communities capable of supplying passenger revenue in the territory between Fort Bragg and Cloverdale. With the abandonment of this service, the districts will still have two routes in operation; a passenger bus service between Fort Bragg and Duncans Mills via the Coast Line Stages, and an all rail service through Willits via the California Western Railroad and Navigation Company and the Northwestern Pacific Railroad.

Applicant has been operating a United States mail service between Cloverdale and Elk in connection with this passenger line Cloverdale to Fort Bragg and the figures submitted show that without this mail contract the operations would have been financially impossible. The contract has been lost to a competing contractor and when the present arrangement with the Federal Government expires, the passenger services cannot be continued.

No objections have been received from the traveling public to the discontinuance of this service, although publicity was given to the application and that a public hearing would be held at Fort Bragg. It is apparent that there is not at this time any public convenience and necessity for a continuance of the passenger and baggage services. Applicant intends to continue to transport what little freight is offered on separate trucks from

the junction points now being served by the mail carrying vehicles.

We are of the opinion from this record that the Mendocino Coast Transit Company, a corporation, should be authorized to discontinue the operation of an automobile service for the transportation of passenger and baggage as a common carrier between Cloverdale and Fort Bragg and the intermediate points.

O R D E R

The Mendocino Coast Transit Company, a corporation, having applied for authority to abandon its passenger and baggage services between Cloverdale and Fort Bragg, a public hearing having been held and the matter having been duly submitted and now being ready for decision,

IT IS HEREBY FOUND AS A FACT that public convenience and necessity no longer require the operation of said services.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Mendocino Coast Transit Company, a corporation, be authorized, upon ten days' notice to the public and this Commission, to abandon services on its line for the transportation of passengers and baggage between Cloverdale and Fort Bragg as described in the application and to cancel all rates, tariffs and schedules applying thereto.

The effective date of this order shall be twenty (20) days from the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this <sup>19th</sup>~~20th~~ day of March, 1934.

W. J. Leary  
Leon Williams  
W. J. Leary  
M. B. Lewis  
W. J. Leary  
Commissioners.