

Decision No. 28981.

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

In the Matter of the Application of (a) }
SOUTHERN PACIFIC COMPANY for an order }
authorizing it to close its part-time }
agencies at Farmington Station, in the }
County of San Joaquin, and Milton Sta- }
tion, in the County of Calaveras, both }
in the State of California, and (b) }
RAILWAY EXPRESS AGENCY, INC., for an }
order authorizing it to abandon its }
part-time agency at each of said sta- }
tions. }

Application No. 19262.

ORIGINAL

BY THE COMMISSION:

ORDER

Southern Pacific Company and Railway Express Agency, Inc., on January 12, 1934, applied for authority to abandon their part-time agencies at Farmington, in the County of San Joaquin, and at Milton, in the County of Calaveras, State of California.

Southern Pacific Company, pursuant to authority granted by the Commission in Decisions Nos. 25568 and 25569, in Applications 18386 and 18418 respectively, dated January 23, 1933, is maintaining Farmington Station, on its Oakdale Branch, as an agency station daily except Wednesdays, Sundays and Holidays, between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 12:00 Noon, and 1:00 P.M. and 4:00 P.M., and is maintaining Milton Station, on its Milton Branch, as an agency station on Wednesday of each week between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 12:00 Noon, and 1:00 P.M. and 3:00 P.M.

Upon the filing of said Applications Nos. 18386 and 18418, protests were received to the granting of applicants' request to close the agencies at the two stations involved herein. A public

hearing was held and the applications denied in part, to the effect that one agent would take care of both stations, replacing a full time agency at both locations. In denying these applications it was pointed out in the Commission's decisions that there appeared to be sufficient justification to continue the agencies on a part-time basis on a more or less experimental plan in the hope that with improved conditions business would increase; also the fact that the season preceding the hearing was represented as being an unusually dry one which adversely affected the ranching business tributary to these two stations. The Commission announced that if, after a reasonable period of time, business did not improve at these stations, another application would be entertained looking toward complete abandonment of the agencies.

In the instant application it is alleged that business has not increased at either Milton or Farmington and that the revenue now received does not warrant the continued maintenance of said agencies. Applicant, Southern Pacific Company, further alleges that it will endeavor to engage a responsible party or firm located in the immediate vicinity of each station to act as custodian of the freight house key and so long as a custodian is available, will store all less-than-carload lots in freight warehouse and patrons may secure the key from the custodian for the purpose of obtaining their freight shipments.

For the years ending October 31, 1932 and 1933, the following business was transacted at Farmington and Milton:

Description	Farmington		Milton	
	1932	1933	1932	1933
Number of Carload Shipments	33	43	86	205
" of Less-than-carload shipments	273	295	371	267
" of Tickets Sold	17	76	-	31

In view of the above showing, together with the record heretofore adduced in said Applications Nos. 18386 and 18418 dealing with the abandonment of these agencies, it appears that applicants' request to discontinue agency service should be granted, therefore,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Southern Pacific Company and Railway Express Agency, Inc., are hereby authorized to abandon their agencies at the Station of Farmington, on Southern Pacific Company's Oakdale Branch, in the County of San Joaquin, and the Station of Milton, on Southern Pacific Company's Milton Branch, in the County of Calaveras, State of California, and to change its station records and tariffs accordingly, subject, however, to the following conditions:

- (1) Said stations shall be continued as non-agency stations.
- (2) Applicants shall give not less than ten (10) days' notice to the public of the abandonment of said agencies by posting notices at said stations.
- (3) Applicants shall provide at said stations a telephone whereby prospective shippers may communicate with the nearest agencies for the purpose of ordering cars or other railroad business.
- (4) Applicants shall, within thirty (30) days thereafter, notify this Commission, in writing, of the abandonment of the facilities authorized herein and of their compliance with the conditions hereof.
- (5) The authorization herein granted shall lapse and become void if not exercised within one (1) year from the date hereof unless further time is granted by subsequent order.

The authority herein granted shall become effective on the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 16th day of April, 1934.

C. C. Seaman
Leon J. Williams
M. A. C.
W. B. Williams
W. H. Jones
Commissioners.