

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 23668

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

J. D. SNODGRASS, WALTER J. MILLER, FRANK
 W. COLLINS, C. J. HOLT, FRANK LEEPER, SAN
 MARINO PHARMACY, DR. GEO. M. RINGSTROM,
 F. L. MONTGOMERY, ROY N. RICHARDSON, A.D.
 EDWARDS, H. G. SKINNER, A. L. GATTERDAM,
 JESSIE M. WILLIAMS, J. R. PARKER, AUGUST
 PIERRE, GEO. RAWSON CRAFT, JAMES HUNTER,
 FRED GARRISON, ROBT. P. STEWART, J. H. LONG,
 M. D., RALPH S. VANDERHOOF, J. R. GIRLING,
 E. W. THOMAS, E. M. GILBERT, C. E. KOEN,
 HOWARD A. TOPP, WM. HEIDEMAN, WM. A. PFISTER,
 EDWARD HEATH, WILLARD O. WATERS, ARTHUR J.
 FIRTH, ASHLEY O. JONES, HARRY W. WEBER,
 E. R. KERR, and STANLEY ARNDT,

Case No. 4100

Complainants,

vs.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA TELEPHONE COMPANY,
 Defendant.

Stanley Arndt, for Complainants;
 Lawler and Degnan, by Jack W. Hardy, and
 James C. Marshall for Southern California
 Telephone Company;
 S. M. Easkins, City Attorney, City of
 San Marino, by Woodward M. Taylor for
 City of San Marino;
 Horace E. Veddar, City Attorney, City of
 South Pasadena for City of South Pasadena;
 John W. Holmes, for the City of Pasadena.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

The City of San Marino, a municipal corporation, with
 a present estimated population of from 4,500 to 5,000 inhabitants,
 was incorporated in 1913. It is bisected by Huntington Drive,

which thoroughfare is the boundary line between the Pasadena and Alhambra Exchanges of the defendant Company. The business section of the City is located along Huntington Drive. The majority of the population is on the north side. Subscribers on the north side of the Drive are in the Pasadena Exchange, while those on the south side are in the Alhambra. The complainants object to the situation thus brought about and seek a change in existing telephone service and rates whereby subscribers within the corporate limits may freely communicate one with another at local exchange rates without the payment of any toll. When the complaint was first filed it was apparently in the minds of the complainants that the desired end should be brought about by the incorporation of the entire San Marino territory into the Pasadena Exchange, a plan which was subsequently abandoned by the complainants.

Public hearings were held at Los Angeles before Examiner Fry on April 16 and 17, and on May 21, 1936, when the case was submitted for decision.

The situation described is a somewhat anomalous one and is naturally conducive to misunderstanding and dissatisfaction. There are four ways in which the situation objected to may be corrected, which, with the objections thereto, may be listed as follows:

1st: The entire territory could be ordered incorporated into the Pasadena Exchange.

The objection to this is that it would disturb the telephonic relationships of a minority of the San Marino subscribers who live south of Huntington Drive and who are served through the Alhambra Exchange. The change also involves the element of added cost which may not be overlooked.

2nd: The entire San Marino area might be incorporated into the Alhambra Exchange.

This would disturb telephone arrangements of the majority of the San Marino subscribers who are now in the Pasadena Exchange. The element of cost enters in.

3rd: A separate exchange might be created comprising the territory of San Marino.

No one apparently desires this solution.

4th: The desired toll-less intercommunication between subscribers in all parts of San Marino might be accomplished by ordering the withdrawal of the present optional local service accorded to subscribers in the two exchanges, respectively. This would be a more costly service than is now available.

At present a substantial number of these subscribers take extended service, but a great majority have elected to continue on the less expensive local service. It would hardly be fair to the latter to withdraw their present option to take local service. To withdraw local service rates and order the Company to furnish the more desirable extended service at the local service rates, which in effect is what the complainants ask, would not only unduly lower the earnings of the territory, which the record indicates are now at a low level, but would give subscribers in San Marino service at lower rates than accorded many other communities in the metropolitan area somewhat similarly situated. It would be particularly noticeable as to local subscribers in the Pasadena and Alhambra Exchanges.

In 1934 the Commission ordered into effect the so-called extended service plan effective in the metropolitan Los Angeles area. Recently the Telephone Company has made certain adjustments in extended area rates and in foreign exchange rates. This plan and the adjustments tend to ameliorate and soften conditions which

have given rise to the instant complaint. It may be that in time as the possibilities of the plan and present rates become better understood, telephone subscribers in San Marino will tend toward the conclusion that the present rates and service are more satisfactory than a correction of the situation referred to by any of the four methods outlined. If not, further experience under the extended plan and the existing rates may develop a unanimity of sentiment and usage among telephone subscribers in San Marino that will dictate which one of the answers to their problem is the proper one to be adopted. Certainly under the present record there is no warrant for withdrawing local service and requiring extended service to be given at the lower local service rates.

A minor issue presented had to do with the publication of directories. A plan for such publication suggested by the Telephone Company during the hearings was accepted in effect as a satisfaction of this issue. The plan will become effective with the next directory publication. Thus no order upon this issue seems necessary.

O R D E R

Public hearings having been held in the above entitled complaint, the matter having been duly submitted and given proper consideration, and the Commission being now fully advised,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that this complaint be and the same is hereby dismissed.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 24th day of August, 1936.

W. B. Lewis
Leon Whitely
M. A. [unclear]
Frederic R. [unclear]
Commissioners.