

Decision No. 30993.

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company, a corporation (hereinafter called Atchison Company), and Railway Express Agency, Incorporated, a corporation (hereinafter called Express Agency), for authority to discontinue and abandon their agency at Duarte, California, and to operate the same as a non-agency station.) Application No. 21597.

ORIGINAL

M. W. Reed, for Applicants.

Chas. W. Ott, for J. L. Elliott, General Chairman, Station and Telegraph Employees, Santa Fe System, Protestants.

James A. Blain and Randall T. Chew, Jr., for Duarte-Monrovia Citrus Association, Protestant.

James S. Blain and Thomas V. Holmes, for Duarte Chamber of Commerce, Protestant.

Earl H. Dahlman, for E. H. Dahlman & Company, Protestant.

Harold Bilsky, for Los Angeles Sanatorium, Protestant.

BY THE COMMISSION:

OPINION AND ORDER

In this proceeding The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company and Railway Express Agency, Inc. seek the Commission's authority to abandon their agency at Duarte and operate the same as a non-agency station.

Public hearing on this matter was conducted by Examiner Ager at Monrovia on June 9th, 1938, at which time it was taken under submission, and it is now ready for decision.

The station of Duarte is located in Los Angeles County, 1.4 miles east of Monrovia station and 4.1 miles west of Azusa

station. It is situated in the citrus district and there are two packing plants within a comparatively short distance. Tabulated below is a statement taken from Exhibit No. 3 introduced at the hearing, showing the volume of business transacted at Duarte station for the period August, 1937, to April, 1938, both months inclusive:

<u>Month</u>	<u>Car Loads</u>		<u>Less-than-carload shipments</u>	
	<u>Received</u>	<u>Forwarded</u>	<u>Received</u>	<u>Forwarded</u>
Aug. 1937	3	18	4	0
Sept. "	1	18	3	2
Oct. "	0	7	3	1
Nov. "	0	0	2	0
Dec. "	1	3	4	1
Jan. 1938	1	44	3	1
Feb. "	5	49	3	0
Mar. "	4	38	3	0
April "	1	18	2	1
Total	16	195	27	6

From this statement it will be noted that the carload shipments outbound are fairly heavy but that the less-than-carload shipments amount to little or nothing and the record will show that the L.C.L. revenue varies from \$1.30 to \$21.00 per month. The above statement also shows that during the same period there were three tickets sold at this station. The record further shows that the express business is very light; as a matter of fact, there are some months when there is no revenue whatever from express.

Witnesses for the applicants testified that if this application is granted it is proposed that the agent at Monrovia will handle the business at the Duarte station. Duarte is within the telephone exchange limits of Monrovia and, therefore, telephone calls to the Monrovia station can be made without toll charge. The Monrovia agent will make daily trips, if necessary, to the Duarte station, for the purpose of billing cars and discussing with prospective shippers any problems that may arise; also, this agent will deliver any tickets which might be purchased. As for the express business, the American Railway Express Company maintains a pick-up and delivery service in the City of Monrovia and it appears possible that arrangements might

be made to expand the limits of this service to include the Duarte area.

Representatives of the packing plants appeared and protested the granting of the application, it being their opinion that service comparable to that now provided could not be rendered by the Monrovia agent. They were of the opinion, however, that if reasonable and adequate service could be provided under the proposed plan, any objections they might have to offer would be removed.

Careful consideration of the record in this matter leads us to the conclusion that, while the maintenance of an agent at Duarte is a convenience, it is not a necessity in the strict sense of the word. We must recognize the fact that the railroad companies throughout the country are faced with the necessity of economizing in every possible way and it would appear that adequate service can be rendered to the shippers at Duarte under the plan proposed by applicants. We are therefore of the opinion that the application is reasonable and should be granted and the following Order will so provide.

O R D E R

Public hearing having been held and the Commission being fully advised;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company and Railway Express Agency, Inc. are hereby authorized to abandon their joint agency at Duarte, California, and to change the station records and tariffs accordingly, providing said station shall be continued as a non-agency station.

Applicant shall, within thirty (30) days thereafter, notify this Commission, in writing, of the abandonment of the facilities herein authorized and of its compliance with the conditions hereof.

The authorization herein granted shall lapse and become void if not exercised within one year from the date hereof, unless further time is granted by subsequent order.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 20th day of June, 1938.

Walter M. ...
Frank ...
Frederic ...
Carl ...
Ray L. Riley
Commissioners.