

Decision No. 58355**ORIGINAL**

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of
 THE CALIFORNIA MEDICAL MISSIONARY
 AND BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION dba
 HOWELL MOUNTAIN BUS LINE for an ex
 parte order for authority to increase
 passenger fares and freight rates.

Application No. 40857

O P I N I O N

Applicant commenced this proceeding on February 18, 1959. An independent staff study was completed March 18, 1959. There have been no protests after due and extensive notice given. No hearing appears to be necessary and the matter is ready for decision. The report prepared by the staff has been marked as Exhibit No. 1 in this proceeding and is included as a part of the record herein.

The California Medical Missionary and Benevolent Association, doing business as Howell Mountain Bus Line, provides passenger and express service in Napa County between Sanitarium and St. Helena and Sanitarium and Angwin. The length of the route is approximately 9.7 miles. Most of the service is provided by 9-passenger station wagons, with a 21-passenger bus being used occasionally.

In general, service is provided between the hours of 10:25 a.m. and 5:25 p.m. every day except Saturdays. In addition, the company also provides three special schedules: for nurses working at the sanitarium and at the hospital, for students attending Pacific Union College at Angwin, and on Sundays.

Following is a tabulation of present fares and fares proposed by applicant:

<u>Between St. Helena and</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Silverado Trail and College Road	\$0.10	\$0.20
Crystal Springs Road	0.15	0.25
Sanitarium	0.20	0.35
Two (2) miles beyond Sanitarium	0.30	0.45
Angwin (Pacific Union College)	0.35	0.60
 <u>Between Angwin (College) and</u>		
Brookside Drive	0.10	0.20
Sunset Point	0.15	0.25
Sanitarium	0.20	0.45
Bridge-Silverado Trail and Pratt Ave.	0.30	0.55
St. Helena	0.35	0.60
 Fare to Points between Sanitarium and College, and to Points between Sanitarium and St. Helena -		
First two miles	0.10	0.20
Each additional mile (not to exceed fare to most distant point)	0.05	0.10
 <u>Students' Fare - 120 Rides</u>	 15.00	 21.00
	(12.5¢/ride)	(17.5¢/ride)
 <u>Children's Fare</u>		
Under 5 years	Free	Free
5 - 12 years	½ Fare*	½ Fare*

* Increases to next highest multiple of 5.

Express rates now spread from 25 cents to 90 cents; proposed rates spread from 50 cents to \$1.10. Rates vary, both by weight and by distance.

Applicant estimated that its losses for 1959 would be \$3,600.36 at present fares and \$1,113.31 at proposed fares. The estimate of \$3,600.36 is equal to the actual loss sustained in 1958. Staff operating figures can be summarized as follows:

Item	Estimated for Year 1959					
	Under Present Fares			Under Proposed Fares		
	Regular Service	Special Service	Total	Regular Service	Special Service	Total
Miles Operated	24,800	14,400 (3)	39,200	24,800	14,400	39,200
Total Revenue (1)	\$ 4,030 (1)	\$ 940	\$ 4,970	\$ 6,300	\$ 1,130	\$ 7,430
Tot. Oper. Exp. (2)	\$ 5,240	\$ 3,040	\$ 8,280	\$ 5,240	\$ 3,040	\$ 8,280
Net. Oper. Income	\$ (1,210)	\$ (2,100)	\$ (3,310)	\$ 1,060	\$ (1,910)	\$ (850)
Operating Ratio	130.0%	323.4%	166.6%	83.2%	269.0%	111.4%
Rev.-Cents per Mile	16.250c	6.528c	12.679c	25.403c	7.847c	18.954c
Exp.-Cents per Mile	21.122c	21.122c	21.122c	21.122c	21.122c	21.122c

(Red Figure)

- (1) Includes express revenue
 (2) Includes depreciation and taxes
 (3) Includes charter and special schedules for nurses, students, etc.

Applicant alleged that operations have been conducted at a loss since July, 1948, when they began. It further alleged that reduction of present schedules would not best serve the public interest. The Angwin Chamber of Commerce has written a letter approving the increases. It appears that the proposed increase in rates has been justified.

The Commission finds and concludes that increased rates and fares are justified as authorized in the following order. A public hearing is not necessary. Because of the demonstrated urgent need for the increased fares, applicant will be authorized to establish the fares on five days' notice.

O R D E R

Based upon the allegations in the application and a staff study of the results of operations and upon the findings and conclusions set forth in the foregoing opinion,

IT IS ORDERED:

1. That applicant is authorized to increase its fares and express rates to the levels shown as proposed rates and fares on

Appendices A and B attached to the application on file herein on not less than five days' notice to the Commission and to the public.

2. That in addition to the necessary tariff filings required by this order, applicant be and it is hereby directed to post and maintain in its vehicles a notice of the increased fares herein authorized. Such notice shall be posted not less than five days prior to the effective date of such fares and shall remain posted for a period of not less than thirty days.

3. That the authority herein granted shall expire unless exercised within sixty days after the effective date of this order.

The effective date of this order shall be twenty days after the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 5th day of May, 1959.

E. L. Fox
President

Arthur E. Mitchell

William J. ...

Theodore J. ...

Commissioners