

# The Smaller towns

As Highway 395 winds its way south from Lone Pine, there's still a lot of Inyo County left. A few small but important communities can be found in this southwest area of Inyo County.

**Olancha** was established by Minnard Farley, who came to the area in 1860 and discovered silver ore in the nearby Coso Range. The name "Olancha" is believed to be derived from the nearby Yaudanche tribe. For processing the ore, he built a stamp just south of Olancha Creek. The remains of a stone wall from this mill still exists and have been designated as a California Historical Site.

The first post office at Olancha opened in 1870. On August 11, 1969 Manson Family members Charles "Tex" Watson and Dianne "Snake" Lake settled down in Olancha two days after Watson had stabbed Sharon Tate to death. The two spent a few weeks in the area before heading to the final Manson hideout in Death Valley.

**Cartago** (formerly Carthage, Daniersburg, and Lakeville) is located on the west side of Owens Lake 3 miles north-northwest of Olancha. The population was 92 at the 2010 census, down from 109 at the 2000 census. Located near the now abandoned settlement of Carthage, Cartago took its name from the Spanish name for ancient Carthage. The first post office at Cartago opened in 1918. During the heyday of mining in the area (the 1870s), Cartago was a steamboat port for shipments of wood and ore from the western shores of Owens Lake to the towns of Swansea and Keeler on the eastern shores of the lake.

**Pearsonville** is at the extreme southern end of Inyo County just north of the border with Kern County. It had a population of just 17 in the most recent census. Pearsonville has been dubbed the "Hubcap Capital of the World" because of resident Lucy Pearson's collection of hubcaps, which are rumored to number over 80,000.