

Dunmovin (Cowan Station)

In the early 1900's, James Cowan a native of Newfoundland, homesteaded and called his place Cowan Station. The first location was 10 miles north of Little Lake, on the northeast of the present day Highway 395. When the course of the Midland Trail was changed, Mr Cowan moved his station west of the road, to the site of today's Dunmovin. Like others in the area, he served the tourist. He constructed a store, cafe, service station, and a pack station. Financial problems and a slow down in business, gave cause for him to close in 1932 and stayed closed until 1936.

Charles and Hilda King bought the station in 1936, and opened for business shortly thereafter. When they had finished moving the last of their belongings to Cowan Station, Charley said, "I'm dunnnn movin," so it was decided to open their business under the name Dunmovin. During World War Two, the Dunmovin Express came into being as a news letter and advertising paper. It was written and printed by Hilda King. Not only did it advertise their business, it encouraged people to buy War Bonds, and support our service men overseas. The Kings never did make another move, both Charley and Hilda spent their last days at Dunmovin.

Mr and Mrs. Herman S. Carstensen operated Dunmovin for a time, also a group from Trona. Attorneys Ruth and Gordon Cooper bought Dunmovin in 1959, and are in residence there today. It is the future plan of the California Highway Department to remove part of Dunmovin for widening of Highway 395. When this action takes place it removes another of the early communities of Rose Valley, leaving only Little Lake as the last of communities founded in the early 1900's.