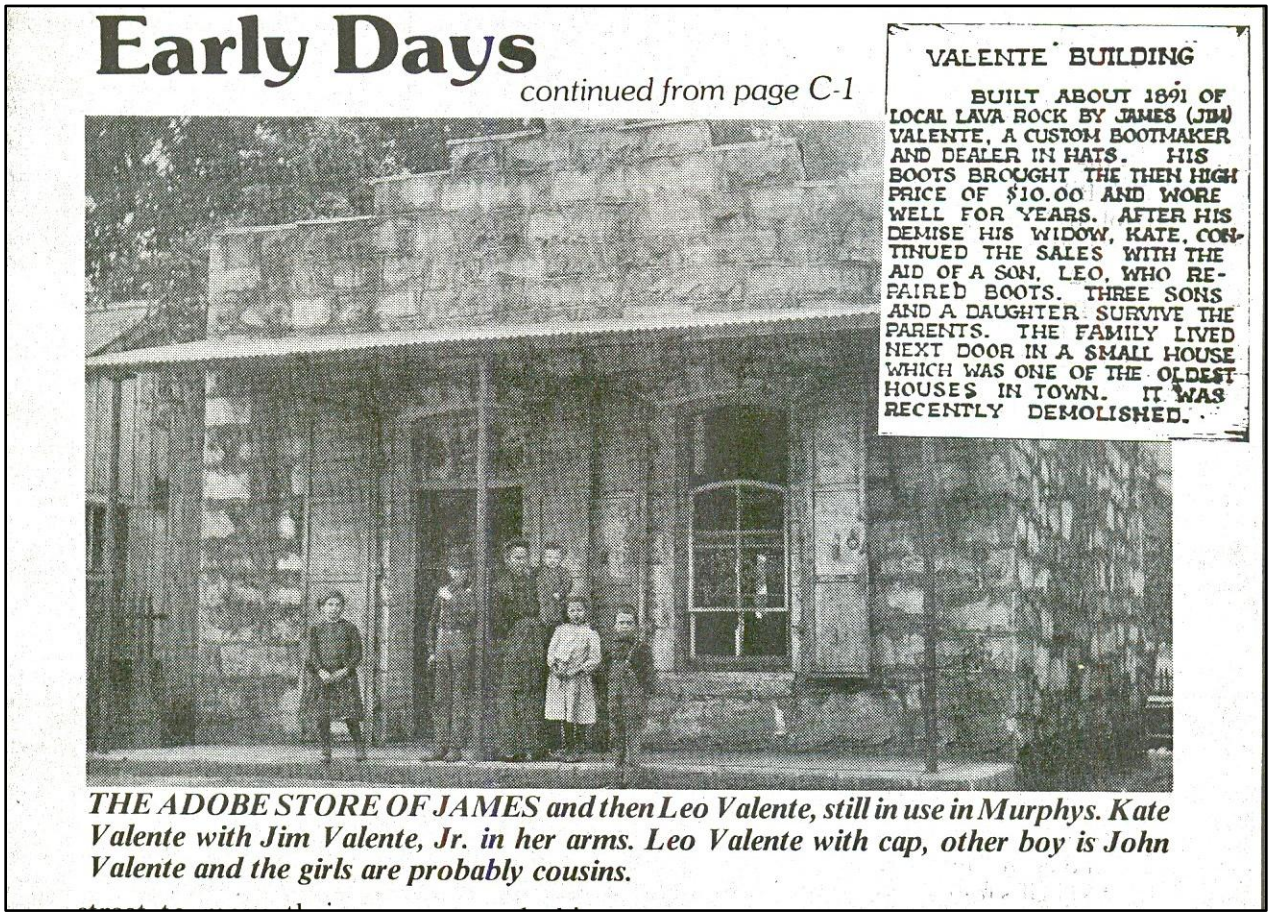
**Valente Building - 147 Main Street, Murphys**

In 1887, the First Congregational Church of Murphys sold part of Lot 2 in Block 4 of Murphys, to James Valente. *( Deed Book 14, Page 208*) The portion of the lot Valente bought was on the Main Street side of the property and was a large portion of the lot.



Early Days

continued from page C-1

VALENTE BUILDING

BUILT ABOUT 1891 OF LOCAL LAVA ROCK BY JAMES (JIM) VALENTE, A CUSTOM BOOTMAKER AND DEALER IN HATS. HIS BOOTS BROUGHT THE THEN HIGH PRICE OF $10.00 AND WORE WELL FOR YEARS. AFTER HIS DEMISE HIS WIDOW, KATE, CONTINUED THE SALES WITH THE AID OF A SON, LEO, WHO REPAIRED BOOTS. THREE SONS AND A DAUGHTER SURVIVE THE PARENTS. THE FAMILY LIVED NEXT DOOR IN A SMALL HOUSE WHICH WAS ONE OF THE OLDEST HOUSES IN TOWN. IT WAS RECENTLY DEMOLISHED.

*THE ADOBE STORE OF JAMES and then Leo Valente, still in use in Murphys. Kate Valente with Jim Valente, Jr. in her arms. Leo Valente with cap, other boy is John Valente and the girls are probably cousins.*

James Valente was a custom boot and shoe maker, and he had a stone building erected on the land he had purchased that was constructed from rhyolite blocks quarried from Brownsville and had iron shutters installed. His stone store was next to the large old barn that Kimball and Cutting had owned on Main Street. The property eventually had the Valente's house and barn behind the store building.

In 1904, James Valente died at age forty-five. He had become ill and it developed into a stoppage of the bowels. An operation was attempted but he died on the operating table in his home. His wife had born a son less than a month earlier. Two of his sisters in law were killed in a train wreck the day of James Valente's death, making this even more difficult for their family. Frank Valente's wife Mary and Pauline DeRivara DeMartini, a sister of James Valente's wife, were both supposed to have taken the stage to Angels Camp to attend the funeral but instead decided to take the train and both died when the train wrecked.

James Valente's widow Caterina continued to live here. The house is gone, but the stone building still stands and is in use today. It has held different businesses over the years. In the summer of 1923 Robert Laythe conducted a fruit and vegetable stand in the building. In the late 1920s a cleaning/laundry business opened in the building Later businesses were the Aerolian Harp store, and a clothing store called the Murphys Motorcycle Company. The building has also been used as a wine tasting location.





The interior of James Valente's store

Robert Laythe is conducting a fruit and vegetable stand in the Valente building on the corner of Main street and Big Tree road.

Prospect 8/11/1923

## New Market Being Opened At Murphys

Murphys—Remodeling and installing of a new equipment is being completed in the old Valente shoe repair building here, which is being converted into a stone structure with a modern meat and vegetable market.

The property is now owned by Paul Segale and will be operated by William Cummings of White Pines.

A walk-in box 10X12 feet is being installed in addition to refrigerated show cases and other necessary equipment.

Californian 3/11/1951

Murphys New Little

## Gift Shop

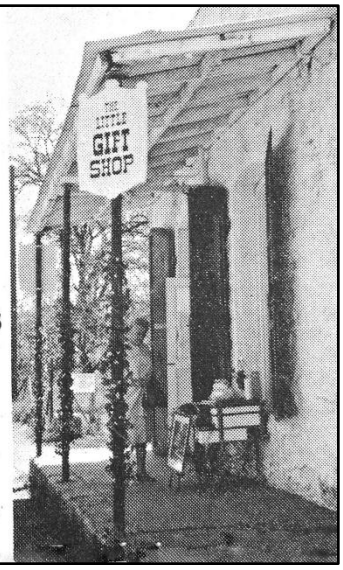
In the old Valente Building

At the crossroads of Main St & Big Trees Rd

**Handmade Items**

Jewelry - Pewter Bowls
Paintings - Candles, etc

Orders taken for custom made articles
Select Holiday Gifts Now
Open Daily - 10-4:30 p.m.
Closed Tuesdays




Meadowmont Village News 1967