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Davenport Cash Store To Open

Davenport, that seemingly unchanging former whaling center and quaint town north of Santa Cruz, has taken on a new look with an attractive arts and crafts center going up on one of the town's main corners.

Burce and Marci McDougal's two-story brick edifice that will open in February will be a combination of a crafts retail store, pottery workshop, restaurant and apartment building.

The structure was styled after buildings the McDougal's fell in love with while traveling in California's gold country.

"We spent years discussing what kind of building would go here," Marci said. "We spent a lot of time in the gold country and figured Davenport was like a frontier town, so we came up with a frontier type building."

Despite its newness, the building has a sense of history to it with its 10-foot ceilings, windowed doors which practically make up the exterior walls, and second-floor exterior decking.

The site where it sits, at the corner of Highway 1 and

Davenport Road, also is historical. The old Davenport Cash Store stood there from about 1905 until it burned in the early 1950's.

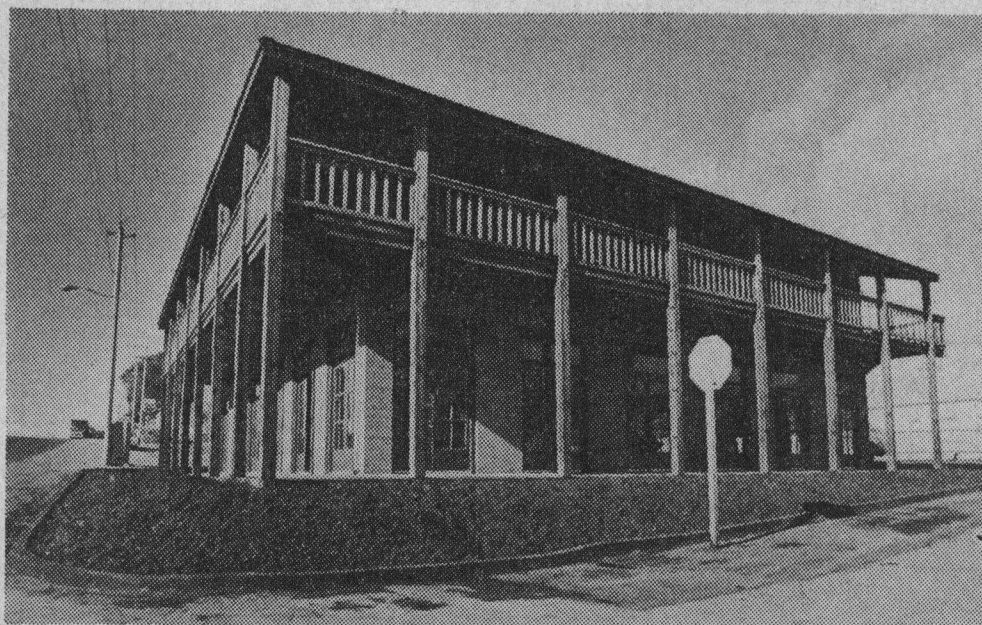
The old general store, run by Storekeeper D. Morelli, was truly the old-fashioned commercial outlet, complete with potbelly stove and glass display cases, Davenport Historian Alverda Orlando related.

The cash store offered everything from ammunition and gasoline to calico dress cloth and a variety of pastas for the many Italians in the area, Orlando explained.

When it burned down, much of Davenport's history went with it, Orlando added.

In commemoration of this general store which served Davenport customers for so many years, the McDougals have named their building The New Davenport Cash Store.

It won't offer a variety of goods, but instead will concentrate on pottery created by local artists. This endeavor is nothing new to the McDougals who have operated the Big



The New Davenport Cash Store.

Creek Pottery school and studio for 11 years.

While shopping, customers will be able to peer through a window at potters creating their wares.

Marci explained that the idea for a retail store and production shop came about as the McDougals encountered many excellent pottery students who had no outlet for their work.

"Our graduate program is to get people out and work," Bruce added. "There are just not that many places for them to go. We felt we needed a place to get students working on a practical level."

He explained that the actual school will remain at Big Creek Pottery on Swanton Road, while the studio and production shop will move to the building.

The potters' creations also

will be used in the small restaurant planned for The New Cash Store. The restaurant, Bruce said, will feature fresh vegetables grown at Big Creek pottery and homemade breads.

While the seven studio apartments upstairs currently are being rented, the McDougals eventually see the potters living and working in the same buildings.

Through the new building, the McDougals dream for Davenport has been realized.

It was a stroke of luck which brought the artistic couple to the area in 1966. They had been looking for a spot to start an pottery school when fellow potter Al Johnson told them of an old barn that might be available in Davenport.

The trio arrived in Davenport, only to discover an even

more desirable spot available up Swanton Road. At that time, it was just a group of ranshacked old farm houses and barns.

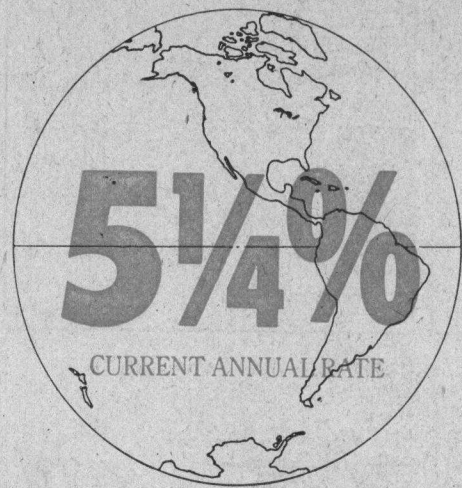
Today, after much renovation, Big Creek Pottery is an attractive collection of buildings in an idealic country setting. Johnson has since started his own studio down the road, while the McDougals have graduated more than 700 pottery students.

Over the years, many of these students stayed in the Davenport area and pottery studios and other crafts outlets have sprung up, giving the area a name for arts and crafts.

The McDougals explained they will display mostly Big Creek pottery at their store, but also will show work by other artists.



Big Creek Potter Sari Schwartz demonstrates work that will take place at the New Davenport Cash Store.



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