

## HISTORY OF THE RICHARD HENRY DANA LIBRARY



### The Richard Henry Dana Library

The Richard Henry Dana Library, branch of the Los Angeles Library, 3320 Pepper street which now serves this community had its beginning in the schools of the district, where the book collections were taken care of by the progressive teachers and mothers. In October, 1920, the library was started in a store building at 28th and Dayton avenue, and a trained librarian put in charge. As the library grew, these quarters became entirely inadequate, but served the purpose until, as a result of a bond issue, it was possible to buy a lot and build a real library building. In May, 1927, it was moved into the new location at 3320 Pepper avenue.

The building is a typical neighborhood library, of a cozy, colon-

ial type, with every modern idea for public service, including large reading rooms both for children and adults; a club room for story hours, book talks, or for any use for general public welfare; also convenient staff rooms, including workroom, office and rest room. There is also an attractive enclosed patio with lawn, shrubbery, etc. The interior has a particularly pleasing and restful effect, as the walls and woodwork are finished in soft tan, while the furniture, especially made for the library, is in deep green.

The name "Richard Henry Dana" was given in keeping with the policy of the Library Board, to name the different branches in honor of some famous person who has written of California. Richard Henry

Dana's book, "Two Year's Before The Mast," which has become a classic, gives vivid descriptions of early California. A picture of the ship in which he sailed around the Horn, hangs over the fireplace in the adult room.

The library now contains approximately 10,000 volumes, besides many magazines and pamphlets of value. There are 3,640 cardholders, to whom 100,000 books were circulated last year. The staff now includes five persons. It is open to the public from one to nine o'clock, daily, except Sundays, and the public are cordially invited to come and read or, upon signing the proper application, to take books and magazines home.