

LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY

EDENDALE BRANCH

HISTORY

1913- 1936

Edendale Branch Library began as a station ,under the supervision of Miss Keturah Getz,Principal of the Clifford Street School,in a small room of the then new school in 1913. Two years later in 1915,it was recognized as a branch of the Los Angeles Library system. The rapidly growing neighborhood demanded larger premises. Through the efforts of the Parent-teachers association and the Edendale Improvement association, the Library Board and Mr. Everett M. Perry, Librarian of the Los Angeles Public Library,were induced to rent the premises at 1925 Allesandro Street,from Mr.Larson at a monthly rental of \$20.00. This was in February of 1917. A librarian was sent out by the Los Angeles Public Library,but the rest of the staff was made up of volunteers. Among the most faithful of these was our own Mrs Martha Rings.

The first Librarian was Dorothy Ely,who was followed by Rhoda Willaims in 1918 and Anne Goodhue in 1919. Between the years 1919 and 1923 various librarians were in charge, among them were Bess Markson and Ethel Barber. Children's librarians also changed intermittently. It is almost impossible to find any record of this formative period.

In 1923 Edendale Branch moved from its rented quarters to its own building at 2030 Glendale Boulevard. The building is of New England cottage type with frame construction,drop sliding exterior and shingle roof. The architect was C.E.Noerenberg,and the cost was about\$11,605,including building,equipment and furniture. The interior is homelike and attractive,and commands a view of the Boulevard through the long windows of the main reading room. The children's room has an attractive fire-place.

Edendale branch at first was the Mecca for literary groups who made their homes in the picturesque hills surrounding the library. Gradually the neighborhood changed and become more commercialized. The people too changed, and now ~~were~~ commuters who went down to the city every day, rushed into the library of evenings to get the latest western or mystery thriller.

From 1923 to 1928 there is no record of the progress of the Branch. Belonging to the small suburban group of branches, no separate record was kept of its staff or administration. There was a constant change of children's librarians and heads.

In July 1928 there began a change of policy in the direction of the library. Gertrude Bergman, a recent library school graduate, was appointed to take over both Edendale and Alessandro branches. She remained until January 1929, when she was transferred to La Cienega. Mrs. Jennie D. Raymond came from Hazard to take charge of the two branches. Mrs. Martha Rings was her assistant.

The staff at Edendale in June 1929 was as follows:-
Jennie D. Raymond, Librarian, Margaret Cameron, part time children's librarian; Vera Baker, half-time junior; Martha Rings, page; Frederic Huntley, janitor.

Miss Cameron, the children's librarian made some very close contacts with schools and greatly increased the circulation of children's books. During this year the hours of the library were shortened.

Under Mrs Raymond's supervision the branch progressed. In 1931 Miss Cameron resigned and was succeeded by Hazel K. Russell.

The next year, 1931, Miss Marie Pinney was appointed children's librarian, when Miss Russell was transferred. And for the next few years the staff remained stationary with the exception of a change in janitors and pages.

Closer contacts with the schools and P.T.A. were established by Miss Pinney and have continued up to the present time. The new charging system was installed and relieved the congestion at the desk.

Circulation reached its peak in 1934. In spite of the growing traffic problem, the patrons read omnivorously. The next year however, the depleted budget, lack of new mystery and western thrillers, took its toll. The empty store-rooms and houses, were silent witnesses also that families were moving out of the district. The staff worked harder than ever to keep the disgruntled patrons happy. They complained about the short hours, the Saturday closing and the traffic problem.

In 1935, Mrs Jennie Raymond was transferred to Brete Harte and Frances Woodworth of Angeles Mesa, succeeded her. In October of the same year she resigned and was succeeded by Anna E. Becker, the present incumbent, who has charge of both Edendale and Alessandro branches.