



PICTURED here is the Arroyo Seco library at North Figueroa street and Piedmont avenue.

## Library services started in Highland Park 53 years ago

How many people who go into the Arroyo Seco branch library at 6145 North Figueroa street and select a book from the 20,000 odd volumes in the stacks realize that their recreational reading is made possible by a small group of citizens who banded together before the turn of the century to form a library in this community?

It was back in 1894 that the first library was established in the Highland Park area, when 22 ladies of the Garvanza district formed a "Magazine Club" from which sprang a library of magazines and 800 books donated by Mr. and Mrs. Hugo Zuber and the citizens of Garvanza.

### FIRST LOCATION

The first library was located in a small building at the corner of Pasadena avenue and Avenue 64.

Then in 1904 a new branch and building was opened at the corner of Ruby street and Avenue 64. Meanwhile a second branch library was getting a foothold in this area. Known as the Highland Park library, it was housed in the Stimson Memorial Library building on the Occidental college campus, then at what is now North Figueroa street and Avenue 50. Finally the Stimson Library

needed more room and for two years prior to the establishment of what is now the Arroyo Seco branch library, Highland Park proper was without library facilities.

### PRESENT LIBRARY

The present library was established in 1913 when D. J. L. Smith, William Miller, and Thomas Fellows started a subscription movement to raise funds to purchase land for the library site. The drive garnered \$5,680, and in 1913 members of a committee of the Garvanza Improvement Association presented a deed for the site to trustees of the Los Angeles Public Library.

In 1914 construction of the Arroyo Seco branch library was completed, and Highland Park had a branch library second to none in the city of Los Angeles.

Funds for the construction of the library came from part of a Carnegie Library Fund gift of \$210,000 to the city of Los Angeles in 1913.

### TOTAL COST

Total cost, including site and construction, of the local library was \$44,775, and the money was raised at no cost to the city.

Floor space of the Arroyo Seco

branch amounts to 8736 square feet, and its capacity is 20,000 volumes.

The present library building dominates the surrounding territory and is easily the finest branch library location in Los Angeles.

A terraced approach from two streets leads to the building of reinforced concrete with the upper portion of brick, all trimmed in cream colored stone.

### LIBRARIANS

First librarian at the Arroyo Seco branch was Miss Francis R. Foote, who was succeeded by Miss Mary Gertrude Hart, Miss Lois Johnson, Miss Dorothy A. Pinneo, and present librarian, Miss Althea Jillson.

In the 33 years since its founding, the Arroyo Seco branch library has had five librarians, all experienced and qualified to head one of the finest branch libraries in all of Southern California.