

During the first three months of 1958, January continued to climb to 2857, an increase of more than 500 books over 1957. February, 2738, an increase of more than 200 books over the previous period. And March, 2738, a drop of slightly over 100 books. Exceptionally wet weather last month was credited with the sudden break in the pattern of monthly circulation increases.

Patrons of the branch point to continuous increase as ample reason for leaving it open.

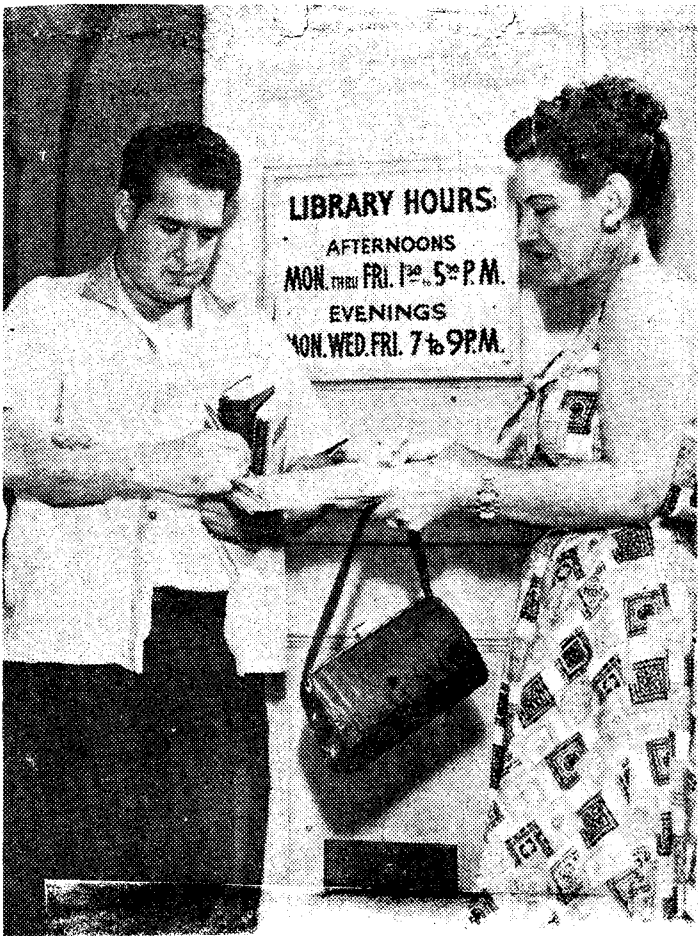
City Librarian Harold Hamill, in recommending to the Board of Library Commissioners that the 30-year-old public facility be closed, stated that Dana "isn't pulling its own weight" because the annual circulation is below 35,000. Dana, located at 3320 Pepper Ave., loaned 26,556 volumes last year.

"But our community is smaller than other sections served by branch libraries, and the hours of library service are less than other libraries," argue patrons at Dana branch. It follows, they say, that circulation will naturally be less in an area of smaller population and fewer hours of library service.

Dana is open Monday through Friday from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. days, and Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., adding up to a total of 26 hours a week.

Lincoln Heights branch li-

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Citizens group formed to fight for library

A group of civic minded citizens from the Cypress-Glassell park area have formed the "Citizens Committee to Save the Richard Henry Dana Community Library.

Patrick A. Comorre, resident of the Cypress Park area, has been selected to head the campaign in that area to save the library. Members of the committee include Mrs. Margie Huss, chairman; Mrs. May (Tottie) Gamba, vice-chairman; Mrs. Gloria Engelbretson, secretary; Mrs. Helen Rogers, Anthony J. Pause, Fermin (Jack) Saiz, James Evans, T. E. Branigan, Miss Laurie Carroll, Rt. Rev. M. Rolla Grimm and Mrs. Ann Holst.

Comorre stated all the merchants in the affected area will be requested to display petitions opposing the request of City Librarian Harold Hamill that the Dana branch be closed. The committee will also circulate the petitions from door to door. "We hope to persuade the Board of Library Commissioners that it would be an injustice and work a hardship on the residents for the community library to be closed," Comorre said.

Comorre added the committee would like the answers to the following questions:

Why was there an attempt to keep quiet the proposed closing of the library? How does our library compare with other libraries of the same size and type in a similar area? In the event the

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'Save the Library' campaign continues

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LIBRARY ...

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Library is closed, what will become of the property? Will the building remain and become a warehouse or some other type of property for the community to look at?

Comorre said the whole situation since the time there was an attempt to keep the closing quiet, it leads me to believe that possibly some special interest group is seeking to obtain this property."

The committee will request the City Council to adopt legislation, whereby the public affected in this type of a situation will be given sufficient notice before public facilities are abol-

library, which represents a community almost twice the size of Cypress Park, circulated over 78,000 books last year with a 40 hour per week schedule, or 23 hours more than the Dana branch.

"It would seem to many of us that the total circulation of the Dana library would increase greatly if it were left open for use more hours during the week.

many working parents could use it," opponents of the closure point out. Unlike Lincoln Heights, Dana branch is not open on Saturday.

STUDENTS USE BRANCH

Students from five schools check out books from Dana

and Washington Irving Junior High.

Mrs. Mary A. Putnam, principal of Aragon Avenue, stated last week that if Dana branch is shut down it will be "a real blow to our reading program." More than 50 per cent of Aragon's recreational reading program is made possible by books from Dana library.

Mrs. Putnam stated that the Board of Education doesn't provide sufficient books for the

and reading, thus making the use of the Dana library of vital importance.

The educator added that closing of the library may also have a reverse affect on the school bond issue at the next election.

"Residents of this area who voted for recent library bonds, only to find that after

bonds were approved their own library was scheduled to be closed, may not be so willing to give their unqualified support to the school bonds."

SUPERINTENDENT SPEAKS

Mrs. Dorothy Harsin, assistant superintendent of east district elementary schools, this week urged parents in the community to encourage their children to use the facilities of the library regularly.

"Libraries are important to the educational development of children as well as important to adults. Whenever it is necessary to close a library for insufficient circulation of books, both children and adults in a community will suffer," she stated.

LOCATION HIT

Dana branch library is an unobstructive wood frame structure built about 30 years ago on Pepper Ave., a quiet residential area of northeast Los Angeles. Librarian Hamill admitted to the Green Sheet several days ago that the location is unfortunate, compared to libraries of larger circulation that can be found on major thoroughfares.

Some residents of the Cypress Park — Glassell Park areas weren't aware of the Dana's existence until the first Green Sheet story last Sunday on the proposed shut down. In addition to suggestions for increasing the hours of library service, ideas have been advanced to remodel the facade of the structure to give it a more inviting and dominant appearance. Wider use of the facility would then follow, it is believed.

Ave. 54, April 23, 7:30 p.m., open house speakers, Dr. Lawrence Vredevoe and Dr. Herbert J. ...

Glen Alta, 3410 Sierra open house held April 9.

Griffin Ave. — 2025 Griffin A

April 24, 7 p.m., open house.

Hillside, 120 E. Ave. 53, April 25, 7:30 p.m., open house.

Huntington Drive, 1000 N. Huntington Drive, April 23, 10:30 a.m., classroom visitation; April 25, 1:15 p.m., May Day dance festival and PTA carnival.

Nightingale Junior High, April 22, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., classroom visitation and displays; 8:30 to 9:30 p.m., program in auditorium.

Lincoln High, 3501 N. Broadway, April 24, 7:15 to 9:30 p.m., open house classroom visitation, auditorium program.

Meanwhile this week petitions opposing the plan to close the library continued to attract support from area residents, and two political groups went on record against the idea, the 24th Congressional District Democratic Council and the Cypress Park Democratic Club. Civic and service clubs in northeast Los Angeles are expected to follow suit next week in opposition to the closing plan.