



## BRIG PILGRIM

### Replica of Dana's Ship

The scenic cove at Dana Point — within Capistrano Bay — was the only natural anchorage between San Diego and Santa Barbara during the mid-1800s. Then called "San Juan" for the Mission San Juan Capistrano that it served, it was visited by trading ships bringing goods of every description from the East Coast, Mexico and South America to Spanish California.

The *Pilgrim* was one of the ships that brought the finished fineries of life to exchange for mission and rancho-raised cattle hides. It was a small two-masted, square-rigged Boston brig. In its crew when it visited this port one spring day in 1835 was young seaman Richard Henry Dana. He returned for a second brief visit that fall aboard the three-masted ship, *Alert*.

A re-creation of the *Pilgrim*, designed by marine architect Ray Wallace, sailed into Dana Point Harbor for the opening of the Orange County Marine Institute in May 1981. This ship, now owned by and moored beside that educational facility, has become a floating classroom, its tall masts rising 110 feet in the air. It enables students from throughout Southern California to relive the rugged history of early sailing days on overnight adventures. They become crewmates of Dana, responsible for duties like handling lines, raising sails, gathering hides and keeping watch. (see Marine Institute) *Pilgrim* is 137 feet long from bowsprit to spanker boom.

The public is invited to tour the ship's interior on most Sundays. Concerts and dramatic productions are also staged aboard the ship, as are significant special events — such as the inauguration of Dana Point's charter city council on the first day of 1989. When *Pilgrim* sails on an annual voyage along the coast, its over 8,600 square feet of sails are unfurled.