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MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

This issue of the *Journal of California and Great Basin Anthropology* initiates a new and ongoing section entitled *Pioneers*. It is edited by Steven Simms and contains a series of personal recollections about important Great Basin researchers, individuals to whom we are all intellectually indebted. We are focusing on the Great Basin because *California Archaeology* is already providing essays on past California scholars in *Sands of Time*, which has been a valuable contribution for the last five years. The purpose of *Pioneers* is not the production of obituaries, but rather the generation of stories about the lives and times of our predecessors, providing insights into their personalities, their contributions, and the historic context of their work. Coincidentally, these narratives also give interesting insights into the personalities of the authors themselves. Our first subject is Jesse Jennings, a true pioneer in the study of Great Basin anthropological archaeology.

We are also pleased to present the first of two special sections dedicated to aboriginal fishing in California and the Great Basin (the second section will appear in the Fall, 2015 issue). Kim Carpenter and I had the opportunity to write the chapter on California hunting and fishing for the *Handbook of North American*

Indians, Volume 3, Environment, Origins, and Population, and during that process were quite impressed by the wide range of fishing strategies used by native peoples throughout the region. As a result, I decided that it would be a good idea to solicit and publish a series of papers on the subject in one place. The current issue of the *Journal* has five contributions, and seven more will be coming in the fall.

Finally, Associate Editor Thomas Blackburn has reminded me of the significant way in which the *Comments* section of the *Journal* has helped to stimulate discussion and move our discipline in a positive direction over the years. The *Journal* has a long and productive history of nourishing debate, beginning with exchanges between David Fredrickson, Thomas King, and Bert Gerow in 1974, and continuing forward over the decades. Unfortunately, we haven't had any in a few years. So, it's time for the readership to step up and create some lively debate. Submit a *Comment* and see where it takes us.

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