

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

THE END OF summer—particularly for teachers—is a reflective time, a time to take stock of the fleeting moments spent under the sun without the burdens of grading or preparing for the next day’s class. But, as with everything, the end comes. Soon the students will shuffle into the classroom, and the teachers will inhale, pause for a second, and introduce themselves. They will begin, once again, to practice the art of educating.

The summer may end, but this issue of *California History* is just beginning, and there is some comfort in that. In the following pages, educators, historians, history buffs, and everyday readers will find something to aid in the shaking off of end-of-summer blues. The deeply researched features in this issue are sure to stimulate. For example, in his pathbreaking paper, Daniel Fittante explores the international, national, and local events that created modern Glendale, the world’s most “concentrated Armenian diasporic hub.” Alistair W. Fortson investigates the World War II shipyards in and around Richmond, and finds both standard housing and environmental degradation. Fortson demonstrates what we have suspected but not thoroughly explored: the coexistence of segregated housing with racially unequal exposure to industrial pollutants, urban waste, and even human effluent. Finally, Douglas R. Littlefield tells a tale of swamplands reclamation in the mid-nineteenth century. Settlers and capitalists view wetlands not as “fragile wildlife habitats but instead as impediments to advancing American ideals and homesteads across the continent.” Together, these features—coupled with book reviews, The Leading Edge, and Spotlight—make for great end-of-summer reading. Enjoy!

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