



The *History Quarterly* is published four times a year by the Tredyffrin Easttown Historical Society
720 First Avenue
Berwyn, PA 19312

A 501(c)(3) organization.

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A subscription to the *History Quarterly* is included with each membership level. Copies will be mailed to your home.

Annual Membership Dues

Family: \$40
Student: \$24
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www.tehistory.org

ISSN: 1938-5676

From the Editor

October 2012 marked the 50th anniversary of the Cuban Missile Crisis, one of the most memorable events of the Cold War era. In contrast, few of the current residents of Paoli and Valley Forge are aware that the Cold War brought a missile base to our own back yards. In this issue, Roger Thorne relates the tale of how the pastoral environs of the Great Valley and the sparsely populated ridge of Valley Forge Mountain were transformed by the presence of a Nike missile installation manned by Army personnel during the 1950s-1960s.

Roger has done an outstanding job of locating and interviewing local residents with memories of the site and its staff, as well as some of the staff members themselves. Interestingly, he discovered that some of the former base personnel never left the area, after marrying into local families. One former soldier was able to

attend Roger’s presentation on the Nike site, on which this article is based, at the Historical Society’s November meeting. That presentation resulted in so much additional feedback on the Nike base that Roger spent several more weeks

following up on leads and incorporating them into his article. Thanks to his thoroughness, the readers of this issue will enjoy even more details on the subject than were presented in November.

Roger has announced his intent to step down as Chair of the Historical Society, in order to devote more time to research and writing. While we will miss his leadership,

there is no question that all those who appreciate local history will benefit from his future insights into whichever topics he chooses to explore. Many thanks to Roger for his years at the helm of the Society, and for another excellent article.



In another transition for the Society, editorial responsibility for the *Quarterly* will shift to John Senior and Loyd Pakradooni as of the next issue, which marks the start of our 50th volume. While John and Loyd may introduce some new publishing tools and other behind-the-scenes changes, they are expected to continue the current format that was introduced by Joyce Post when she assumed responsibility for the *Quarterly* ten years ago. John and Loyd would be happy to have additional volunteers to assist in the process of working with authors, editing articles, or helping with production. As always, new authors are always welcome—no experience necessary.

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Excerpted from Vol. 49 No. 4 of the Tredyffrin Easttown History Quarterly

Cover Descriptions

Front Cover: A 1959 photo of the Nike missile installation on LeBoutillier Road in Paoli. *Tredyffrin Easttown Historical Society.*

VOL. 49 NO. 4

DECEMBER 2012

\$10

TREDYFFRIN EASTTOWN HISTORY QUARTERLY

When the Cold War Cast Its Shadow upon the Great Valley



The Paoli / Valley Forge Nike Missile Base

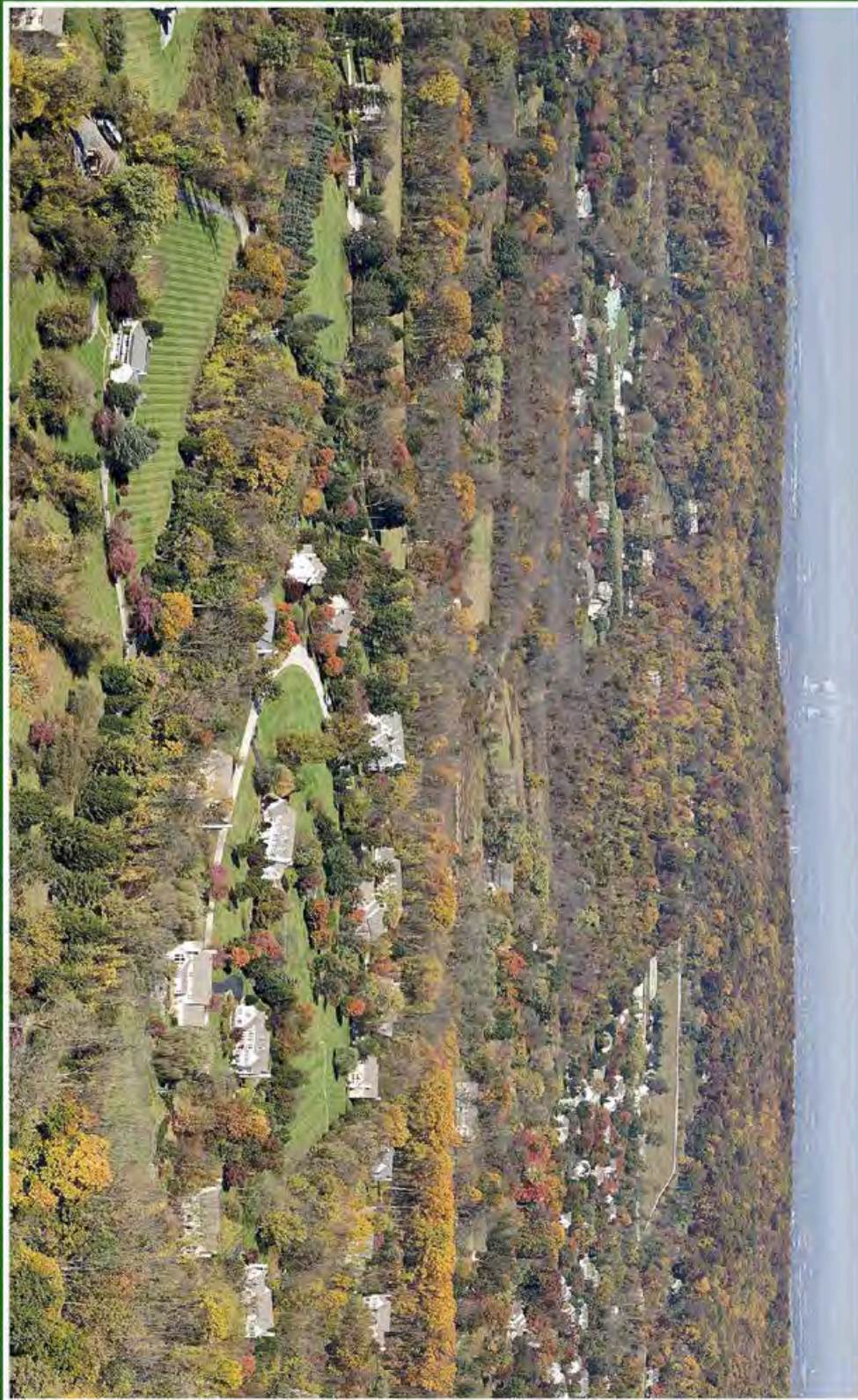
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Back Cover: Looking north across the Great Valley and the Turnbridge development, the former site of PH-82's launch area as seen on October 22, 2012. The "Wilson Farm" is on the left-center of the image, with the circular Eaves Spring Road in the foreground, and LeBoutillier Road to the left, obscured by trees. The open field to upper right is Great Scott Farm on Yellow Springs Road. The twin towers of the Limerick Generating Station can be seen in the distance. *Courtesy of Roger Thorne.*

A 2012 View of the Paoli Nike Missile Launch Site



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