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Cover—A soldier sizes up Hawk missiles at the base in Everglades National Park. March 1963.

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Editor's Foreword

This issue of *Tequesta*, the seventy-second number of the journal, is especially timely given the anniversaries of two major events that are described in the following pages. Both changed the course of Miami and South Florida history: the Cuban Missile Crisis and Operation Pedro Pan. The former is treated in an insightful essay by Charles Carter titled, "Cold War Nuclear Missiles in Miami, 1962-1979." Carter, whose varied career included high level positions in the aerospace industry and with other technologies, served with the Army's C Battery, 2nd Missile Battalion of the 52nd Air Defense Artillery in South Florida, which was deployed to Homestead as a first line of defense against the prospect of a Soviet missile attack from Cuba. Carter's essay provides insights into the crisis and its consequences for our area, and it will leave readers with a deeper understanding of an event that brought the world closer to a nuclear holocaust than any time before or since.

Rita M. Cauce, in "Operation Pedro Pan: 50 Years Later," tells the heart-rending story of the Pedro Pan project, which spirited 14,000 youths out of Communist Cuba for new homes in the U.S., especially in the Greater Miami area, between 1960 and 1962. During the past two years, Operation Pedro Pan has been the subject of a documentary, book, symposia, and even a poignant bronze sculpture of a Pedro Pan youth, known as "The Tower of Snow," which was recently unveiled on the Wolfson Campus of Miami Dade College near the Miami News Freedom Tower. This article by Ms. Cauce, who is Head of the Resource Development Department of the Library at Florida International University, explains the dynamics of spiriting thousands of youths from a vastly changed homeland to America with its prospects of freedom and opportunity.

Scott Silverman, a long serving judge on Miami-Dade County's busy Eleventh Judicial Circuit, but now in private practice as a mediator, provides our readers with "1911: The Birth of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit," a comprehensive story of the creation of this tribunal, now the fourth busiest judicial circuit in the United States. Scott is a superb avocational historian as you will see in this essay. I have had the good fortune of working closely with him while writing a book-length study of the Circuit. For Scott's support and inspiration, I dedicated the book to him!

David W. Lee, an Emeritus Professor Biology at Florida International University and a former director of the Kampong National Tropical Botanical Garden, has contributed with “Galt and Simmons: The Untold Stories of Two Miami Pioneers” a deep probe into the lives of one of early Miami-Dade County’s most accomplished and fascinating couples. We know Dr. Eleanor Galt as a peerless frontier physician based in bustling Coconut Grove, but the story of Albion Simmons, her spouse, is less well known. Simmons oversaw a bustling guava jelly manufacturing and exporting business with an international clientele. This deeply researched article sheds light on the lives of this seemingly inscrutable couple and the mark they left on Miami.

I would be remiss if I neglected to inform our readers that HistoryMiami and *Tequesta* lost a wonderful contributor earlier this year with the unexpected passing of Charles Rice. An attorney and historian, Charlie contributed to the 2010 issue of *Tequesta* a superbly researched and highly readable article on the submarine chaser school, sometimes known as the “Donald Duck Navy,” that occupied a portion of Miami’s bay front in World War II.

As ever, we invite our readers, along with the general public, to visit HistoryMiami in rapidly redeveloping downtown Miami. Our facility is bustling with activity as researchers work in the Archives & Research Center, educators explain the area’s history to school children, a general audience enjoys varied exhibitions, and tour guides take the public on a limitless number and variety of history and environmental tours. Come visit us. We would love to share all that HistoryMiami offers with you.

Paul S. George, Ph.D.
Editor, *Tequesta*