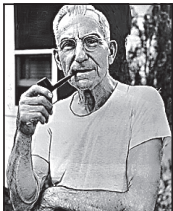


OUR CENTURY

1902

AT A GLANCE

\$25,000 for top-notch ballplayer, pioneer Lajoie



Lajoie in 1949

Sports fans gasped that athletes' salaries were going through the ceiling. For a salary reported as either \$25,000 for three years or \$30,000 for four, the Cleveland Bronchos obtained the services of Napoleon Lajoie, who rivaled Ty Cobb as the greatest hitter of his day.

Lajoie wouldn't be able to accompany the team to play the Athletics in Philadelphia. The National League Phillies, from whom he had jumped, had obtained an injunction enforceable in Pennsylvania.

Ten thousand fans turned out to see Lajoie lead the last-place Bronchos' to a 4-3 victory over Boston in his first game. With Lajoie batting .369 for the season, the team had a fifth-place finish. The next year, fans voted to change the name of the team to the Cleveland Naps, and in 1905, Lajoie was named players manager.

A group of men in their early 50s, part of a service club at the YMCA, believed the justice system should not lump youthful offenders with hardened criminals. With their own money and the support of civic leaders, they launched a successful campaign for a law establishing the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court — the first juvenile court in Ohio and the second in the nation.

A smallpox epidemic infected 1,248 Clevelanders in the summer; 224 died. The city, which had suspended its vaccination program in 1901, quickly re-established it and made an appropriation of \$4,000 for smallpox research.

On June 20, Gov. George C. Nash approved creating Cleveland's Group Plan Commission to determine the site of City Hall, the municipal courthouse, a federal courthouse, an auditorium, a school administration building and public library the growing city would need in the next decades.

Mayor Tom L. Johnson's first appointment was architect Daniel L. Burnham, who had been director of public works for the 1893 Chicago World's Fair, and who was to say: "Make no small plans; they have no power to stir men's blood."

Modern transportation was changing the city. Some had scoffed at "Payne's pastures," a real estate development on the outskirts — between Chester and Superior avenues, east of E. 21st St. Horse-drawn streetcars were changing the meaning of "outskirts."

Well-to-do Clevelanders even toiled around the streets in their horseless carriages. Loftin L. Johnson, son of the mayor, needed 11 days to drive from New York City to Cleveland; he broke down in Buffalo and parts had to be sent to him. A few auto fans traveled to Detroit on Dec. 1 to see Henry Ford drive his 70-horsepower automobile a mile in just a fifth of a second over one minute.

But the upper class hadn't given up its horses. On Memorial Day, the Four-in-Hand and Tandem Driving Club — two- and four-horse teams handled by such leading lights as Mayor Johnson, L. Dean Holden and H.M. Hanna Jr. — left the Euclid Ave. home of Daniel Hanna.

Sports fans had more than just the baseball team to watch. The first track meet of the new Ohio Collegiate Athletic Association — the Big Six — was held at the Glenville Race Track.

And on Thanksgiving Day, the Case Rough Riders defeated the Western Reserve Red Cats, 20-0, to cap a football season in which the Riders also had defeated Ohio State. The victors claimed the Ohio championship.

Organized this year: the United Trades and Labor Council, the Academy of Medicine and the Visiting Nurse Association.



PLAIN DEALER FILE

The Glenville Race Track.

Immigrants come seeking jobs

By Fred McGunagle

They may have been poor, but they weren't tired — and they weren't the "wretched refuse" of anybody's teeming shore.

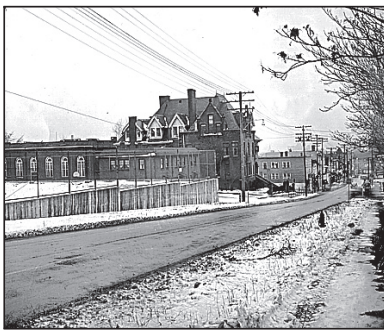
They were Poles and Germans and Italians and Hungarians and Slovenians for whom a shrinking agricultural economy no longer held a place, and they were ambitious. They had heard about the jobs in the booming factories of Cleveland, where their relatives had promised to help them get started.

According to Cleveland's Immigration Bureau, 10,738 of them arrived in 1902, more than twice as many as in the year before, though the record was to be broken repeatedly for the rest of the decade. Nationally, the 8.8 million immigrants in the decade was a record which was to stand until the 1980s.

And the 10,738 who arrived in Cleveland in 1902 were only the ones police counted as they got off the train. They didn't include any English or Scottish, and only two Welsh; the police apparently ignored those who spoke English.

During the decade, Cleveland's population grew by 89,000, and that of Cuyahoga County by 128,000. The Immigration Bureau counted more than 100,000 immigrants. But that's misleading: According to John Grabowski, research director of the Western Reserve Historical Society, an estimated one-third of immigrants later returned home. The exception was the Russian Jews who had fled the czar's pogroms.

"At this time, Europe was becoming



PLAIN DEALER FILE

A view of Alta House on Mayfield Rd. in Little Italy.

tremendously overpopulated," Grabowski says. People were living longer, their children were surviving to adulthood and mechanization was reducing the number of people needed to run a farm. Those who moved to Berlin and Budapest found few jobs available. Not only were there jobs in America, but trans-Atlantic steamers were making the crossing cheaper and safer.

The largest group counted in 1902 — 2,833 — came from Poland, especially, Grabowski said, Russian Poland. "It usually starts with a single male immigrant and the family comes later."

Another 1,728 were listed as Hungarian, but that included subjects of the Austro-Hungarian emperor from regions such as Slovakia and Romania. They had extra incentive to leave later in the decade as the emperor began drafting a bigger army in preparation for war.



WESTERN RESERVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A "cleanup parade" at Hiram House near the turn of the century. Despite the introduction of municipal street cleaning and garbage pickup during the Tom L. Johnson administration, many older neighborhoods remained dirty. Local social agencies, such as Hiram House, tried to ameliorate the problem by mobilizing youth cleanup brigades.

Also listed were:
 ✓ 1,321 from "Slavonia" — mostly Slovenians, Grabowski figures, though they would have included Croats and Serbs.
 ✓ 1,128 from Germany, many to work in Theodore Kuntz's factory. Germans had led in immigration to

Cleveland throughout the late 19th century.

✓ 1,219, from Italy, mainly from impoverished Calabria and Sicily.

✓ 976 from Austria, undoubtedly including other parts of the Austro-Hungarian empire.

✓ 634 from Russia, mainly Jews, but also Lithuanians, Ukrainians and others from Russia's "pale of settlement."

✓ 507 Bohemians.
 ✓ Only 160 Irish, who may have been undercounted because they spoke English. The Irish were the second-largest immigrant group in the 19th century, starting when they helped dig the Ohio Canal.

Most of the new arrivals came with addresses in their hands, and the police, chosen for their linguistic ability, directed them to their destination. Or they sent them to churches and mutual-aid societies already set up by their countrymen in neighborhoods with names such as "Warszawa" and "Little Italy."

There, they crowded into their relatives' homes or boarding houses and began saving to send for their families. They could take Americanization classes at settlement houses like Alta, Goodrich and Hiram House or Friendly Inn, though few cared to become citizens until World War I.

"The strongest Americanization factor was sports," Grabowski says. One rabbi complained that he couldn't get youths to temple because they were too busy playing baseball.

The immigrants' great-grandchildren today are the backbone of Cleveland, but the immigrants get little attention in histories such as William Ganson Rose's 1950 "Cleveland: The Making of a City." Historians preferred to write about the movers and the shakers — and their own forebears.

"The immigrants' stories aren't told until their grandchildren start writing them," said Grabowski, who, as managing editor, saw to it that they got their due in "The Cleveland Encyclopedia."

McGunagle is a Cleveland-area free-lance writer.



WESTERN RESERVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

An elderly couple poses for a photographer, possibly in the Haymarket District in Cleveland. While some immigrant communities, including Jews and Germans, created facilities to care for the elderly, many older people had to fend for themselves as children and other family moved away.

LOOKING AT A YEAR

Jan. 1: Michigan defeats Stanford, 49-0, in the first Rose Bowl.

Jan. 29: In its first 11 months as a public company, U.S. Steel Corp. reports net profits of \$174 million. Primary shareholder J.P. Morgan says of his investment, "I am not in Wall Street for my health."

Feb. 22: Army surgeon Walter Reed and Dr. James Carroll publish a report revealing that yellow fever is transmitted by mosquitoes.

May 31: The three-year Boer War ends as the South African Boers lose their sovereignty to the British.

July 12: The Twentieth Century Limited sets a railroad speed record by averaging more than a mile per minute over a 481-mile stretch from New York to Chicago. The train covered the 113-mile stretch between Cleveland and Toledo in 103 minutes.

Aug. 3: President Theodore Roose-

velt appoints Oliver Wendell Holmes to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Oct. 15: Intervention by President Theodore Roosevelt ends the five-month strike by the nation's coal miners, which was on the verge of crippling major U.S. industries.

Dec. 10: Work is completed on the mile-long Aswan Dam on the Nile River, 590 miles south of Cairo. The dam took a work force of 11,000 nearly four years to complete.

Born: Aviator Charles Lindbergh; photographer Ansel Adams; authors John Steinbeck and Langston Hughes; golfer Bobby Jones.

Died: Suffragette leader Elizabeth Cady Stanton; French novelist Emile Zola; diamond mining magnate Cecil Rhodes, whose will created the Rhodes Scholarship; jeweler Charles Tiffany.

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