

OUR CENTURY

1955

AT A GLANCE

Court rejects Sheppard appeal, new evidence

Defense attorney William Corrigan had high hopes when he appealed Sam Sheppard's murder conviction to the Court of Appeals. He argued that 29 rulings by Judge Edward Blythin were in error. More important, he submitted a 59-page report by noted forensic scientist Paul Leland Kirk as newly discovered evidence.

Kirk had examined the murder scene when the house was returned to the Sheppard family after the trial. He challenged a number of findings by the police and the coroner's office. He said the pattern of the blood splatters indicated the killer was left-handed; Sheppard was right-handed. He said the killer had been severely bitten by Marilyn; Sheppard had no external wounds. And he said some of the blood in the house was neither Marilyn's nor Sam's, indicating the presence of a third person.

The court unanimously rejected the appeal, saying the report did not qualify as newly discovered evidence because it could have been gathered before the trial. Corrigan had said before the trial that Dr. Anthony Kazlauckas, a former deputy county coroner, would examine the house, but changed his mind because, he said in the appeal, police would have knowledge of the result. Even Paul Holmes, whose book "The Sheppard Case" concluded Sheppard was innocent, said Corrigan had made a key mistake.

In the second trial 11 years later, Kirk's report would be crucial. Meanwhile, on July 20, Sheppard became convict No. 98660 in the Ohio Penitentiary.

Under a 1953 charter amendment, if a candidate won more than 50 percent of the vote in a primary he was elected and there was no general election. As a result, Mayor Anthony Celebrezze became "the first Cleveland mayor to win by a shutout," according to The Plain Dealer. With 55 percent in the primary, Cele-



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brezze easily defeated endorsed Democrat Joseph Bartunek, Republican Kermit Neely and Democrats Alexander Martin (the first black to run for mayor) and Robert Swee-

ney. Nineteen council members and one newcomer also wrapped up their seats. The party organizations were in shreds and there were calls

for replacement of GOP Chairman Alexander L. Demaribus and Democrat Ray T. Miller. In Lakewood, Frank Celeste succeeded Amos Kaufman, who was retiring as mayor after 23 years. Shaker Heights defeated a charter amendment for a city manager but elected Wilson Stapleton, who favored the amendment, as mayor.

The Indians had their most exciting young pitcher since young Bob Feller in 1936. Left-hander Herb Score led the lead in strikeouts while winning 16 games and rookie-of-the-year honors. Bob Lemon led the league with 18 wins, Early Wynn won 17 and Bob Feller won 13, including his 12th one-hitter.

Al Smith hit 27 home runs, Larry Doby 26, Al Rosen 21 and Ralph Kiner, obtained from the Chicago Cubs, 18. The Tribe battled the Yankees for first place all season, but wound up three games short of the pennant.

Behind Otto Graham, whom Paul Brown had talked out of retirement, the Browns won their 10th straight division title, scoring more points and allowing fewer than any other team in the NFL. The title game against the Los Angeles Rams would be the last for the great Graham.

Before a record 87,695 in the Los Angeles Coliseum, Graham went out in style. He threw touchdown passes of 50 yards to Dante Lavelli and 35 yards to Ray Renfro and scored on runs of 15 and 1. Lou Groza kicked five extra points and a field goal. The Browns defense intercepted seven Rams passes en route to a 38-14 win.

Wearing white armbands as identification, 75,000 mothers went door-to-door in Northeast Ohio the night of Jan. 19. The Plain Dealer urged residents to turn on their porch lights for the Mothers' March on Polio.

The paralytic disease struck adults and children. In August, Indians first baseman Vic Wertz was diagnosed, presumably ending his career. Wertz was fortunate. He not only recovered, but hit 32 home runs in 1956 and was voted Indians Man of the Year. Late in the year came word that a vaccine developed by Dr. Jonas Salk showed promise for protecting against the disease.

As Sept. 30 turned into Oct. 1, Gov. Frank Lausche called out, "Remove all barricades! Open the gates!" and the 219-mile Ohio Turnpike opened under floodlights. Standing with Lausche was James A. Shocknessy, who had taken charge of the project after it bogged down in delays.

Rapid reflects city's growth



PLAIN DEALER FILE PHOTOS

The public awaits: Opening Day of the new rapid transit system, at the Terminal concourse.

Thousands turn out to ride trains, cheer transportation breakthrough

By Fred McGunagle

The dream was alive again, almost as though the previous 25 years had never happened.

The band played and thousands cheered April 16 as the first sleek, blue and gray rapid car glided into a gleaming station — an area that had been a dusty storage site since the opening of Union Terminal in 1930.

It was just as the Van Sweringens had planned it before the Depression put a cruel end to their — and Cleveland's — dreams.

Once more, the city's factories were booming. Once more, new Clevelanders were arriving daily from the South. And now, Cleveland looked forward to becoming a world port with the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway in a few years.

Cleveland, America's seventh-largest city, had become the sixth American city with a rapid transit system. In a few short years, it expected to have a downtown subway, the mark of a truly great city. Voters had passed the \$35 million bond issue the previous fall.

"Cleveland is experiencing a new civic birth," Mayor Anthony Celebrezze proclaimed, his chest swelling behind his breast-pocket handkerchief. William Ganson Rose, chairman of the civic celebration, told the crowd, "Cleveland is not the biggest city, but it does the biggest things."

The rapid was a big thing. It had cost \$30 million, with a Reconstruction Finance Corp. loan to be repaid from the fare box. The East Side section, the part opening in April, had been more than three years in construction. Each of its 68 cars seated 52 riders and was capable of 47 mph. They made the eight-mile trip from Windermere Station in East Cleveland to the Terminal in 18 minutes.

The West Side section, due to open in August, would bring it to W. 117th St. and Madison Ave., a total of 13 miles, with four more stations. A two-



mile extension to W. 143rd St. and Lorain awaited right-of-way negotiations, and an eastern branch up Cedar Hill to Coventry Rd. awaited funding. Other areas clamored for their own rapid lines.



William Ganson Rose, chairman of the civic celebration, second from right, passes out literature at the opening of the rapid at the Union Terminal.

More than 20,000 riders put their two dimes (or a nickel if they had a transfer) in the turnstile the first day. They marveled at the smooth ride on welded rails, the fluorescent lighting, the large, sealed windows with forced-air ventilation, the foam rubber seats and stainless-steel fittings that wouldn't snag nylons.

That crowd was dwarfed by the estimated 45,000 who turned out on Sunday, Aug. 14, when East met West. It was "Free Ride Day," an idea borrowed from legendary Mayor Tom L. Johnson, and families with children were prominent in the long lines. They rode between Windermere and W. 117th in 28 minutes, waving at bystanders from the big windows as they glided through parts of town many never had seen before.

Many commuters were delighted, especially those who worked near the Terminal. They could take the rapid instead of driving and paying an outrageous \$1.25 to park all day near Public Square. West Side motorists were pleased, too; there was less congestion on the bridges over the Cuyahoga River.

Other commuters, especially those who worked "uptown" near Playhouse Square, were less enthusiastic. Before, they could catch a bus that dropped them off near their office. Now, the bus took them instead to a station where they waited for a rapid, then waited again at the Square for a loop bus. Many switched to driving, creating more parking problems.

By the time the West Side rapid opened, however, a solution was in sight. The courts had turned down challenges to the subway bond issue and planners were already at work. It would run from the Terminal — using facilities the Vans had built into it — along Superior and Payne Aves. to E. 13th St. and back along Huron Rd.



Passengers board a train at the Windermere Station in East Cleveland.

That would bring 75 percent of downtown commuters to a stop within 700 feet of their destination. It would give Higbee's, Halle's, May's and Sterling-Lindner-Davis a chance to reclaim shoppers they were losing to the suburban shopping centers.

Meanwhile, excitement grew over the coming arrival in Cleveland of ships from around the world. Congress had approved the St. Lawrence Seaway and deepening of the channels was under way. A consultant reported that Cleveland would reap the most benefit of any Great Lakes port because of its large industrial "hinterland."

The Illuminating Co. produced a color motion picture called "Land of Promise" and took it on the road to lure companies thinking of opening new plants.

In November, voters passed an \$8 million bond issue for harbor improvements by an even larger major-

ity than the 2-1 approval they had given the subway. Lower E. 9th St., with its dilapidated bars and flophouses, suddenly looked like valuable real estate. There was talk of renaming it "Seaway Blvd."

At year's end, the Chamber of Commerce announced that Cleveland had added a record 89 manufacturing companies, and industries had plans for another \$282 million worth of new facilities in 1956.

Cleveland was on the grow again, and this time it appeared it would last. The economy was booming. The Indians and the Browns were winning. East Side was coming together with West, downtown with the neighborhoods. Cleveland was coming together with the world.

It was good to live in what the Illuminating Co. was calling "the best location in the nation."

McGunagle is a Cleveland freelance writer.

LOOKING AT A YEAR

Feb. 9: The American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations merge to create the AFL-CIO.

March 24: "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" opens on Broadway.

April 5: Winston Churchill, 80, re-

tires as British prime minister.

May 14: Eastern European nations sign the Warsaw Pact, effectively giving up control to the Soviet Union.

July 18: Disneyland opens in Anaheim, Calif.

Sept. 24: Argentine President Juan

Peron is ousted by a military junta and exiled to Paraguay.

Oct. 3: The Brooklyn Dodgers win their first World Series, defeating the New York Yankees in seven games.

Born: Bill Gates, Arsenio Hall, Debra Winger, John Grisham, Carol

Browner, Maria Shriver.

Died: Scientist Albert Einstein, actor James Dean, politician and diplomat Cordell Hull, jazz composer and saxophonist Charlie Parker, how-to pioneer Dale Carnegie, baseball greats Cy Young and Honus Wagner.