

OUR CENTURY

1964

AT A GLANCE



PD FILE

Art Modell, a smiling Mayor Ralph Locher and Lou Groza in the Browns' locker room.

The Browns win championship

It was the Browns' seventh championship — third in the National Football League — but this one was special. It was the first since 1955, and it came against the heavily favored Baltimore Colts, stacked with future Hall of Famers, before 79,544 freezing fans at the Stadium.

The Browns won the Eastern Division by a half-game over the Cardinals, who had moved the year before from Chicago to St. Louis. For the title game, Blanton Collier came up with a new way to stop Johnny Unitas' passes. It would later be called the "bump-and-run."

The defenses — and a cold wind — produced a scoreless first half. Then the Browns took charge. The ageless Lou Groza kicked a 43-yard field goal. Jim Brown broke loose for 46 yards and on the next play Frank Ryan passed 18 yards to Gary Collins on the pitcher's mound, which had not been leveled after the baseball season.

On the next possession, Ryan hit Collins on a hook-and-go for a 42-yard touchdown and a 17-0 lead. In the fourth quarter, Groza kicked a 10-yard field goal and Collins scored his third touchdown on a 51-yarder from Ryan. The defense shut out the feared Colts, holding Unitas to 95 yards passing.

"Hail to the champs! How they did pour it on those Colts of Baltimore!" rhymed James E. Doyle in his next morning's "Sport Trail." Clevelanders celebrated. Little did they know how long it would be before another Cleveland pro team won a title in a major sport. In fact, they still don't know.

Clevelanders got a shock on July 16. Sam Sheppard was ordered released from the Ohio Penitentiary after serving 10 years for the murder of his wife, Marilyn. Federal Judge Carl Weinman had granted F. Lee Bailey's habeas corpus motion. Citing the headlines of editorials in the Press, he wrote, "If ever there was a trial by newspaper, this is a perfect example." The trial, he said, was "a mockery of justice."

Sheppard and his fiancée, Arianne Tebbenjohanns, immediately drove to Chicago with Paul Holmes of the Chicago Tribune, which had arranged for their wedding. The state filed an appeal. In the previous 10 years, the U.S. Supreme Court under Chief Justice Earl Warren had recognized a string of new defendant rights. Nine years earlier, a different Supreme Court had refused even to hear Sheppard's appeal. What would the court do now?

If the Browns hit the heights, the Indians plumbed the depths. The team tied for sixth.

President Gabe Paul reported that for the second straight year the club had lost more than \$1 million. Directors sent him on a "scouting trip" to Oakland, Seattle and Dallas, all of which hoped to lure the Indians. On his return, Paul recommended the team sign a new 10-year lease for the Stadium — but with an escape clause allowing it to pull out on short notice.

The Barons barely made the playoffs, with a third-place finish in the Western Division. Then they put on their Cinderella slippers. They beat the Rochester Americans two straight. Then they beat the Hershey Bears three straight to take on the Quebec Aces, who had the best record in the league. They beat them twice in Quebec and again in Cleveland.

Fans lined up early the next morning, and 10,016 got into the Arena as fire marshals looked the other way. With player-coach Fred Glover, the league's MVP, scoring the go-ahead goal, they beat the Aces, 5-2, to become the first team to win nine playoff games in a season. It was their eighth Calder Cup. And their last.

At the end of 1963, Councilman Michael Fatica had accused James Stanton of offering a bribe in return for Fatica's support of Stanton for council president. On Feb. 19, Fatica was arrested for soliciting a bribe from a restaurant owner in his ward who was trying to get a liquor license.

A grand jury found no evidence of wrongdoing by Stanton. Fatica was found guilty in December, won a retrial and was convicted again. By then he was a broken man, having lost his council seat and his right to practice law. He was given probation.

St. Ignatius defeated Benedictine, 48-6, to win The Plain Dealer Charity Game. The MVP award went to Ignatius' Brian Dowling, who went on to star at Yale and become the model for the character B.D. in classmate Garry Trudeau's comic strip "Doonesbury."

Gov. James Rhodes proposed in July to build a bridge to Canada from either Cleveland or the Marblehead area. At yearend, he ordered his highway director to make a study of the cost, expected to be between \$250 million and \$600 million.

School conflict creates a martyr

By Fred McGunagle

By January, the agreement that had ended a sit-in at school board headquarters the previous September was falling apart. The board had promised "fullest possible incorporation" of black children into classes at three white schools.

But what did that mean?

The board's answer — "diffusion" — didn't go far enough for parents at overcrowded Hazeldell Elementary School in Glenville. It went too far for parents of the three white schools to which 830 Hazeldell pupils were being bused — William H. Brett and Memorial in Collinwood and Murray Hill in Little Italy.

The United Freedom Movement announced it would picket the receiving schools. At Brett on Jan. 29, the pickets were confronted by 100 angry whites, who crowded the sidewalk and forced them to march in the street. "Look at the Communists!" they cried. "Minister, go back to your pulpit!"

The situation was worse the next day at Murray Hill. An angry crowd of several hundred was waiting for the pickets, and their resentment, The Plain Dealer reported, "centered on three targets — Negroes, newsmen and police." When peacemakers tried to restrain them, they threw eggs, bottles and fruit at them over the heads of police. Men with baseball bats and pipes ran into Mayfield Rd., smashing windows in autos of passing blacks.

A group of priests, unable to calm the crowd, hurried to the parking lot where the pickets were assembling and urged them "as a matter of life and death" not to carry out the demonstration. The NAACP sent word from downtown that leaders were meeting with the school board and the pickets should hold off.

The meeting got nowhere. The UFM called for another sit-in at board headquarters. Meanwhile, a delegation of white ministers came to City Hall. The Rev. Charles Rawlings told Mayor Ralph Locher: "The police were incompetent and did not fulfill their obligation."

In 1962, Locher had defused crises and worked out solutions that pleased protesters. Now his political instincts were overruling his natural impulses. He scolded the ministers. "You started something," he said. "You had a bull by the tail and then you asked us to stop it."

As before, the sit-in led to a board resolution that mollified the protesters, though not until after 20 had been arrested. On Feb. 4, the board promised full integration of the three schools. The UFM called off plans for a school boycott by blacks.

Then, on Feb. 28, the UFM called for a moratorium on construction of three schools for which funds had been voted in 1962. All were in Glenville; that, the UFM charged, further concentrated black children in "de facto" segregation. (That point would be key in the systemwide desegregation ordered by federal Judge Frank Battisti 13 years later.)

In April, the board refused to discuss a moratorium with a group of Protestant, Catholic and Jewish leaders. The Congress of Racial Equality announced it would picket construction at Lakeview School beginning Monday, April 6.

On Monday, 100 pickets blocked concrete trucks by lying down in front of or under them. Some ran into the work site and threw themselves into trenches, forcing police to drag or carry them away through the mud. Twenty were arrested.

William Boyd, the only black school board member, urged his colleagues to accept the moratorium. Instead, the board voted to put an eight-foot fence topped with barbed wire around the construction. Locher refused to step in. "It's the school board's move," he said.

Tuesday morning, 70 pickets appeared — suburban housewives, college students, ministers and a hand-

ful of neighborhood residents. Among them was the Rev. Bruce Klunder, 27, a staff member of the Student Christian Union at Western Reserve University who also assisted at Church of the Covenant, Locher's church.

With a crowd of several hundred watching, the pickets let the first four trucks pass. Then the Rev. David Zuverink and two others ran into Lakeview Rd. and dived under a truck waiting to enter. The spectators pushed forward, despite the police horses and the urging of picket leaders to stay back.

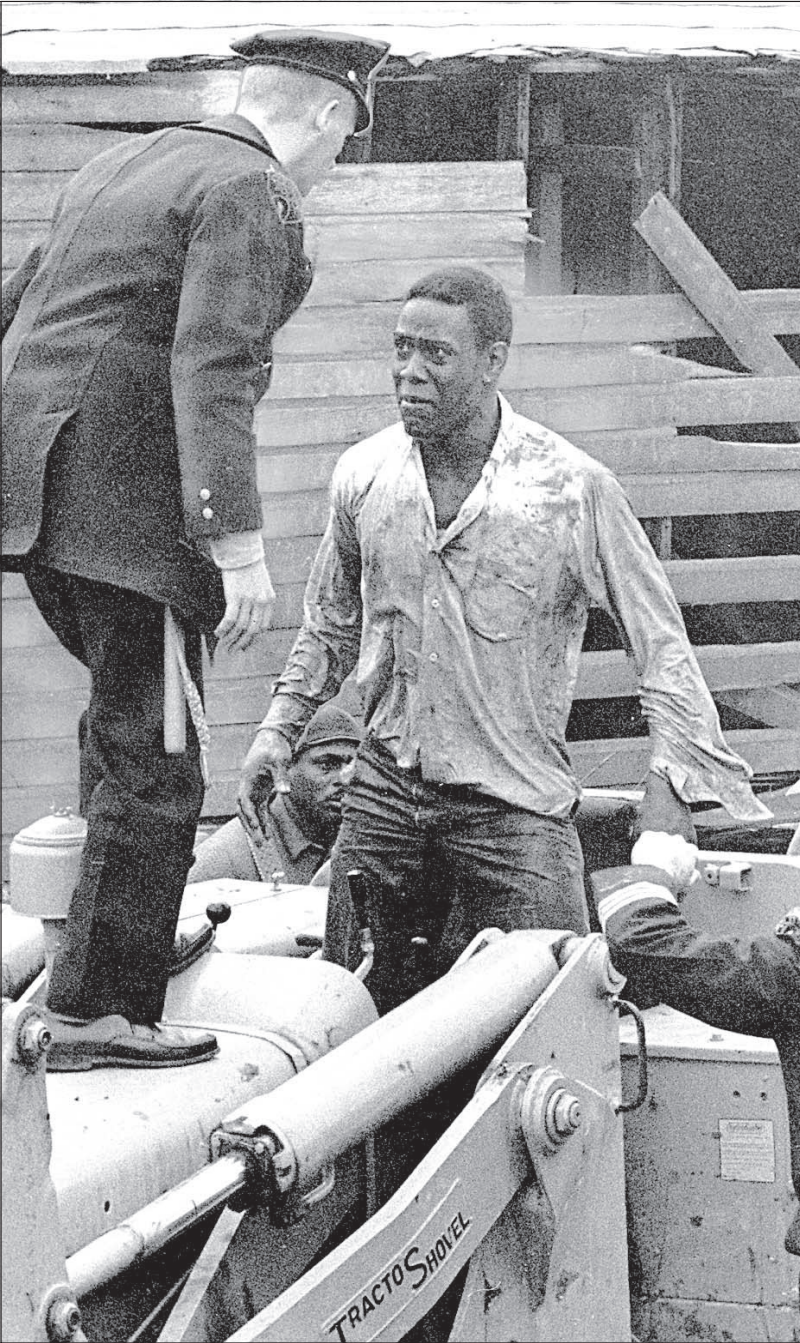
"And then," the Press reported, "while everyone was watching the cement trucks at the site entrance, an agonizing scream came from the other end about 100 yards away. A slender, hysterical woman came running at police, shouting 'They've killed Bruce! They've killed Bruce!' She fell limp into the arms of a friend."

Several pickets, including Klunder, had taken advantage of the confusion to run through back yards onto the other side of the site. Three threw themselves in front of a bulldozer. Klunder lay down behind it. Fearing his shovel would strike the demonstrators in front, the driver backed up, crushing Klunder.

Police rescued the driver from the angry crowd. The demonstrators told them he hadn't seen Klunder and in the tumult couldn't hear them yelling at him not to back up. But the crowd was out of control.

"It was a wild moment," The Plain Dealer reported. "People running. Women screaming and crying, mounted police galloping to keep the crowds back. Rocks began flying at the mounted men — rocks and bottles and bricks. Now and then the mounted men, when they got orders, charged the crowd and there was a wild running here and there."

That night saw the worst rioting Cleveland had ever experienced.



PLAIN DEALER FILE

A protester confronts police at the Lakeview School construction site. Below, the body of the Rev. Bruce W. Klunder lies in front of the bulldozer that crushed him to death.



Roaming gangs threw rocks at cars and shattered windows of stores in the area. Steel-helmeted police used tear gas to clear the streets.

Klunder's wife, Joanne, broke the news to their two young children, then pleaded for calm. "He died loving everyone and only hoping that this might bring love among all people," she told reporters. The next morning, Common Pleas Judge John V. Corrigan granted the city's request for an injunction against the picketing and — on his own — enjoined further work on the three schools: in effect, the moratorium.

CORE staged a rally on the Mall at noon. When it ended, 250 demonstrators marched to City Hall, where Locher had finally called the parties together. The crowd sat on the floor in the lobby and began singing "We shall not be moved." Police closed off upper floors and sent city employees home. At 8:30 in the evening, with the meeting still in progress, Judge Corrigan arrived. He got all sides to agree to a two-week truce. After seven hours, the meeting ended. The participants filed out.

"And then," The Plain Dealer said,

"for the first time in the history of the crisis, a public official was cheered by a group of civil rights demonstrators. The public official: Judge Corrigan."

Once again, an uneasy peace settled in. Superintendent William Levenson announced his resignation, and the board picked Parma Superintendent Paul Briggs to replace him. Meanwhile, blacks' resentment of the white "power structure" smoldered.

McGunagle is a Cleveland freelance writer.

LOOKING AT A YEAR

Feb. 12: The Beatles arrive in New York for their appearance on "The Ed Sullivan Show."

Feb. 25: Cassius Clay defeats Sonny Liston to win boxing's world heavyweight championship.

Mar. 12: Teamster boss Jimmy Hoffa receives an eight year prison sentence for jury tampering.

Apr. 1: Ford unveils its new car — the Mustang.

July 2: President Lyndon Johnson signs the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

Sept. 27: The Warren Commission issues its report concluding that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Oct. 17: Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev is ousted, replaced by Leonid Brezhnev.

Nov. 3: Johnson wins a landslide victory over Republican Barry Goldwater. In New York, Robert F. Kennedy is elected to the U.S. Senate.

Dec. 10: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. wins the Nobel Peace Prize.

Born: Nicolas Cage, Kim Delaney, Wynonna Judd, Brad Pitt.

Died: Herbert Hoover, Gen. Douglas MacArthur, Indian political leader Jawaharlal Nehru, American composer Cole Porter, comedian Eddie Cantor, former Supreme Court Justice Harold Burton, comedienne Gracie Allen.