

OUR CENTURY

1965

AT A GLANCE



PLAIN DEALER FILE

Robert Manry and his 13-foot boat, Tinkerbelle.

Tornadoes slam area

At 11:05 p.m. on April 11 — Palm Sunday — the village of Pittsfield in Lorain County was nearly wiped off the map. A Force 5 tornado (261-318 mph) killed seven of the 50 residents along with two drivers who were passing through. It continued across Lorain County into Strongsville, where it smashed houses and St. Joseph Catholic Church and School.

Twenty-five minutes later, a second tornado roared from Brunswick through Richfield. All told, 18 were killed and more than 200 injured. Among the injured were Rev. Elmer Novak, his wife and two children, who were blown through Pittsfield Congregational Church and on to its front lawn. Damage was estimated at \$5 million.

This time, Sam Sheppard got the shock. By a 2-1 vote, the 6th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals reversed federal Judge Carl Weinman's reversal of Sheppard's murder conviction. The appellate court ordered the Bay Village osteopath back to the Ohio Penitentiary.

The judges were unanimous in castigating the media coverage of the case, but the majority said, "We are not prepared now to hold that American citizens have so far forgotten their traditional heritage of 'fair play' that such shabby reporting would irretrievably infect the minds of an entire metropolitan community." Lawyer F. Lee Bailey won a stay of the order returning Sheppard to prison. Later, the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to hear the case.

Clevelanders figuratively held their breath. Fifteen-year-old Morris Baetzold was trapped in a 10-inch-wide crevice in Whipps Ledges in the Hinckley Reservation of the Metroparks. Firefighters could reach his feet, but succeeded only in pulling off his shoes. They brought electric heaters to help him survive the 39-degree night of Oct. 5.

The next morning, a crew of seven rescue specialists from the National Speleological Society arrived in Hinckley. They tried to attach slings and a pulley arrangement around Morris, but a succession of thin volunteers was unable to inch into the fissure. Finally, 15-year-old Mike Ulrich of North Royalton succeeded.

The rescuers slowly pulled Morris out. Despite his 25-hour ordeal, he had only minor injuries.

On Jan. 21, 7-year-old Donna Adkins was kidnapped from her W. 41st St. home by a deranged man who released her on the Ohio Turnpike after firing a tear-gas pistol into her eyes. She lost the sight of her left eye.

Clevelanders contributed more than \$15,000 to help her parents buy a roomier house and assure her a college education. Her kidnapper hanged himself in his jail cell.

Sixteen-year-old Beverly Jarosz had been stabbed and strangled in her Garfield Heights home on Dec. 29, 1964. The search intensified in 1965, but the death of the Marymount High School student was never solved.

It was the beginning of a forgettable era for Cleveland sports teams. The Barons failed to make the playoffs. The Tribe finished fifth.

The Browns gave fans hope for a second straight championship, winning the Eastern Conference by a half-game over the Philadelphia Eagles. In the title game, the Browns couldn't keep their footing in Green Bay's Lambeau Field, but fullback Jim Taylor and halfback Paul Hornung waded through mud for 201 yards. The Packers won, 23-12.

Early in the year, Plain Dealer copy editor Robert Manry asked for a leave of absence so he and a friend could sail 3,200 miles to England in a 13-foot sloop. Before leaving New York on June 1, he mailed back a letter thanking his colleagues for a sendoff party. By the way, he added, his friend had been forced to cancel and he was going alone.

The boat was called "Tinkerbelle." So was the book Manry wrote about his two-month journey. He told of sliding down 20-foot waves like a surfer, of being knocked overboard six times by waves.

With 265 miles to go, he was surprised to see a trawler containing reporter Bill Jorgensen and a cameraman from WEWS Channel 5, who had set out from England to find him. They interviewed and filmed him for three hours, then flew back to Cleveland with the scoop. Unfortunately for Manry's employer, WEWS shared a transcript with its Scripps-Howard sibling, the Press, which spread it across Page 1 for days. A Plain Dealer boat, meanwhile, couldn't find Manry in the Atlantic fog. Manry had expected to check into a hotel in Falmouth, England, and notify the Associated Press to tell The Plain Dealer he had arrived. Instead, he was greeted by 50,000 people and the news that he was a national hero.

Tick, tick, tick

Racial tensions turn city into a time bomb

By Fred McGunagle

When 1965 began, Cleveland was a divided city. By year's end, it would be a polarized city.

The first breakout came March 18, when trouble between black and white students flared out of control and brought police cars screaming to Collinwood High School. The school shut for the day. Football Coach Joseph Trivisonno quickly rounded up athletes to protect black students as they were loaded on to buses for the trip home.

Some of the black students went instead to Glenville High School, where they tried to organize black students there to march on Collinwood. The march was interrupted by Glenville Principal John Stafford and teachers, who turned most of the students back.

Barely one-quarter of Collinwood's 3,300 students attended classes the next day. Another melee broke out, but police quickly broke it up, arresting 24 students and adults, including several from the suburbs.

The following week, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. left the Selma-to-Montgomery march briefly to speak in Cleveland. His "I Have a Dream" speech and his Nobel Peace Prize had made him the leading figure in the civil rights movement, and 2,200 gathered to hear him at the Hotel Sheraton-Cleveland.

He told them, "We must act now before it is too late. We cannot afford not to live up to the American Dream. The time has come when we all must learn to live together as brothers or all perish together as fools."

Asked at a press conference about threats against him, he said: "I know that our cause is basically right. It will be triumphant no matter what happens to me."

In May, Police Chief Richard Wagner testified in favor of retaining capital punishment before a committee of the Ohio General Assembly. He created a sensation when he declared that a group called the Revolutionary Action Movement had organized and intended to kill white people.

The United Freedom Movement declared: "This singling out of a Negro group for condemnation represents a biased double standard which is unconscionable in a servant of all the people." Five UFM leaders came to Mayor Ralph Locher's office to discuss their protest.

Locher met them in his outer office. "I have the utmost confidence in Chief Wagner," he said. "The remarks were not directed to the Negro community but only to the Revolutionary Action Movement." He refused to discuss the situation further and walked back into his private office.

The five announced they would continue to wait. They left when the office closed but returned the next morning. This time, they refused to leave at the end of the day. Police cleared the building — shoving out reporters and photographers — and arrested them.

They were fingerprinted and taken to Central Station, where reporters again were barred from seeing them. "It is going to be a long, hot summer because we have a mayor who ignores citizens' protests," said Stanley Tolliver, one of their lawyers.

The next morning, 20 protesters jammed into Locher's outer office. Newspapers and civic leaders called on Locher to see them, but he stood firm. The next day, a Saturday, the Congress of Racial Equality picketed Locher's home on East Blvd. — now Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. He mowed his grass while they marched.

On Monday, the protesters appeared again at the mayor's office, but when they showed up on Tuesday they found all of the chairs occupied by members of the National Associa-



PLAIN DEALER FILE

Angry Collinwood High school students are held back by police. Below, in March members of the NAACP picket the federal building. Protestors, bottom, stage a sit-in outside the mayor's office.



tion for American White People, who took turns waving a small flag. The UFM announced: "As a result of the mayor's treatment of the UFM, we are no longer interested in seeking out a meeting with him."

The incident was a watershed in Locher's administration and in Cleveland race relations. Efforts to register black voters redoubled, aided by the National Council of Churches.

The Democratic Party endorsed Locher for re-election. County Auditor Ralph Perk was the Republican candidate. School board President Ralph McAllister, who had clashed with school protesters, announced he would run as an independent. So did State Rep. Carl Stokes. In late July, King returned to aid the registration drive. "I know Mr. Stokes," he told reporters. "It would be a marvelous step forward for Cleveland to elect a Negro mayor."

The Democratic primary showed how divided Cleveland had become. Mark McElroy, who had lost to Locher by 29,000 votes in 1962, challenged him again. This time, he lost by less than 7,000. Locher piled up big majorities in white wards, but blacks turned out in unprecedented numbers to vote against him.

Polls showed that McAllister had support in Collinwood and Little Italy, Perk in the ethnic Broadway wards and Locher in other white wards. Stokes had united black backing. Both newspapers backed Locher, though with reservations.

The candidates raised various issues, but everybody knew what the overriding issue was. In November, Locher received 87,000 votes to 85,000 for Stokes, 41,000 for Perk and 22,000 for McAllister. A recount showed Locher with a plurality of 2,143 out of 236,000 votes — less than 1 percent.

Stokes called the outcome a rejection of "Locherism and all it stands



for." He explained: "When I say Locherism, I mean mediocrity at its highest, a lack of the qualities of leadership, an acceptance of the status quo at an obviously inadequate level of achievement." Stokes announced that he would run again in 1967.

Having survived — barely — Locher turned to the next set of problems. The city was broke and the bills were piling up. He appointed a 24-member blue-ribbon committee to recommend an answer.

The next problem was even tougher. After three years of urban renewal, Hough was worse off than

ever. Crime was increasing. Landlords couldn't afford to repair violations, and houses left vacant were quickly vandalized.

Progress was continuing in the University Circle part of the program, where the University Circle Development Foundation was doing the city's work. It was continuing in Erievue, where the Cleveland Development Foundation was doing the city's work. But nobody was doing the city's work in Hough.

Hough was a ticking time bomb.

McGunagle is a Cleveland freelance writer.

LOOKING AT A YEAR

Mar. 28: Some 25,000 civil rights demonstrators, led by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., take a 50-mile "freedom walk" from Selma to Montgomery, Ala.

June 29: American military troops launch a ground war in Vietnam.

July 30: President Lyndon Johnson signs the Medicare bill into law.

Aug. 15: Race riots in Los Angeles Watts' neighborhood leave 30 dead and hundreds injured.

Sept. 8: U.S. military figures report that, to date, 650 American soldiers have been killed in Vietnam.

Sept. 9: Future Hall of Fame pitcher Sandy Koufax throws his fourth no-hitter, a record at the time.

Dec. 19: In a close election, Charles De Gaulle is re-elected president of France.

Dec. 30: Ferdinand Marcos becomes president of the Philippines.

Born: Katarina Witt, Mario Lemieux, Matt Biondi.

Died: Winston Churchill, Adlai Stevenson, King Farouk I of Egypt, Nat "King" Cole, Edward R. Murrow, Albert Schweitzer, Felix Frankfurter, Malcolm X, T.S. Eliot, Stan Laurel.