

OUR CENTURY

1984

AT A GLANCE

Columbus annexes it's way to the top

Citizens knew it was coming, but it was still a jolt: Cleveland, which had been Ohio's largest city since 1900, was now No. 2. In April, the Census Bureau estimated that as of July 1, 1982, Columbus' population was 570,588, compared with Cleveland's 558,869.

The Cleveland metropolitan area — Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake and Medina counties — had 1,898,825 people, nearly double metropolitan Columbus' 1,093,316. But since 1950 Columbus' annexations had increased its area from 39.4 square miles to 181. Cleveland's area remained virtually the same as in 1930, when it stopped requiring annexation for suburbs that wanted city water.

The figures added to sensitivity about the city's image. The Convention Bureau put out a video featuring a song called "Cleveland's Got It." Advertising man Ross Salupo distributed buttons and T-shirts with the slogan "Cleveland, Love It or Leave It."

Unfortunately, people were still leaving it. The estimates meant the city had lost 14,953 people in the 27 months after the 1980 census.

Gradually, employment inched up from the depths of the recession. Even manufacturing added 6,000 jobs, the first gain in five years. But manufacturing employment was still 29 percent below its 1979 level.

The number of people on food stamps had increased 19 percent in two years in the city and 25 percent in the suburbs. At midyear — more than 18 months after the recession officially ended — the Interchurch Council of Cleveland was feeding 2,000 families a month, one-third more than a year earlier.

It was a banner year for scandals. Common Pleas Judge James J. McGettrick was tape-recorded taking a \$5,000 bribe to fix a murder case. The marked \$5,000 was found in his home. He was sentenced to four years in prison, but died four months after beginning his sentence.

Mayors Louis Bacci of Cuyahoga Heights and Armand Masten of Linndale were convicted of allowing gambling in their villages.

Arnold Pinkney, former school board president and now secretary of the Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority, was convicted of having an illegal interest in a Port Authority contract. Rev. Jesse Jackson called him a martyr in the cause of civil rights.

J. William Petro, former U.S. district attorney for Northern Ohio, was convicted of tipping off a target of a federal investigation in Louisiana.

Cleveland Municipal Judge Carl Stokes charged Clerk of Courts Jerome Krakowski with contempt, accusing him of tampering with files. Krakowski was acquitted.

President Ronald Reagan drew a crowd of 15,000 in front of Lakeside Courthouse on Nov. 2. He told them that four more years of a Reagan administration would leave the country even better off. At the end of his 30-minute speech, he alluded to several hundred anti-Reagan demonstrators in the back of the crowd.

"And now, for that little group I mentioned back there," he concluded, "I know this will drive them up the wall, but you ain't seen nothin' yet!"

The crowd cheered and chanted, "Landslide! Landslide!"

The people voted for Reagan across Ohio and the nation, though Reagan failed to carry Cuyahoga County as he had in 1980. His coat-tails helped Republicans capture the State Senate. But Mahoning County Sheriff James Traficant — who the year before beat a bribery charge — beat Republican incumbent Lyle Williams for Congress. Democrat Mary Boyle defeated County Commissioner Vincent Campanella, the domed stadium proponent. A heavy Republican vote in the west suburbs allowed Virgil Brown, the first black county commissioner, to hold his seat against Benny Bonanno.

On Dec. 19, gunshots rang through the Cleveland Public Library. Kent A. Malcolm had walked into the main library with a .38-caliber revolver. The drifter shot and killed Kathleen J. Bowman and wounded two other women. One of them was Lilaya Vrndavan, who was blinded by a bullet that lodged behind her right ear as she tried to flee. She was in the library to do research on nutrition as part of her volunteer work with the poor.

Malcolm was convicted of murder, but the Ohio Court of Appeals overturned the verdict and ordered a new trial. Before the second trial began in 1988, Malcolm accepted a plea bargain to escape a possible death sentence and pleaded guilty to aggravated murder. He was given a life sentence, but will be eligible for parole after 30 years.

Under new owners George and Gordon Gund and General Manager Harry Weltman, the Cavaliers were slowly returning to respectability. They won 28 games, five more than the previous season. Meanwhile, World B. Free kept the fans, if not his teammates, entertained with his long baskets and self-promotion.

The Indians started slowly, though they had promising newcomers in center fielder Brett Butler, shortstop Julio Franco and reliever Ernie Camacho. Andre Thornton returned to form, hitting 33 homers. The team improved when the Indians traded for outfielders Joe Carter and Mel Hall, but still finished sixth.

With Brian Sipe gone to the U.S. Football League, southpaw Paul McDonald was the Browns' quarterback. After the Browns lost six of their first seven games, owner Art Modell fired Coach Sam Rutigliano and replaced him with defensive coordinator Marty Schottenheimer. He managed to win four of the last seven, but the Browns were out of the playoffs for the 11th time in 13 years.

By Fred McGunagle

The mayor who liked to brag, "Together we are doing it," was running out of togetherness.

George Voinovich found himself in an all-out war with one of the city's most powerful corporations, the Cleveland Electric Illuminating Co. Safety forces were flexing their fabled political clout to force hiring of more police and firefighters. Voters were angry about city services.

After four years, Voinovich seemed to have burned out. He shed tears when firefighters questioned his cutbacks. He virtually confessed to election fraud, then waited nearly a week to say he hadn't meant what he said.

The year opened with Voinovich trying to sell voters a 2.5 percent increase in the city income tax. He won applause at the City Club. But when he took the campaign to a church basement — where the audience was Cleveland voters — he ran into a buzz saw. "You got a raise, didn't you?" shouted one man in Blessed Sacrament Church in Old Brooklyn.

Only 46 percent voted for the tax. Voinovich laid off service workers, leading to chaos when a snowstorm hit. He closed a fire station on Broadway. Neighbors charged it was retaliation against their councilman, Dennis Kucinich, and started a 105-day sit-in at the station.

But Voinovich announced he would not carry out the massive Safety Department layoffs he had said would be necessary if the tax failed. Inexplicably, he added that he had made the decision against layoffs three weeks before the vote. He had said nothing publicly about it.

Even his supporters turned on him. Council President George Forbes managed to block a resolution calling on Voinovich to apologize for lying to the voters. But Councilman Jay Westbrook filed a complaint with the Ohio Elections Commission accusing the mayor of election fraud. A Broadway-area group started a drive for a recall election.

Voinovich, exhausted from the campaign, failed to respond to calls for an explanation. After nearly a week, he said his earlier statement was "an inaccuracy," but denied saying anything that wasn't "forthright and candid."

At Forbes' insistence, City Council resubmitted the tax. It was on the same May ballot as a \$150 million

Doom for a dome

The plan had appeal — a state-of-the-art baseball stadium on Carnegie Ave. between Ontario and E. 9th Sts. One with a dome so fans wouldn't freeze in April. It would keep the Indians in Cleveland and rejuvenate the Central Market area, south of Public Square.

Cuyahoga County Commissioner Vincent Campanella was convinced county residents would buy it. He and his fellow commissioners placed a \$150 million bond issue on the May ballot.

The public grumbled about subsidizing millionaire owners and players. Preservationists grumbled about tearing down the 72-year-old market. Browns owner Art Modell said he didn't need a dome, but wished the project well.

Mayor George Voinovich, after first suggesting a lakefront site, went along with the plan. Gov. Richard Celeste, who suspected Republicans Campanella or Voinovich might run against him in 1986, grudgingly endorsed it, but predicted it would lose.

The Stokes brothers — U.S. Rep. Louis and former Mayor Carl, now a municipal judge — campaigned

domed stadium, threatening both issues. Worse for Voinovich, the safety forces had forced a vote on budget-busting charter amendments, requiring the city to hire 659 more police and 194 more firefighters. Police strength had fallen to 1,545, lowest since 1944.

Police and firefighters had built a reputation as a fearsome political force during the administration of Mayor Carl Stokes. In particular, over bitter opposition from Stokes, they won passage of a charter amendment requiring that they be paid 3 percent more than safety forces in any other large Ohio city. A Cleveland State University poll showed their latest amendments passing.

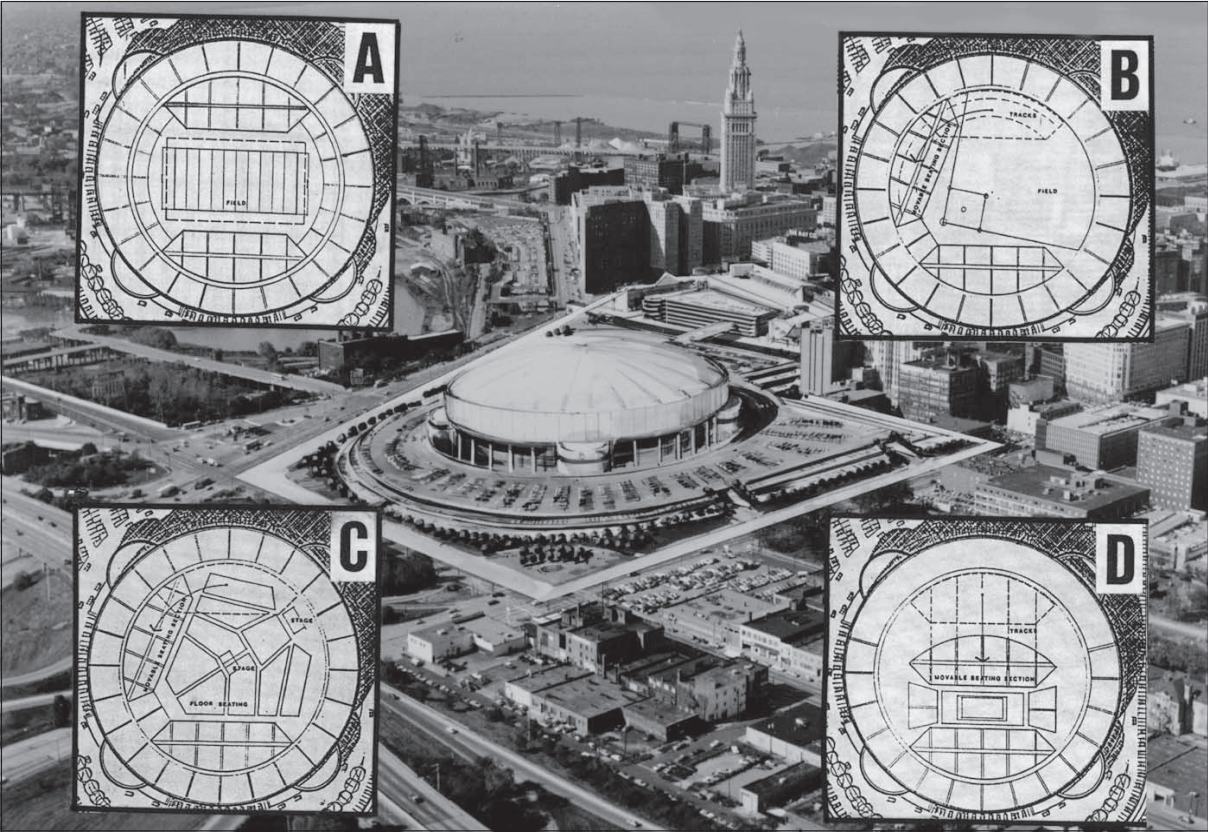
As expected, the income tax lost again, with only 36 percent approval. But the police and fire amendments got less than 40 percent, losing in black and white wards alike. "Police clout" turned out to have been white backlash against Stokes.

Voinovich quickly proposed a charter amendment for a civilian-dominated police review board. Blacks, notably Councilman Leo Jackson, had demanded such a board for years, but their white colleagues had feared to support it.

As approved by City Council, the issue also took the top 15 posts in the police department out of Civil Service, making them patronage jobs. Over police opposition, voters passed it the City Charter amendment 97,000 to 79,000.

Voinovich's bitterest battle was a literal power struggle. He was the first mayor since Newton D. Baker to propose expanding Muny Light. Its cheaper rates would be available citywide, as Tom L. Johnson had planned in 1903. The opposition was led by Forbes, who in 1978 had allowed Cleveland to go into default in an effort to force sale of Muny to CEI. At one point, Voinovich appeared close to a deal with CEI, but backed off. That touched off a barrage of criticism from CEI, Forbes, business leaders and The Plain Dealer, which demanded that Voinovich put the issue on the ballot. Voinovich refused to respond to his critics. "Blessed are the peacemakers," he said.

There were few peacemakers. CEI threatened to move its headquarters to Independence and close its Lake-shore plant in Cleveland. Council carped about city services. A Plain Dealer series concluded that they had deteriorated.



Plans for the domed stadium stayed on paper, but the project led to Gateway.

against the issue. So did State Rep. Mary Boyle, who was running against Campanella. She favored Celeste's plan for a nearby Cleveland State University "convocation center."

Polls showed the domed stadium



PLAIN DEALER FILE PHOTOS

George Voinovich spent a wearying year in battle with the Illuminating Co., safety forces and voters who were angry about the quality of city services.



Common Pleas Judge James McGettrick was sentenced to jail on bribery charges. (Details in At a Glance.)

State Sen. Mike White, who had been named to the legislature when Morris Jackson resigned, was considered a likely candidate to oppose Voinovich in 1985. For that matter, nearly every prominent politician was mentioned as a candidate. There was talk of a "dream match" involving Stokes, Kucinich and Voinovich.

As the year ended, Voinovich indicated he might not run again. Speculation was that he might seek another office. Maybe he could find more togetherness as governor.

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— Fred McGunagle

LOOKING AT A YEAR

Jan. 17: The U.S. Supreme Court, in a 5-4 ruling, permits the use of video recorders to tape television programs.

Feb. 29: Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau resigns.

April 1: Singer Marvin Gaye is killed by his father during an argument at his father's home.

May 8: The Soviet Union announces that it will boycott the Summer Olympics in Los Angeles. The boycott comes four years after the U.S. boycotted the Olympics in Moscow.

July 12: Democratic presidential nominee Walter Mondale selects a woman, Rep. Geraldine Ferraro of New York, as his running mate.

Oct. 31: Indira Gandhi, India's four-time prime minister, is assassinated near her New Delhi home.

Nov. 6: President Ronald Reagan scores a landslide re-election victory over Mondale.

Dec. 8: Michael Jackson's

"Thriller" becomes the biggest-selling album ever made.

Deaths: Soviet premier Yuri Andropov; entertainers Richard Burton, Ethel Merman, Count Basie and James Mason; pollster George Gallup; McDonald's restaurant magnate Ray Kroc.