A year-long party for the Bicentennial

By Fred McGunagle

New Year's Eve on Public Square touched off a year-long celebration of the city's 200th birthday.

Public Square, where the yearlong party began.

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For photo researcher:

jazz singer Ella Fitzgerald, former French president Francois Mitterrand.

Deaths:

— Fred McGunagle

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Cleveland gets Browns; Baltimore gets Model

Cleveland was in its hurry-up offense, but this time more than a game was at stake. This time what was in play was the future of the Cleveland Browns.

As the year opened, Mayor Michael White and city leaders flew to Atlanta. They urged National Football League owners not even to allow Model to move the Browns to Baltimore. Browns fans in Cleveland and around the country protected one of their best-known symbols. Mayor White threatened to stop Cleveland from providing land and the team with $22 million in compensation. Then, the NFL owners rejected Cleveland's offer; they granted Baltimore the Browns.

Cleveland would get the Browns. Baltimore would receive Model. Clevelandians considered themselves the losers that they had gotten the better of that deal.

It took the Indians nine days longer than last year, but they clinched the Central Division championship on Sept. 17. Kirby Puckett and Carlos Baerga each hit 30 or more home runs and drove in 100 runs. Randy Tomlin lost seven games to lead the league for the fifth straight year. Clevelanders could take the RTA's brand-new line into the stadium.

The bicentennial events continued. They included concerts, plays, exhibits and other happenings. Some featured the Browns; others featured Bicentennial Villas, a 24-hour deejay station, and the Cleveland Fire Department.