

OUR CENTURY

1958

AT A GLANCE

Right-to-work measure voted down; Bricker loses



Bricker

The "right to work" constitutional amendment would mean Ohio workers couldn't be forced to join or pay dues to a union. The Ohio Chamber of Commerce and Ohio Manufacturers Association hoped outlawing the union shop would weaken labor. Instead, the vote almost destroyed the Ohio Republican Party.

Voters overwhelmingly defeated the amendment and Republicans who backed it. Michael DiSalle — who had won the Democratic primary over, among others, Mayor Anthony Celebrezze and County

Engineer Albert S. Porter — replaced William J. O'Neill as governor. In the biggest upset of all, Cleveland's Steven Young ousted 12-year Sen. John W. Bricker.



PD FILE

Ohio's new senator, Stephen Young, being interviewed by Dorothy Fuldheim after his election victory.

Longwood had been hailed as a national model of "slum clearance." The city had torn down the crowded tenements between E. 30th and E. 40th Sts. Developers replaced them with garden apartments. But now, the 283 families in the apartments were protesting loudly about leaking pipes, roaches and rats.

Officials of Longwood Community Homes said they couldn't stop rats from crossing Scovill and Woodland avenues, or keep foul-mouthed youths from taking over the playground. They had trouble keeping the apartments filled; people didn't want to live in garden apartments surrounded by slums.

The old owners had been paid for their tenements, but nobody helped their tenants find new housing or even kept track of what happened to them. Instead, officials wondered at the influx of poor blacks into the once middle-class Hough area.

As general manager of the Indians, Frank "Trader" Lane was living up to his nickname. He picked up second baseman Milt Bolling from Washington in February and traded him to Detroit in March.

Gone were such old favorites as Jim Hegan, Early Wynn, Al Smith and Gene Woodling, but Orestes Minoso and Larry Doby were back with the Tribe. Early in the season, Roger Maris went to Kansas City in a deal that brought Woodie Held and Vic Power.

Herb Score, his eye injury healed, appeared to be as fast as ever, then hurt his arm and appeared in only 12 games. In June, with the Indians in sixth place, Lane fired Manager Bobby Bragan and replaced him with Joe Gordon. The team finished fourth, a half-game over .500. Cal McLish won 16 games and young Rocky Colavito batted .303 with 41 home runs, one short of the Tribe record.

Attendance fell again. President William Daley announced that, despite persistent rumors, the team would stay in Cleveland out of civic loyalty. Lane traded Bobby Avila, Vic Wertz, Don Mossi and Ray Narleski for, among others, Billy Martin and Jim Piersall.

End over end, the football floated through the snowstorm and, against all odds, through the uprights. Pat Summerall's 49-yard field goal gave the New York Giants a 13-10 victory and forced a playoff for the Eastern Division title. The Browns had been victimized by a couple of halfback passes from Frank Gifford, who, like Summerall, would be more familiar to later generations as a television announcer.

The kick undid Jim Brown's 148 yards of rushing, including a 65-yard run for his 18th touchdown to tie the NFL season record. The following week, the Giants shut out the Browns, 10-0. It was a sad ending to a year in which the Browns were 9-1 against the rest of the league but 0-3 against the Giants.

The city had one champion in 1958: The East Tech High School basketball team was greeted by city and school officials and 1,000 cheering fans as it returned from Columbus with the state trophy, the first for a Cleveland high school.

Cyrus Eaton may have been the city's best-known industrialist and financier, but he didn't fit the stereotype. In May, he charged that the United States was becoming a police state and that the FBI had a spy organization that surpassed Hitler's. That started a controversy that brought threats of subpoena from a Senate investigating committee.

A flash flood swept four boys five miles in a sewer, from Forest Hills Park to a point near the lake where they were pulled out unhurt.

West Side restaurateur Joe Cavoli set a round-the-world record on commercial airline flights. It took him 89 hours, 18 minutes and 37 seconds.

Building up, moving out

Freeways help suburbs explode; destroy older neighborhoods

By Fred McGunagle

"Oh, God, all my stuff! I worked so hard for it," Hazel Deubel sobbed as she watched her belongings carted from the ramshackle house in the rain. "Can't you do something about it?"

The bailiff sympathized with the 61-year-old widow on relief, but there was nothing he could do. The state had bought the old house on E. 27th St. near Payne Ave. from her landlord and she had resisted pleas to move herself and her 11 dogs even after utilities were shut off. Now the bulldozers were on her block tearing down houses, and hers was next.

Clevelanders who read about her eviction felt sympathy, too, but what was there to do? She couldn't stand in the way of progress.

Construction of the Inner Belt meant the interstate highway system, the greatest improvement Americans mobility since paved roads, was becoming a reality. New York City would be a day away, Cincinnati a morning's drive. Unspoiled villages like Mentor in Lake County and Brunswick in Medina County would be just a half-hour distant.

The apostle of freeways, Cuyahoga County Engineer Albert S. Porter, told the Citizens League that the Inner Belt was the first step toward swift transportation to Parma. He said the Lakeland Freeway, extending the Shoreway east of E. 140th St., would ease traffic jams to Euclid Beach and Euclid. Hearings would be scheduled around the county on

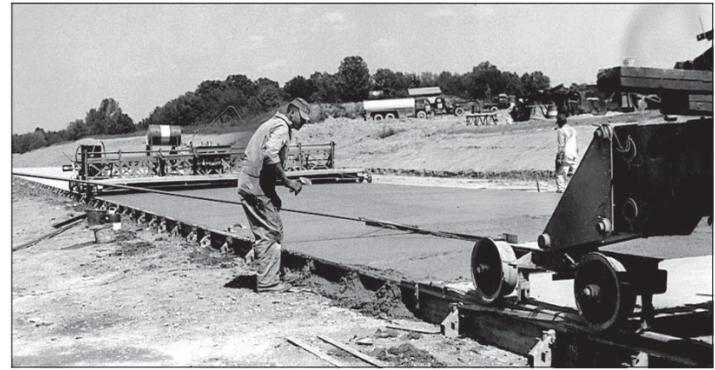
routes of other freeways — the Northwest, Airport, Medina, Willow, Outer Belt South, Outer Belt East, Clark, Lee, Bedford, Central and Heights — radiating in all directions. All told, metropolitan Cleveland would get \$500 million worth of freeways.

The Regional Planning Commission had asked suburbs and the developers who were gobbling up suburban acreage, notably Forest City Materials Co., to reserve vacant land along the routes. But in older areas, the bulldozers went through old, densely built neighborhoods.

The Inner Belt destroyed ethnic neighborhoods on the edge of downtown. The Medina Freeway (I-71) put a barrier down the middle of Tremont. The Lakeland (I-90) went through Collinwood and Euclid, the Willow (I-77) through old Newburgh. All reduced the city's population and tax duplicate. And though owners were paid for their property, they couldn't find comparable homes for the same price.

The suburbs were flourishing, especially the outer-ring suburbs that were becoming closer to downtown in travel time. The sound of hammering and power tools echoed across what had been farmland. Young families filled rows of look-alike houses. Tricycles lined sidewalks on rows of new streets. Quiet communities suddenly had to provide the city services and schools the newcomers demanded.

Retailers quickly followed their customers. By 1972, the Real Property Inventory counted 43 shopping centers in Cuyahoga County. The los-



PLAIN DEALER FILE PHOTOS

A workman pours the last of the concrete for Ohio 1 between Painesville and Conneaut in 1960.



A highway official inspects a washout along the Lakeland Freeway, or Interstate 90, in April 1962.

ers were the downtown stores — Higbee's, Halle's, May Co., Taylor's, Bailey's, Sterling Lindner and such smaller outlets as Bond's, Bakers and Rosenblum's.

Manufacturers saw an opportunity

to locate where there was plenty of cheap land away from city problems. The freeways would speed their products to distant states. They soon realized they could move the plants themselves to distant states, where the costs of doing business were lower, and send their products back to Cleveland.

None of that was clear in 1958. "I don't think anybody thought there was going to be a downside," says Thomas Bier, Cleveland State University housing and population researcher. "It was just simply progress. We Americans move, we move up. What the freeways did was enable a lot more choices spread out farther. How could anyone foresee the effect on the core of the county, the city of Cleveland?"

The first freeway completed, the Lakeland in 1960, "opened the door to Mentor," Bier says. I-77 and I-271 in 1968 and the western section of I-90 in 1976 opened more doors. A shift came in the 1970s when Shaker Heights residents rose up to block the Clark Freeway, which would have cut through their exclusive suburb and erased the Shaker Lakes ("a two-bit duck pond," in Porter's view).

"By that time," Bier says, "it was more apparent what the destruction would be. People could see the swath that was cut out of Euclid. When Shaker Heights stopped I-490, that also killed the Lee Freeway and the Heights Freeway. The East Side and the east suburbs would have been crosshatched with freeways if the Clark Freeway had gone ahead."

As it was, Cleveland was wounded. Bier cites a CSU study showing that, adjusted for inflation, city real estate lost 25 percent of its value between 1948 and 1996. The inner suburbs, meanwhile, gained 91 percent and the outer suburbs gained 744 percent.

Much of that was inevitable. "Industry had to spread out," he says. And even if there had been no I-71, old neighborhoods like Tremont were declining. "Younger people were moving to Parma. Tremont was teetering in the 1950s, and when the freeway came, it was the stake in the heart."

Bier says of the freeways: "They made possible the kind of economy we have today. But if while we were building the freeways we had been seriously engaged in rebuilding the city as parts of it became obsolete, we wouldn't have this situation today. If we open freeways and do not build up the old places, the only thing that can happen is what we got."

McGunagle is a Cleveland freelance writer.



An empty Inner Belt Freeway in 1961, weeks before it opened. The highway would sunder some of Cleveland's oldest neighborhoods, in the name of progress.

LOOKING AT A YEAR

Feb. 1: The United States launches its first satellite, Explorer I.

March 24: Elvis Presley is inducted into the Army.

March 27: Nikita Khrushchev becomes premier of the Soviet Union.

May 14: Vice President Richard Nixon is stoned and spat upon during a visit to Venezuela.

May 19: Rep. Adam Clayton Powell of Harlem is indicted on tax-evasion charges.

May 31: With France in turmoil over a political crisis in Algeria, Charles de Gaulle is returned to power.

June 28: Pele scores two goals as Brazil wins the World Cup of soccer.

Oct. 28: Angelo Giuseppe Cardinal

Roncalli becomes Pope John XXIII. **Born:** Michael Jackson, Madonna Louise Ciccone, Daniel Day-Lewis.

Died: Pope Pius XII (Eugenio Pacelli), American photographer Edward Weston, actor Tyrone Power, American journalist Samuel Adams.