

OUR CENTURY

1963

AT A GLANCE



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jacqueline Kennedy, Robert and Edward Kennedy head the funeral procession of President John F. Kennedy.

JFK assassination staggers the city

Shock and grief ran up and down Euclid Ave. like a wave on Nov. 22. Strangers grasped each other by the arm: "Did you hear?" Pedestrians called out the word to people on buses: "The president was shot."

Some headed for churches. Many weekend events were canceled. People spent the week-end watching television — including the live assassination of the assassin.

On Monday, factories, stores and many offices closed for the funeral. The city's pulse stopped as a veiled Jacqueline Kennedy and her children walked behind the caisson.

The city's pulse was weak on April 8, when the newspapers resumed publishing. A 129-day strike, the longest in U.S. newspaper history, brought drops of 20 percent in department store sales, an estimated 25 to 30 percent in real estate, 15 percent in stock transactions and 10 percent in autos sales. Attendance fell at Barons games. The Salvation Army and the Volunteers of America reported lower contributions, not to mention lost revenue from scrap paper sales.

The strike also led to some news that cynics said wouldn't have happened had the newspapers been publishing. Browns owner Art Modell fired Paul Brown, the coach who had given the Browns six championships and their name.

It was an electrifying upset to citizens and political pundits alike — and especially to Jack Russell, the most powerful Cleveland City Council president ever.

In a secret ballot, the Democratic caucus gave Councilman James Stanton 15 votes to 13 for Russell. That meant all were bound to vote for Stanton when council reorganized in January 1964.

Thirteen of the rebels had holed up in the Manger Hotel before the vote, so they would be safe from Russell's blandishments and could watch one another. They knew that two supposedly loyal Russell supporters, Anthony Pecyk and Warren Gilliam, had promised their votes to Stanton in return for committee chairmanships and would show their votes to rebels seated next to them so there could be no double-cross.

The rebels had neutralized Charles Carr, Russell's veteran minority leader, by offering to retain him if he would not put pressure on newly elected black members to back Russell. The freshmen told Russell they would rely on Carr's advice, leaving Russell confident of winning a record sixth term. Afterward, he accused Carr of betrayal.

Within weeks, Councilman Michael Fatica went public with an allegation that Russell and Thad K. Fusco had been telling reporters since the caucus: that Stanton had offered him "a big one" — a \$1,000 bill — for his vote. A grand jury subpoenaed both as the year ended.

The jury would issue a report clearing Stanton, and before 1964 was over Fatica himself would be convicted of seeking a bribe from a restaurant owner in return for help in getting a state liquor license.

A 32-year-old widow from Dusseldorf, Germany, Ariane Tebbenjohanns, revealed she was engaged to marry Sam Sheppard, who was serving a life sentence in the Ohio Penitentiary for the 1954 murder of his wife Marilyn.

William Corrigan, Sheppard's trial lawyer, had died but a young lawyer named F. Lee Bailey took over and was filing motions for Sheppard's release.

The avuncular Blanton Collier, Paul Brown's right-hand man, took over his mentor's team. He installed Frank Ryan at quarterback and, with Jim Brown gaining a record 1,863 yards, coached the Browns to a 10-4 finish, their best in three years. Unfortunately, the New York Giants won 11. The Giants lost to the Chicago Bears in the title game.

Birdie Tebbetts was manager of the Indians, who had a bunch of young players to go with their veteran pitchers. They finished fifth. Jack Kralick and Mudcat Grant each won 13 games. Vic Davalillo's .292 was tops in hitting; the team averaged only .239.

The Barons had a new coach, too, though he wasn't new to the team: Fred Glover took the title of player-coach. The Barons finished second in the Western Division and lost to the Hershey Bears in the playoffs.

An illusion of harmony shatters

By Fred McGunagle

Cleveland — at least white Cleveland — had always prided itself on its race relations. Wasn't this the city with Karamu House? The one that had elected Common Pleas Judge Perry Jackson? That formed the nation's first municipal intergroup-relations agency?

The illusion was shattered on a warm June night at Sowinski Playground, which adjoined Rockefeller Park — a strip of green separating black from white. Six black youths stabbed 18-year-old Thomas Giffin and beat and raped a 15-year-old girl who was with him.

The next night, police chased away groups of white youths that formed on the Ansel Rd. side of the park. There were attacks on whites and blacks found in the "wrong" neighborhood. The following night, a Friday, police dispersed a crowd of 300 white youths who gathered at the playground. As they left, violence broke out along nearby streets. Crowds threw rocks and bottles at black motorists on E. 79th St. A policeman was clubbed trying to break up a group. Seven were treated for injuries at Mt. Sinai Hospital. Police made 20 arrests.

On Saturday night, police on horses and motorcycles sealed off E. 79th St. to clamp down on more than 200 youths who were stoning black drivers. They arrested 53, including some from other parts of the city. Mayor Ralph Locher asked clergymen to appeal for calm in their Sunday sermons.

There were more arrests Sunday night, but then an uneasy calm settled in. On Tuesday a 16-year-old black confessed that he and his companions, aged 13 to 17, had gone to the park the previous Wednesday. They were "looking to get someone" because one of their gang members had been cut in a fight by a "paddy." Three were convicted of the rape in December.

Racial incidents were making news everywhere. Protesters chained themselves inside the Statehouse in Columbus to demand passage of a fair-housing law. Medgar Evers was shot and killed in Mississippi.

Federal marshals escorted black students into the University of Alabama past Gov. George Wallace, who briefly blocked the door. President John F. Kennedy called for passage of the most sweeping civil rights bill since the era of Reconstruction.

In July, the United Freedom Movement, a coalition of 30 civil rights organizations, picketed on Cleveland's Mall to protest the lack of black workers on the underground addition to Public Hall. Locher mediated an agreement with leaders of Plumbers Local 55 to accept two black apprentices, but the local's members staged a citywide walkout, halting projects, including Severance Center, Winton Place and the Wade Park Veterans Hospital.

The United Freedom Movement said it would call out hundreds of pickets if the apprentices weren't on the job. If they were arrested, said UFM President Clarence Holmes, "There will be somebody there to replace them." National union officials and the undersecretary of the Labor Department hurried to Cleveland.

The sides agreed that the union would open apprentice programs to all and sign contracts with black contractors. The Mall contractor agreed to take on a black subcontractor who would hire the two apprentices. Still, problems with the unions continued throughout the summer.

In August, busloads of Clevelanders were among an estimated 210,000 who gathered on the Mall in Washington to hear civil rights leaders. They included the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who told them, "I have a dream."

In September, the pickets moved a block south as the UFM appeared at the Board of Education building. Carrying signs reading, "Ghetto Schools Must Go" and "Separate Is Not Equal," they paraded past the statue of Abraham Lincoln on the Mall side.

They demanded integration of white schools to which pupils were being bused from overcrowded black



PLAIN DEALER FILE

Civil rights pickets, calling for an end to school segregation, march around the Cleveland Board of Education building downtown. Below, Martin Luther King Jr. delivers his "I Have a Dream" speech from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.

schools. They also wanted integrated textbooks, more black school employees and Cleveland participation in the federal school lunch program. Board President Ralph McAllister said the board was working on the problems and would come up with solutions in time.

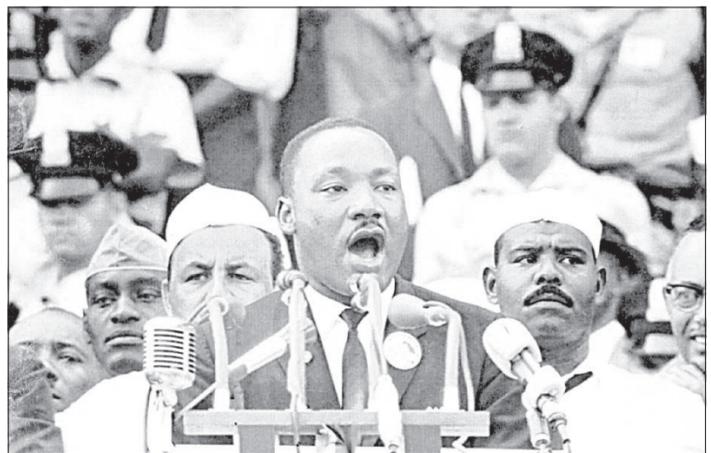
That wasn't good enough. The pickets included black council members and judges, plus whites such as Dr. Benjamin Spock of Western Reserve Medical School.

More than 350 people filled the auditorium of board headquarters for the Sept. 30 meeting. Several dozen spoke for the limit of two minutes for or against the demands. When they finished, the board went into closed session, then emerged after two hours and 17 minutes to promise action.

In particular, the board would appoint a citizens committee to plan "meaningful integration" that would take effect by the following September, "taking into account the rights, privileges and interests of all elements of the community."

Member John J. Gallagher was the lone dissenter. "This will lead to total and involuntary integration," he protested. The UFM members, who had waited patiently, stood and applauded when the resolution was read.

So far, Locher had won respect for his handling of the problems. The mayor, who lived in an integrated neighborhood, had filled the vacancies on the Community Relations Board left by Celebrezze. He at-



tended a board meeting, something Celebrezze did not do.

To the consternation of many whites, he named a black, Ellsworth Harpole, as the board's executive director. Harpole, a former assistant principal of Glenville High School, turned out to be far more effective than the white zealots who had preceded him. In tense situations, Harpole let people talk. When they paused, he said, "Mm-hmm," and took another puff on his pipe. When they ran out of steam, he often worked out a solution.

Locher even supported an ordinance giving the board power to initiate investigations without waiting for

complaints. The new council president, young James Stanton of the Kamm's Corner neighborhood, led the fight for passage. Leaving the president's chair, he told his colleagues: "I trust this board. I trust the mayor."

Still, Locher's base was ethnic voters, and as the year went on he began to feel what became known as "white backlash" — the demand for "law and order." White elected officials who supported black demands were being put on the defensive.

Race was entering Cleveland politics.

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LOOKING AT A YEAR

Mar. 21: The U.S. government closes the federal prison on Alcatraz Island.

May 1: Winston Churchill announces his retirement from Parliament, ending a career that began with his election to the House of Commons in 1900.

June 19: The Soviet Union puts the

first woman, Valentina Tereshkova, into outer space.

June 26: During a visit to the Berlin Wall, President John F. Kennedy gives his "Ich bin ein Berliner" speech.

June 30: Giovanni Battista Montini is elected Pope Paul VI.

Aug. 28: Martin Luther King Jr. de-

livers his "I Have a Dream" speech before more than 200,000 demonstrators in Washington.

Nov. 22: Kennedy is assassinated in Dallas.

Nov. 24: Jack Ruby fatally shoots Lee Harvey Oswald inside the Dallas police station.

Nov. 29: Supreme Court Chief Justice Earl Warren is named to head the

commission investigating Kennedy's assassination.

Born: Helen Hunt, Andrea McArdle, Conan O'Brien.

Died: Swiss-American chemist Jean Felix Piccard, British writer Aldous Huxley, American poet Robert Frost, Pope John XXIII (Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli), African-American educator W.E.B. Du Bois.