

OUR CENTURY

1970

AT A GLANCE

City loses people; county peaks

The 1970 census was a shocker. After losing 38,000 people in the 1950s, Cleveland had lost 125,000 in the '60s. Its 750,903 residents were 46,000 fewer than in 1920, when it was the Fifth City. Now it was the 15th city.

In the '50s, at least, Greater Cleveland had grown faster than the nation — much faster if outlying counties were included. But though the suburbs gained nearly 200,000 people in the '60s, Cuyahoga County was up only 73,000, to 1,720,835. Clevelanders didn't know it, but that would be the century's high.

Parma had more than 100,000 people — 216 more, to be exact. Outer suburbs had spurred. But inner suburbs barely held their own. Cleveland Heights and Shaker Heights lost population. The county had 328,000 blacks, with 288,000 in Cleveland and 23,000 in East Cleveland — 60 percent of that suburb's population.

The birth rate had dropped sharply. But births still outnumbered deaths by a wide margin. Clearly, more people were moving out of the area than moving in.

Carl Stokes had won re-election, but the Glenville shoot-out and the lasting enmity of the Police Department haunted him. He named Patrick Gerity to replace Michael Blackwell as chief and quickly found himself at odds with Gerity.

Safety Director Joseph McManamon resigned for health reasons. Stokes flew secretly to Florida to meet Lt. Gen. Benjamin O. Davis

Jr., who was retiring from the Air Force, and decided Davis' commanding presence as safety director was what the police needed. The black general was an immediate hit with the public because of his tough talk about law and order. He was also a hit with the police because, to Stokes' dismay, he let Gerity run the department. Stokes was determined to replace Gerity, but he didn't want word to leak.

On the recommendation of Detroit Mayor Jerome Cavanagh, he brought William Ellenburg, a former Detroit police officer, to Cleveland and, in front of the shocked Gerity, announced he was the new chief.

The Plain Dealer broke the story that Ellenburg had been accused of accepting a bribe. Ellenburg's responses at a press conference were vague. He announced his resignation after only 10 days, and Stokes appointed Inspector Lewis Coffey chief. Cavanagh told Stokes he had known about the old charge against Ellenburg but didn't think it was worth mentioning.

After less than six months as safety director, Davis resigned. His letter to Stokes said: "The enemies of law enforcement continue to receive support and comfort from you and your administration."

Stokes said the "enemies" Davis had complained about included the Council of Churches, Friendly Inn Settlement House and the Call & Post, but the mayor had suffered his worst blow ever.

Nick Mileti needed tenants besides the Barons for the Arena. He persuaded the National Basketball Association to grant him one of the three expansion franchises beginning operations in 1970. The price was only \$3.7 million, and Mileti raised \$2 million through public sale of stock.

The Cleveland Cavaliers were a crew of rag-tag rejects, but Mileti hired a wisecracking coach named Bill Fitch, who kept the fans amused. The team — dubbed "the Cadavers" — lost 15 games before winning by two points over the Portland Trail Blazers, another expansion team.

Alvin Dark struggled with the dual role of manager-general manager. The Indians struggled in the field, finishing fifth, though Sam McDowell won 20 games while striking out a league-high 304 men in 305 innings, and Graig Nettles hit 26 home runs.

Promising young first baseman Tony Horton, who had hit 27 homers in 1968, suffered a breakdown that ended his career. Promising young catcher Ray Fosse injured his shoulder in a home-plate collision with Pete Rose in the All-Star Game. He played nine more years but was never the same.

A merged league, the first players' strike and Monday Night Football greeted Browns fans. The team was in the Central Division of the American Conference of the National Football League. Fortunately, the strike ended in the preseason. The first Monday game went on as scheduled Sept. 21.

Before a full stadium and millions of television viewers, the Browns beat the New York Jets, 31-21. Homer Jones returned a kickoff 96 yards, and Billy Andrews iced the game with 35 seconds left by picking off a Joe Namath pass for a touchdown. The Browns finished the season 7-7, and Blanton Collier retired after eight years as head coach.

Black Democrats, dissatisfied with party leadership, formed the 21st District Caucus to back their own candidates.

'An accident, deplorable and tragic'

By Fred McGunagle

Americans whose attitudes were shaped by World War II — "the Crusade" — wore their hair short, GI-style. The young, who saw their friends sent to be killed in what seemed like a meaningless war, wore it long because it infuriated their elders.

On April 30, when President Richard Nixon escalated the Vietnam War by sending troops into Cambodia, the young in colleges across the nation erupted. Nixon attacked the "bums" who burned books and buildings.

Gov. James Rhodes and U.S. Rep. Robert Taft Jr. were running in the Republican primary for the U.S. Senate. In their climactic debate at the City Club on Saturday, May 2, they argued nose to nose. Taft accused Rhodes of mishandling the disturbances. Rhodes called Taft "soft on campus violence."

That night, trouble flared in the city of Kent. Anti-war protesters jeered police. Police closed the Water St. bars, bringing on to the street young people angry at not being able to finish their drinks and see the end of the Knicks-Lakers playoff game. Windows were broken. A policeman was injured by a rock.

Forced back on to the Kent State University campus, students milled around until "leaders" — apparently nonstudents — urged them to set fire to the ROTC building. When firemen arrived, the mob grabbed their hoses and shouted, "Burn, baby, burn!" It took the National Guard to restore order.

On Sunday, Rhodes helicoptered into Kent and denounced the ring-leaders as "worse than the Brown-shirts, the communists, the night riders and the vigilantes." Monday morning, May 4, thousands of students returned to school, some unaware of the weekend trouble.

What happened that day would shake America.

Here is the chronology, as given by James Michener in his classic "Kent State: What Happened and Why."

At 11:48 a.m., a group began ringing the Victory Bell — used to celebrate football triumphs — to summon students to another anti-war protest. The Guard used bullhorns to warn that outdoor gatherings had been banned, but many didn't get the word. About 600 showed up. At 11:50, bells signaled the end of classes and thousands of students headed across campus for lunch or their 12:05 classes.

At 11:59, Guard Gen. Robert Canterbury gave the order, "Load and lock. Prepare to move out and disperse the mob." A minute later, the Guard fired tear gas canisters and then — at high noon — 103 guardsmen with bayonet-tipped rifles and 10 officers, all wearing gas masks, stepped off. Most were the same age as the students and had joined the Guard to avoid the draft and Vietnam.

The crowd gave way as the troops advanced down Blanket Hill, though some grabbed canisters and threw them back at the troops. Others threw rocks and railroad spikes. Girls ran up to the soldiers and reviled them in foul language. Most of the crowd simply watched.

At 12:07, the main force of the Guard was halted by a chain-link fence. They stood in indecision amid taunts and rocks until 12:18 when the order came: "Fall back and regroup." They marched back into the open space behind them up Blanket Hill, sweating in the sun, their vision obscured by their gas masks, still hearing the taunts.

At 12:24, with the route back clear in front of them and nobody on their left or behind them, some suddenly wheeled to their right and knelt. There was a shot, then a two-second pause and a fusillade — 55 bullets in 13 seconds, it was later determined.

Most fired into the air, but 13 students were hit. Four were killed, none closer than 265 feet from the troops and the farthest 390 feet away. Two of them, Jeff Miller and Allison Krause — the latter an anti-war activist — were among those who earlier had shouted obscenities at the guardsmen and given them "the finger" as they marched past. Sandy Scheuer and Bill Schroeder — the latter an ROTC student who was critical of the demonstrators — were merely walking to class.

Suddenly, the crowd realized the guardsmen hadn't been using blanks. There were cries and screams — "Call ambulances! My God, they're really shot!" "He's dead! Dead!" And



JOHN DARNELL

At 12:24 p.m. May 4, 1970, the Ohio National Guard fired at demonstrating students. Below, a young girl screams as she kneels over the body of Jeffrey Miller. Bottom, students aid William Schroeder.



JOHN FILO / VALLEY DAILY NEWS

(sarcastically) "Hail to your country!"

Many simply sat down, stunned, as the scared troops marched away. Two guardsmen collapsed and were carried off on stretchers, leading to early reports that they had been shot.

The news spread instantly across the nation's campuses. Police battled 5,000 protesters at the University of Maryland. University of Wisconsin demonstrators set fire to two buildings. An Army truck was burned at the University of California at Berkeley. At Case Western Reserve University, 20 demonstrators seized the ROTC building. Three hundred others sat down in the middle of Euclid Ave., blocking traffic for two hours.

Portage County Prosecutor Ronald Kane got a court order closing Kent State indefinitely and sending its 19,000 students home. Gov. Rhodes closed Ohio State and the University of Akron. All told, a fifth of the nation's colleges shut down, but Cleveland State University students voted 3-1 to continue getting an education.

Opposition to the war grew around the country and in Congress. Nixon announced that the Cambodia operation had been a success and that he was withdrawing U.S. troops.

Michener's conclusions were basically the same as those of later investigators: A handful of nonstudents from Students for a Democratic Society and other radical groups were in Kent, trying to stir up trouble. The students at the rally were in violation of the law but many did not realize it.



DOUGLAS MOORE

The rest of the students had every right to be where they were.

No sniper fired at the Guard, as had been reported. The troops were not in mortal danger, though some believed they were. The officers did not give an order to fire; there appears, however, to have been "some kind of rough verbal agreement" among those who turned and fired.

"It was," Michener concluded, "an accident, deplorable and tragic."

The legal battles were to drag on for years. Public opinion, at least among their elders, blamed the students. A Kent woman, herself the

mother of three Kent students, told Michener's researchers: "It would have been better if the Guard had shot the whole lot of them that morning."

The young were shocked to realize the America of their elders was not their America. The words of Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young echoed across campuses like an anthem:

*This summer I hear the drumming,
Four dead in O-hi-o,
Four dead in O-hi-o.*

McGunagle is a Cleveland freelance writer.

LOOKING AT A YEAR

Feb. 28: Five members of the Chicago Seven are convicted of inciting riots at the 1968 Democratic National Convention.

Mar. 10: The Army charges five soldiers in connection with the massacre of Vietnamese civilians at My Lai.

Apr. 10: Paul McCartney announces that he is leaving the Beatles.

Apr. 22: Millions of Americans attend rallies celebrating the first Earth Day.

Sept. 13: Margaret Court wins the grand slam of women's tennis.

Oct. 5: Anwar Sadat is elected president of Egypt.

Oct. 13: Angela Davis, a former professor at UCLA wanted for murder and kidnapping, is captured by the FBI in a Manhattan hotel. (In June 1972, a jury acquits her.)

Dec. 4: Labor leader Cesar Chavez

is jailed for organizing an illegal nationwide boycott of lettuce.

Born: Mariah Carey, Matt Damon, Rickey Schroeder, Uma Thurman.

Died: Charles de Gaulle, Gamal Nasser, Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix, Walter Reuther, Bertrand Russell, Gypsy Rose Lee.