

OUR CENTURY

1971

AT A GLANCE



Pedestrians linked arms against the wind on Public Square during a January blizzard.

Tot population in county shrinks

Something was missing from the streets of Cuyahoga County: children.

The 1970 census had shown a population gain of 74,000 over 1960, the age breakdown showed there were 42,000 fewer children under 5 — a startling 22.8 percent drop. That was good news to school systems still holding split sessions and still building new schools for the additional enrollment they had expected.

While the suburban building boom continued, inner-city neighborhoods were losing people of all ages. The city budget continued to increase — from \$105 per citizen in 1964 to \$305 in 1971. Cleveland was losing its high-income residents to the suburbs while the poor remained.

Inner-city problems were moving to older suburbs. Lakewood reported that major crime rose 35.6 percent. East Cleveland became eligible for the federal hot lunch program, but found many families too proud to apply.

Demographers were still predicting that Northeast Ohio would become a megalopolis. To take advantage, Nick Mileti proposed a 20,000-seat arena for his Cavaliers and Barons in rural Richfield Township between Cleveland and Akron. It would be called the Coliseum. Richfield residents, fearing an influx of traffic, sued.

Mileti's expansion basketball team lost its first 25 games and wound up 15-67, tying an NBA record for most losses. One highlight of the year came when Bobby Lewis grabbed a second-half tip-off and passed to John Warren, who streaked to the basket for a lay-up. Unfortunately, it was the wrong basket. Still, the fans liked the Cavs. The Plain Dealer dubbed them the "Lovable Losers."

The Indians were unlovable losers. They tied a 57-year-old franchise record with 102 losses, though first baseman Chris Chambliss hit .275 and was named rookie of the year. In July, President Gabe Paul fired manager Alvin Dark, who had added the general manager's role. Johnny Lipon took over as manager. Paul fired him at the end of the season and signed Ken Aspromonte to manage in 1972.

With season attendance under 600,000, Paul explored a unique team-sharing deal with New Orleans. The Indians would play at least 30 games a season in the Superdome when it opened in 1974.

At least the Browns were winners. Their 9-5 record won the championship of the four-team Central Division and put them in the playoffs. Before 74,000 fans in a foggy Stadium, they lost, 20-3, to the Baltimore Colts in what The Plain Dealer called "a performance as drab and dull as the day."

Traffic Commissioner Chester Kluzik called it "the worst and longest traffic jam in the history of Cleveland." A Feb. 1 storm dumped a foot of snow on city streets. Buses ran up to five hours late. Kluzik called for legislation requiring drivers to use snow tires in the winter.

Business and political leaders were concerned that Hopkins International Airport couldn't handle an expected increase in flights. Airport officials proposed extending runways. The Brook Park City Council, fearing Cleveland was after the Cadillac Tank Plant land, passed an ordinance prohibiting airport expansion.

Brook Park was happy about another expansion, however. Ford Motor Co. said it would expand its foundry on Engle Rd., adding 575 jobs.

The furor over the 1970 Kent State University riot and the death of four students would not die down. An FBI investigation, leaked to the Akron Beacon-Journal, recommended that six National Guardsmen be charged. However, a special state grand jury exonerated the guardsmen and indicted 25 people for offenses ranging from riot to arson.

The trials began in November 1971. Of the first five defendants, two pleaded guilty to lesser offenses and one was convicted of a misdemeanor. None served jail time, and the state dropped charges against the other.

A Plain Dealer survey 18 months after the incident showed that bitterness between students and "townies" had hardened. The university's new president, Glenn Olds, said he had been approached on his arrival by a man who told him, "I hope you're going to be tough. They should have killed 400 of them."

The state giveth: Ohioans could now buy drinks on Sunday, if taverns obtained a Sunday license. The Old Venice bar, the first to get one, was so busy the first Sunday the owner had to close early.

The state taketh away: Gov. John Gilligan persuaded the legislature to enact Ohio's first tax on corporate and individual income.

Stokes' second term is stormy

By Fred McGunagle

Carl Stokes said it himself: "My second term was almost total war between the mayor and the council, the mayor and the newspapers, between the mayor and everyone," he wrote in his autobiography, "Promises of Power."

Stokes' relations with City Council grew even worse after Anthony Garofoli succeeded James Stanton as its president. Council members complained regularly about administration shortcomings; young Dennis Kucinich from Tremont took particular delight in embarrassing the mayor.

The situation came to a head on Feb. 22, 1971, when Francis Gaul rose to say he had found evidence of short-weighting by supermarkets in his ward. He complained the weights and measures bureau was not doing its job.

Stokes rose to protest "baseless, pointless attacks" and ordered his Cabinet from the council chamber. He said they would stay out until his administration was treated with respect. Garofoli responded: "What the mayor asks is that there be no public criticism of his administration."

Mayor-council president power struggles had always been part of city politics. But with a black mayor, they were now perceived as black-white issues. The nine black Democratic council members had pulled out of the party caucus in Stokes' first term, electing George Forbes, in effect, as minority leader in more than one sense.

Even council members who privately deplored racism were forced into extremist positions because they feared being attacked by constituents as insufficiently anti-black or anti-white. Race relations were at an all-time low.

The Community Relations Board, meanwhile, was nowhere to be found. Stokes engineered the appointment of the Rev. Arthur LeMon, one of his executive assistants, to the additional post of staff director. Several board members resigned in protest over the politicization of the post. Stokes did not replace them. For eight months the board failed to meet because it lacked a quorum.

When he took office, Stokes had halted the long-standing practice of daily mayor's press conferences. "I'm proud to say I never pandered to the media," he wrote in his autobiography. Reporters, denied access to the mayor, took to digging up scandals in city departments. That further infuriated Stokes.

Stokes quarreled with many of his early backers. Two of his most respected appointees, Law Director Paul White and executive assistant Kenneth Clement, quit early in his first term. Now Stokes retreated into bitter isolation.

In the fall of 1970, Stokes made what turned out to be his worst governmental blunder — though blame also attached to council members who stood by and let him make it. Facing a financial shortfall, Stokes proposed raising the city income tax from 1 percent to 1.8 percent. To sweeten the increase, he proposed cutting property taxes by almost one-third.

Council members passed legislation directing the county auditor to cut the property tax. As required by law, they submitted the income tax increase to voters. But few campaigned for the "Stokes' tax." Young Kucinich led the campaign against it.

Voters rejected the increase in November. In February, they rejected an increase to 1.6 percent. Since the city had lost \$23 million a year in property taxes, the shortfall became an all-out crisis. Stokes was forced to make savage cuts in services.

Candidates were lining up to run against him. In April, Stokes announced that he would not be a candidate. He endorsed Arnold Pinkney, the black school board president, who was running as an independent.

The favorite in the Sept. 28 Democratic primary was Garofoli. A Plain Dealer poll showed him with a 2-1 lead over James Carney, a millionaire developer who had been one of Stokes' early supporters. The week-end before the election, thousands of black Clevelanders were startled to pick up the phone and hear Stokes' voice: "This is your mayor. I believe it to be in your best interest to vote for James M. Carney against Anthony Garofoli."



Ralph Perk arrives at City Hall for his inauguration. He succeeded Carl Stokes as mayor.



Anthony Garofoli.

It was a recorded message, paid for by Carney, but many believed the mayor had personally called them. On Tuesday, Carney got 76,000 votes to 58,000 for Garofoli and 6,000 for Patrick Gerity, the former police chief. Stokes gloated over the defeat of his tormentor Garofoli and the evidence that he still had clout.

In the Republican primary, County Auditor Ralph Perk defeated young state Rep. George Voinovich 12,000 to 6,000. A week later, Perk got an unexpected boost from an unlikely source: Councilman Kucinich declared he could not support his party's nominee.

"The mayor manipulated blacks for the nomination of James Carney," Kucinich charged. He said Perk "espoused principles held dear by Democrats, more so than either of his opponents." While Stokes, the Rev. Jesse Jackson and the 21st District Caucus campaigned for Pinkney, Kucinich traveled the city with the message that "It's all right to vote for a Republican."

Both newspapers predicted Carney would win the general election with Pinkney second. Instead, Pinkney got 74,000 votes to Carney's 65,000. But Perk got 90,000.

Cleveland had its first Republican mayor in 30 years. The black vote was low, and 20 percent had stayed with Carney.

Stokes tried to put a good face on the results, saying the two candidates he had backed won more than 60 percent of the vote. But it was also true that both were losers. His support of Carney in September had undermined Pinkney in November.

Stokes' two terms had begun so well — making the cover of Time magazine with his election, keeping



Carl Stokes with Arnold Pinkney, whom he endorsed as an independent candidate for mayor

Cleveland calm after Martin Luther King's assassination, raising millions of dollars for Cleveland Now.

In his autobiography, he wrote: "Many of my dreams were shattered when one stupid, phony, so-called revolutionary had decided to shoot it out with police in Glenville." Still, he had been re-elected after the riot. His mistakes in his second term were what led to his ultimate failure.

In a sense, Stokes was a victim of his own success. He had raised the hopes of blacks — and many whites — to impossible levels by becoming the first black big-city mayor. Nothing else he might have done could ever have matched that. He was doomed to his place in history.

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James M. Carney

LOOKING AT A YEAR

Jan. 25: Charles Manson and three of his female followers are convicted of murdering actress Sharon Tate and four others.

Mar. 31: Lt. William Calley is sentenced to life at hard labor for his role in the My-Lai massacre of Vietnamese civilians.

June 30: The U.S. Supreme Court

permits the New York Times to publish the "Pentagon Papers," articles based on a secret Pentagon study of the Vietnam War.

Aug. 25: In an effort to curb inflation, President Richard Nixon orders a freeze on wages and prices.

Sept. 30: New York Gov. Nelson Rockefeller names a special commis-

sion to probe the riot at the state prison in Attica, in which 10 hostages and 32 prisoners were killed.

Nov. 15: The People's Republic of China is admitted to the United Nations.

Dec. 14: Detective Frank Serpico tells the Knapp Commission of widespread police corruption in the New

York City Police Department.

Born: Jeff Gordon, Pete Sampras, Tupac Shakur, Minnie Driver, Mark Wahlberg.

Died: Nikita Khrushchev, Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier, Thomas Dewey, Margaret Bourke-White, Jim Morrison, Bobby Jones, J.C. Penny, Louis Armstrong.