

# OUR CENTURY

## 1982

### AT A GLANCE

#### GOP landslide is reversed

Vice President George Bush bravely made a September campaign tour of Ohio, stopping in Kirtland. Noting that inflation had dropped from 12 percent to 6 percent, he declared that Americans were better off than when Ronald Reagan took office — though he agreed he would have a hard time convincing an unemployed person.

The election undid the Republican landslide of 1980. The principal beneficiary was Richard Celeste, who had lost to Gov. James Rhodes that year. With Rhodes ineligible, Celeste easily defeated U.S. Rep. Clarence Brown.

U.S. Sen. Howard Metzenbaum crushed State Sen. Paul Pfeiffer. After defeating four-term U.S. Rep. Ron Mottl by 1,000 votes in the primary, Edward Feighan won the 23rd District congressional seat. Dennis Eckart took the 11th, vacated by Republican William Stanton. Tim Hagan won the county commissioner's job given up by Feighan.

Celeste inherited a huge deficit in the state budget, despite Rhodes' 50 percent "temporary" income tax increase.

It was a sensational "sting" — and a humiliating blow to the FBI. A four-year investigation seemingly produced evidence of widespread corruption in Cleveland Municipal Court. Two judges had accepted \$10,000 bribes from undercover agents. It turned out to be the FBI that had been stung. Marvin Bray, a bailiff, had taken at least \$37,000 from the FBI for setting up payments to two accomplices impersonating judges. The FBI finally caught on when an agent saw the real Judge Lillian Burke on television and realized she looked nothing like the bribable Judge Burke agents had met five times.

The impostor was Betty Smith. Bailiff Marvin Harris had pretended in seven meetings to be Judge Clarence Gaines, though Bray was 34 and Gaines 68. The FBI hadn't bothered to find out what the judges looked like. Bray was sentenced to two to 15 years for bribery and income tax evasion.

The National Municipal League named Cleveland as one of its 10 "All-American Cities." Clevelanders reacted with restraint. Editorials pointed out that the city had many problems to solve. The Plain Dealer said, "Cleveland civic leaders chased after the award as though winning it would forever ban bad jokes about Cleveland."

Three inches of snow on April 5 set a new season record — 91.9 inches, 1.8 more than 1977-78. But winter wasn't through. Eight inches fell the next day. Four shovelers died and 12 families were evacuated from the Clifton Lagoons because the Rocky River was rising. The final record, 101.5 inches, stood until the 101.1 of 1995-96.

With federal aid cut by \$20 billion, Cleveland schools, as usual, faced a financial crisis. The state came through with a \$19 million loan under strict conditions, but the projected deficit was still \$31 million.

The new majority on the school board fired Business Manager George Mazzaro, then wound up paying \$141,000 to settle a lawsuit he filed. By the same 4-3 margin, the board voted to dismiss 141 other administrators and lay off 260 teachers and 80 aides.

Eventually, it fired Superintendent Peter Carlin, then worked out a settlement with him. His deputy, Roger Lulow, filled the job briefly. In August, Frederick Holliday of Plainfield, N.J., became Cleveland's first black superintendent. "Doc" Holliday, as he was known, was an immediate hit with his tough talk of "rubber rooms" for disruptive students.

Cavaliers owner Ted Stepien fired Coach Don Delaney and brought in Chuck Daly. Then he fired Daly and moved Bill Musselman from the front office back to the court. The team lost 19 straight on its way to a 15-67 record, matching its record as an expansion team 11 years earlier.

Andre Thornton hit 32 home runs and Toby Harrah 25, but the Indians finished sixth for the sixth straight year. Dave Garcia resigned as manager at the end of the season.

Make it three losers. The Browns finished 4-5 — but in a strike season that was good enough for the playoffs. The Los Angeles Raiders disposed of them, 27-10. Fans were surprised to learn Robert Gries had owned 43 percent of the Browns for years. They found out when he successfully sued Art Modell for manipulating the sale of Modell's Stadium Corp. to the Browns at a price unfair to the Browns.

A grand jury ruled as justifiable homicide the fatal shooting of Michael Woods, a black motorist, by Cleveland Patrolman Joseph Pasquan. That angered blacks. Voinovich appointed a civic committee to look into police shootings.

That angered Sgt. James Erne. He wrote in the Fraternal Order of Police newsletter that Voinovich was "a political gutless phony" and the shooting was "justifiable extermination of one of society's maggots."

The FOP refused to disavow the remarks. That angered many Clevelanders, who started a drive for a civilian police review board.

Leonard Jenkins became the first person sentenced to death under an Ohio law that met U.S. Supreme Court capital punishment standards. He had shot and killed Cleveland Patrolman Anthony Johnson during a bank robbery in 1981. Testimony showed that Jenkins was retarded, with an IQ of 63. The execution was delayed by appeals and in 1991 his sentence was commuted to life imprisonment by Gov. Celeste.

## Closings, layoffs: It's a tough year in Northeast Ohio

By Fred McGunagle

Years later, Frank Valenta was still haunted by the memory of those downcast eyes. They were proud men, those laid-off steelworkers who lined up in the union hall. They needed the bags of food so they took them, but they couldn't look him in the eye.

"Work is something that people have to have," said Valenta, longtime district director of the United Steelworkers. "It's the pride of being a breadwinner for your family."

Across Cleveland, thousands didn't have work — or pride. Those who could help. When The Plain Dealer reported that St. Herman's House of Hospitality might have to close, food and money poured in to keep it open. At Salvation Army food centers, those with no jobs to go to volunteered to serve their hungry neighbors. "We're down to the point where people are losing homes and furniture," said Maj. Morris Richardson. "It's down to, 'What are we going to eat for the next meal?'"

Sometimes it was cheese. Instead of bread lines, Clevelanders lined up for the five-pound blocks the government released from storage.

Not since the 1930s had so many been destitute. The January unemployment rate stood at 10.7 percent. Manufacturing employment had fallen 47,000 since 1979 and was still dropping. The companies that built 20th century Cleveland were closing or moving their headquarters.

Hardest hit were Cleveland's two basic industries, autos and steel, which announced new layoffs almost weekly. Their unions faced what Douglas Fraser, president of the United Auto Workers, called "the New Reality." It meant "givebacks" — pay cuts and changes in work rules to keep plants open.

The year had scarcely begun when Jerome Schottenstein announced that he was closing all Halle's stores, including the Playhouse Square landmark. Schottenstein had bought the 90-year-old chain from Marshall Field & Co. only three months earlier, promising to keep it going. Halle's 1,300 employees felt betrayed. Two days later, Schottenstein said he would keep six stores open, but he closed them in September.

In February, General Motors Corp. announced it would close its Fisher Body Division plants on Coit Rd. and in Euclid. They had once employed 14,000 and 3,000 workers, respectively, but were down to 2,600 combined. Union concessions kept a smaller Euclid plant, the Inland Division, going until 1993, but the giant Coit Rd. plant shut in 1983, leaving the neighborhood with a polluted eyesore.

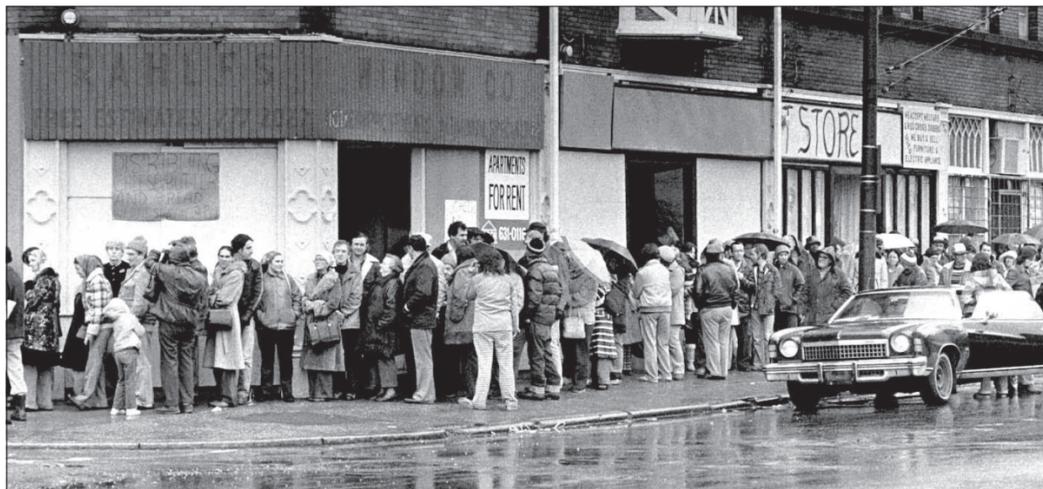
With steel shipments at a 20-year low, Republic and U.S. Steel announced more layoffs. Nationally, 100,000 steelworkers, 30 percent of the total, were on layoff, with another 40,000 on short weeks. Republic announced it would indefinitely close its bar mill, idling 700. Chairman E. Bradley Jones denied rumors that the company would file for bankruptcy.

AM International Inc. (the former Addressograph-Multigraph Corp.) filed for bankruptcy protection in April and, when employees voted to reject a \$6-an-hour pay cut, closed its Babbitt Rd. plant. Figgie International announced it was moving its headquarters to Richmond, Va.

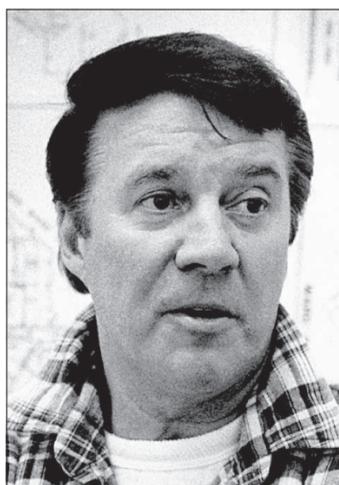
Not only factory workers were out of work. For the first time, the layoffs reached middle managers. Those over 50 found that nobody would hire them. The lines were long at the Ohio Bureau of Employment Services.

The recession — some were now calling it a depression — brought wrenching changes in attitude.

Liberal politicians now called for high tariffs and subsidies for industry. Brock Weir, president of Ameritrust Corp. (the former Cleveland



People lined up and waited 1½ hours for cheese to see them through hard times.



Steelworkers union official Frank Valenta had a hard time watching proud, laid-off men accepting handouts of food.

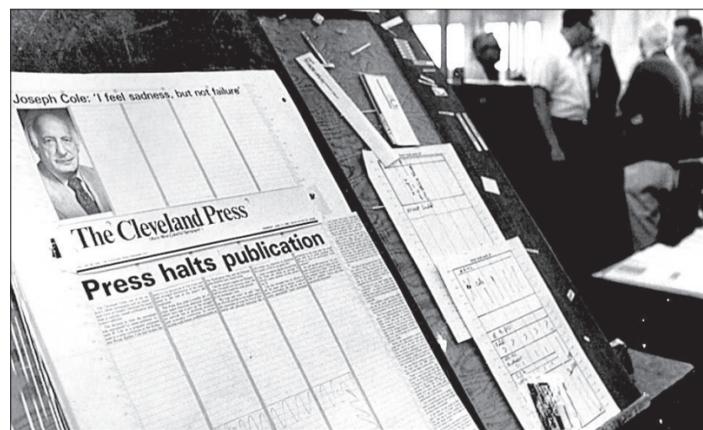
Trust) called for more government controls. "Under the illusion that we are letting free-market forces work their will," he said, "we are presiding over the dismemberment of our manufacturing infrastructure."

The Midwest was now the rust belt. The Wall Street Journal created an indelible image in November when it described a tent city outside Houston: thousands of dispossessed northerners, fruitlessly looking for jobs in the sun belt, camped in a shantytown, living on beans and handouts.

Yet when a presidential commission recommended federal aid to help jobless northerners relocate, it set off a furor. Northern representatives called it an attempt "to simply reject one part of the country as hopeless."

Layoffs and plant closings continued. The most shocking came June 17, though it involved only 900 workers. The headline in the Press was "Press Halts Publication." Joseph Cole announced that 20 months after buying the 102-year-old paper, he was closing it.

The Sunday Press had been a flop. Daily circulation fell to 315,000 and advertising fell with it. Still, like Schottenstein's closing of Halle's, the action raised questions. The Plain Dealer was entering wage negotiations and was vulnerable. According to the Press' treasurer, Cole was out \$10 million to \$12 million. However, he had gained downtown real estate on which to build two office buildings. Crain's Cleveland Business reported The Plain Dealer also paid him between \$6 million and \$16 million for the Press' circulation list,



The Cleveland Press' final edition.



Halle's closed, but not before shoppers walked off with liquidation-sale bargains.

which was of debatable use.

Without consulting members, the Newspaper Guild agreed not to press an antitrust charge. The Plain Dealer did not immediately hire any Press employees. On its own, the Justice Department decided to look into the case, but no charges resulted.

The year ended as it had started: Fisher Foods Inc. announced that it would close 10 Fazio's supermarkets, putting another 500 people out of work. Ohio unemployment was 14.2 percent, a 42-year high.

The National Bureau of Economic

Research had declared that a recession started in January 1980 and ended six months later, but a new one started in July 1981. Clevelanders never noticed the end of the first one. To them, it was all one recession.

In November 1982, after 16 months, the bureau declared the 1981-82 recession over. In Cleveland, where the Supplemental Unemployment Benefits were running out, nobody noticed.

McGunagle is a Cleveland freelance writer.

E-mail: fmcgoo@prodigy.com

### LOOKING AT A YEAR

**March 16:** Millionaire Claus Von Bulow is convicted of attempting to murder his wife, Martha.

**April 30:** Argentina invades the British Falkland Islands, prompting a successful British attempt to retake them.

**June 21:** John Hinckley Jr. is found not guilty by reason of insanity in the previous year's shooting of President Ronald Reagan.

**June 29:** Israel launches a major invasion into Lebanon.

**Sept. 10:** Princess Grace of Monaco (Grace Kelly) is killed in an automobile accident.

**Nov. 12:** Yuri Andropov becomes the leader of the Soviet Union upon the death of Leonid Brezhnev.

**Dec. 22:** Dentist Barney Clark receives the first artificial heart transplant. He dies three months later.

**Deaths:** Entertainers Henry Fonda, Ingrid Bergman and John Belushi; baseball great Satchel Paige; author John Cheever.