

HOW WE CAME TO BE SO FABULOUS

{A brief history of Cleveland}

10,300 BC

First-known humans settle in Northeast Ohio, begin writing Pittsburgh jokes

"Cleveland" founded by General Moses Cleveland of the Connecticut Land Company

1796 AD

1852

Ohio & Erie Canal completed, leading to town's population boom and catchy folk songs

Standard Oil founded by John D. Rockefeller, symbolically cementing Cleveland's stake as a major industrial center

1870

1885

Standard Oil moves to New York, cementing tradition of pillaging that continues today with the Yankees

World's first traffic signal installed on Cleveland's East Side. World's first inappropriate hand gesture follows 15 minutes later

1914

1920

Prosperity leads to Cleveland's status as nation's 5th-largest city; Prohibition brings rise to Cleveland mafia and bad liquor

First of at least 12 victims of the infamous Mad Butcher of Kingsbury Run is found

1933

1948

Cleveland Indians win World Title, Satan collects city's soul

Cleveland reaches peak population of 914,808, America's seventh-largest city at the time

1950

1951

Term "rock & roll" coined by Cleveland DJ Alan Freed

Cleveland Browns win their last of 8 league titles. Players continue to dress up and play every year anyway

1964

1966

Hough Riots result in 4 deaths and hundreds of injuries, plus a black eye for Cleveland as an epicenter of civil unrest

Glenville Shootout initiated by radical snipers leads to 7 dead and continued racial unrest

1968

1969

Cuyahoga River briefly catches fire, everybody stops noticing all the unrest for a while

Scene magazine launches. Staff celebrates with pretzels and cheap pot

1970

1978

Under 12-year-old Mayor Dennis Kucinich, Cleveland becomes first city since the Depression to default on federal loans

Rock and Roll Hall of Fame opens, symbolizing Cleveland's claim as The Comeback City

1995

2008

First indictments handed down in what becomes the largest public corruption scandal in U.S. history

Scene publishes dubious Cleveland timeline that ends with this entry

2011