Toledo is the third largest port on the Great Lakes.

**People:**

Toledo has a many-tongued, but lessening, old-world murmur. Its foreign or mixed parentage groups, gathered in the last half-century of industrial growth, make up 30 per cent of the population. The Germans, a third of the cosmopolitan Toledo, is the largest group, followed by the Polish, who comprise a fourth. The Canadians are numerous (8,409), and the Hungarians, English and Irish have groups from 5,000 to 6,000 each. The Germans came early, and some of their plain, neat houses seem almost as old as the town. There are old German singing societies, such as the Teutonia Hammerschlag, and local Schubertfests are frequent; the Schuhplattler, an old German folk dance, is still to be seen. In the large Polish section around Detroit and Nebraska Avenue live approximately 11,000 Poles, with their own stores, churches, and other institutions. Here some of the customs from the banks of the Vistula prevail; now and then the mazurka is danced to gay and vigorous airs. Another large Polish section is north along Lagrange Street. The Hungarian and their Birmingham section, the Russian, Czechoslovaks, Swiss, French, Italians and other nationalities add to Toledo’s varied Old World flavor, but it diminishes steadily as American schools, factories, and civic institutions continuously assimilate yesterday’s newcomers.

The city’s largest Negro neighborhood, populated by approximately 3,000 of Toledo's 14,428 Negroes, lies in an area along and outward from the eastern end of Nebraska Avenue. Here the Brand Milling House, completed by the F.W. in 1926, are in sharp contrast to the aged and wort structures that comprise much of the remainder of the section. There are seven smaller Negro neighborhoods which contribute to the varied scene of Toledo.

**Industry:**

The 1890's brought a new industrial epoch to Toledo, with glass the measure of the city's new importance. The recently discovered Monroe Valley gas field, an apparently inexhaustible producing area, lured the new industry with cheap fuel. In 1886, Edward Libbey closed his East Enbridge, Massachusetts glass factory and, bringing 100 glass craftsmen with him, founded the Libbey Glass Company of Toledo. For a while he manufactured high-grade crystal and lamp globes. Then, at Miamitown, West Virginia, he hired Michael Owens, glass blower extraordinary, as superintendent of his Toledo plant; together they revolutionized the glass business. Owens first invented an automatic motor to open molds, thereby eliminating much of the child labor from the industry, and a short time later developed a semi-automatic machine to make drinking glasses. The third of Toledo’s noted glassmen, Edward Ford, son of America’s pioneer plate-glass manufacturer, came to Toledo in 1896 to establish a plate-glass plant. He built his plant below Toledo on the east side of the Hamme, founding there the modern industrial town of Rossford and one of the largest plate-glass factories in the world.
The Willys-OVERLAND automobile company is located here.

Twenty-four railroads converge on the city. Coal trains rumble in from Ohio, West Virginia, and Kentucky. At 40 wharves huge machines pick up freight cars one by one and dump their contents into the holds of freighters with the ease of a farm girl emptying a pail of water. Equally remarkable are the scoops that unburden the incoming freighters of their red ore.

**History:**

1794 - Fort Industry erected on present site of Toledo. Abandoned in 1812.
1830 - Permanent settlement
1837 - Incorporated
1835-1836 - Toledo War between Ohio and Michigan over town
1836 - Became part of Ohio
1836 - First railroad
1843 - Wabash and Erie Canal opened
1848 - Important station on Underground Railroad
1849 - Michael Owens invented the Owens glass bottle machine
1858 - First gas manufacturing plant built
1870 - John Willys began the manufacture of automobiles
1893 - Seven of city's ten banks closed
1894 - Electric Auto-Lite strike

Note: The era that elsewhere inspired Lincoln Steffens' *Gems of the Gilded Age* saw the rise of two famous reform leaders in Toledo, Samuel H. Jones became mayor in 1897, and began to apply to the city government the same "Golden Rule" policy with which he had managed his oil-well supplies factory. As "Golden Rule" Jones he became a national celebrity; until his death in 1924, he ventured against mixture of public funds, favoritism, and bossism, and repeatedly defeated both major parties with his nonpartisan ticket. He established in Toledo one of the first municipal utilities, the Toledo Municipal Gas Company, the city's first free kindergartens, public playgrounds, band concerts, and the eight-hour day for city employees. Frank Whitlock, his successor as mayor from 1913 to 1918, four times elected, carried on the independent movement. He was instrumental in securing the passage of a State law providing for the election of all judges on a nonpartisan ballot, and was prominently identified with the campaign leading to the adoption of Ohio's initiative and referendum law in 1912.

**Election Statistics: Lucas County**

(Presidential)

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<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>77,948</td>
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<td>1944</td>
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(U. S. Representative, 9th Ohio District — Lucas and Ottawa Counties)

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<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>1944</td>
<td>82,785</td>
<td>89,294</td>
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9th District (Toledo) — Doubtful Republicans. Representative Homer A. Ramsey (R), who got only 50.1 per cent of the 1946 vote, is opposed by Thomas H. Burke (D), vice-mayor of Toledo, former legislator, and former secretary-treasurer of the IUO in Toledo. Registration has increased since 1946, and the auto workers and glass workers are gunning for Ramsey with housing and the Taft-Hartley Act the big issues. Both parties agree it will be close. Democrats think Burke can win.