

### **April 3**

**1822** A group of one hundred led by William Ashley left St. Louis to ascend the Missouri and establish a fur trading operation. Among the group were Jedediah Smith, Bill Sublette and Jim Bridger. They had responded to a newspaper add seeking "Enterprising young men...to ascend the Missouri River to its source." "The group would become the legendary mountain men of the west.

**1893** The cornerstone was laid for the present Sacred Heart Church in Florissant. The building replaced one built in 1866.

**1860** The Pony Express began mail service between St. Joseph, Missouri and Sacramento. William Russell's riders used 190 relay stations and 420 horses to deliver the mail. The med rode 75 miles a day for about \$150 per month. Though steeped in western lore, the Pony Express was a financial failure. The completion of the telegraph in 1861 rendered it obsolete.

**1888** Another big day in St. Joseph. A member of his own gang shot Jesse James in the back for the reward money offered by Missouri governor Crittenden. Robert Ford was arrested, tried for murder, and then pardoned by the governor. Only a small portion of the reward was ever paid.

**1899** Brothers Stanley and Frank Robison took over the St. Louis Browns and changed their name to the Perfectos. They put the team in red sox. Willie McHale, of the "St. Louis Republic" overheard a female fan say the sox were "a lovely shade of cardinal" and came up with a new nickname.

**1902** Both houses of city government approved a bill authorizing the city to acquire the St. Louis Exposition Company grounds at 13th and Olive for a new central library. Philanthropist Andrew Carnegie had donated \$1 million to build the library, with the stipulation that the city acquire the land.

**1904** A group of St. Louis County farmers and horse owners formed an organization with the purpose of "forcing drivers and automobiles to respect the skittish horse." The horse owners were upset that recent state legislation imposing a nine-miles-per-hour speed limit had not solved the problem.

**1919** Margaret Walsh Anglin planted trees at the entrance to the new Muny Opera. In 1915, the popular stage actress first suggested the site as an ideal location for an open-air theatre for a presentation of Shakespeare's *As You Like It*. Guy Golterman of the St. Louis Grand Opera Committee ordered the first concrete poured on the site for a presentation of *Aida* before an advertising convention in 1917.

**1936** Bruno Richard Hauptman was executed for the murder of the Lindbergh baby. Hauptman was convicted of the March 1932 crime mostly on circumstantial evidence. No witnesses were ever found.

**1942** Marsha Mason was born in St. Louis. She began acting while at Nerinx Hall High School and Webster College. Her first significant film role came in the low budget *Hot Rod Hullabaloo* in 1966. She was nominated for an Oscar for 1973's *Cinderella Liberty*. She received another nomination for *The Goodbye Girl* in 1977.

**1950** The Board of Aldermen moved to stop that great scourge of the 1950's, the comic book menace. A measure was passed making it a crime to sell lurid comic books or crime comics to kids under 18.

**1957** The St. Louis Hawks lost in the seventh game of the NBA Championship series. They took the Celtics to overtime in the last game. Tommy Heinsohn scored 37 points to lead the Celts to victory, 125-123.

**1961** President Kennedy signed a bill authorizing \$9,497,000 for construction of the Arch and visitors center.

**1973** John Poelker was elected mayor of St. Louis. The long-time comptroller upset incumbent AJ Cervantes in the Democratic primary.

**1974** At least 30 people were hurt when violent storms swept across the area, packing winds of 70 miles per hour. Lemay, Affton and Concord Village were hard hit. Dave Sinclair Ford reported \$400,000 in damage to automobiles.

**1977** Barclay Plager played his final game for the Blues. Two of Barc's brothers, Bob and Bill, also played in the NHL. All three were teammates on the Blues from 1968-69 through 1971-72. Barclay coached the Blues for parts of four seasons. "The Spirit of the Blues" died of cancer on February 6, 1988.

**1979** Ronald Gusewife was found murdered in East St. Louis, 17 months after his parents had been killed at their farm near Edwardsville. His wife Barbara would be charged with hiring a hit man in 1984. Authorities said the gunman was former South St. Louis dentist Doctor Glennon Engelmann. He was serving two life terms for two similar murders.

**1985** The Board of Aldermen of Times Beach voted to disincorporate their dioxin contaminated city. The signs came down along I-44, and nothing remained to remind motorists a town had once stood there. Today, the cleaned-up site is now Route 66 State Park.

**2002** The Renaissance St. Louis Suites Hotel on Washington Avenue opened. The Renaissance is the first part of the long-awaited \$276 million convention hotel complex.

**2006** Severe storms and a tornado swept across the area. One man died at Castlewood State Park and another was killed when the twister destroyed the K and G Clothing Store in Fairview Heights. The tornado hit the busy area around I-64 and Rte 159.