

## April 6

**1682** Robert Cavalier de la Salle reached the mouth of the Mississippi River. Three days later, he claimed its entire basin for France.

**1825** Mother Rose Philippine Duchesne and the Order of the Sacred Heart opened the first Catholic School for Indian girls in the United States. It was located at the Bishop's Farm north of Florissant. The site became St. Stanislaus Seminary, and is now the Gateway College of Evangelism on Howdershell Road.

**1846** Dred Scott filed suit in St. Louis County Circuit Court. Scott was a slave who claimed he should be freed, because his owners took him to the free states of Illinois and Minnesota. Scott lost the first trial at the Old Courthouse, but won a second trial. The case ended up before the US Supreme Court. In 1857, the high court ruled that slaves could not sue because they were not citizens.

**1904** A party of “the hairiest people on earth” arrived at Union Station. Professor Frederick Starr traveled to the Island of Yezo (Hokkaido) to bring the Ainu to the fair. The *Globe* described them as “very dark in color and generally untidy.” The men wore long flowing beards and the women had oval tattoo marks around their mouths.

**1907** The first auto show in St. Louis closed at the Jai Alai Building. Over 20,000 people saw the show during its six-day run.

**1917** Congress declared war on Germany. The names of 1,075 St. Louisans who gave their lives in World War One are listed in the Court of Honor at the Soldier's Memorial. Three St. Louisans won the Medal of Honor. Captain Alexander Skinker died attacking iron pillboxes on the Hindenburg Line. Sergeant Arthur Forrest took six German machine gun nests. Sergeant Michael Ellis single-handedly captured 44 Germans and ten machine guns in one day.

**1926** Ninety voters went to the polls in St. Peters and voted to bring electricity to their town. They approved the awarding of a franchise to the Eastern Missouri Power Company, and voted to raise their taxes to pay for it. They had dreamt of electricity since many first saw it at the 1904 world's fair.

**1931** James Dewar, manager of the Continental Bakery's Chicago plant, came up with a treat that would allow the company to use small baking pans that normally sat idle except during strawberry shortcake season. He was at a loss for a name until he took a business trip to St. Louis. That's when he noticed a billboard for “Twinkle Toe Shoes.” The name evolved into “Twinkies.”

**1931** Over 1,000 St. Louisans attended a rally at the Odeon Theatre on Grand to hear how civic leaders planned to provide for the 100,000 unemployed here. City funds were exhausted. Archbishop John Glennon and other speakers urged the community to contribute.

**1948** St. Ann was incorporated as a city. St. Ann was started as a defense housing project, built by Charles Vatterott. The first 100 homes in Mary Ridge opened in 1940. Vatterott built 638 more homes on the site of the Stein farm. He dedicated the development to the mother of the Virgin Mary, St. Ann.

**1953** Raymond Tucker was elected mayor in a landslide over Republican Carl Stifel. He served three terms, rallying the public to support civic improvements and a \$110 million bond issue.

**1955** The 291 citizens of Fenton had elected Garrett Hitzert as their first mayor in 70 years. After electing a mayor in the 1880's, residents "just got tired of voting." By 1955 they were also tired of not having sewer and water systems. Hitzert pledged to begin work on those projects right away.

**1957** Jimmy Stewart was in St. Louis to speak to a Boy Scout event at the Arena. He stopped at the Missouri Historical Society to view the Charles Lindbergh trophies. Stewart was starring as Lindbergh in the newest MGM picture, *The Spirit of St. Louis*.

**1957** Teddy Nadler of St. Louis won another \$32,000 on *The \$64,000 Question*, becoming the biggest winner ever on a single quiz show. He had won \$152,000 in 12 appearances on the CBS program. With all his knowledge, Nadler still repeatedly failed the exam to become a postal worker. He could memorize facts but lacked reasoning skills.

**1960** The St. Louis County Council cleared the way for the acquisition of 232 acres at Jefferson Barracks for a park. It passed a bill that authorized supervisor Gene McNary to purchase the land from the General Services Administration.

**1963** Thousands of people turned out for the first look at the new planetarium. A weekend open house was held to mark the opening of the \$1,200,000 facility in Forest Park.

**1965** Alfonso J. Cervantes was elected mayor over Republican Maurice Zumwalt. "The Salesman Mayor" brought African-Americans in to city government, brought the ill-fated Santa Maria and the Spanish pavilion here, and led the battle for a new convention center. His attempt to establish a new airport at Columbia-Waterloo cost him a third term.

**1966** The National Hockey League Board of Governors awarded a franchise to St. Louis. The group headed by Sidney Saloman Junior and his son, Sid Saloman the Third announced the team would be called "The St. Louis Blues."

**1967** The last regularly scheduled TWA flight to use the beautiful Lockheed Constellation arrived in St. Louis. When the last "Connie" was retired, TWA became the first airline with an all-jet fleet.

**1971** Voters approved the Zoo-Museum tax district. For the first time, city and county voters agreed to support institutions that had been entirely supported by the city. That same day, James Williams Senior was elected as the first black mayor of East St. Louis.

**1973** The first stage of the flood of 1973 crested. The Mississippi was at 39.8 feet, still below the all-time high of 40.28. Officials said the rivers would fall slowly, as long as there was no more rain.

**1984** A helicopter became the tenth aircraft to fly between the legs of the Arch. This time, authorities got his number. There is no record on what happened to the pilot.

**1992** The Cardinals opened the season in a revamped Busch Stadium. In addition to new AstroTurf, the outfield dimensions were reduced. The power alleys went from 383 feet to 375, it was 402 feet to center, down from 414. Another 400 seats pushed the capacity to 56,627.

**1993** Freeman Bosley Junior was elected mayor of St. Louis, defeating Vince Schoemehl Junior. Bosley became the first black mayor in St. Louis history. The Bosley family has a long political history. His grandfather, Preston Bosley, was the son of a slave who established the Yeatman Community Development Corp. and Yeatman Community Health Center. His father is a long-time alderman.

**2003** A new era began at the old Homer G. Phillips Hospital. The first homes at the \$42 million Homer G. Phillips Senior Living Community Center opened. "Homer G." was one of the few hospitals available to African-Americans when it opened in 1937. It became a premier training ground for black health care professionals. The hospital closed amid controversy in 1979.