

April 10

1830 The first wagon train to travel the famed Oregon Trail left St. Louis for Independence, the trail's jumping-off point. An estimated 300,000 people would follow in the years to come. About 30,000 of them never made it. The journey took anywhere from four to five months.

1847 Joseph Pulitzer was born in Mako, Hungary. He was penniless when he came to St. Louis. He rose to the state legislature and later became a partner in the *Westliche Post*, an influential German language newspaper here. In December of 1878, he purchased the bankrupt St. Louis *Dispatch* and merged it with the *Evening Post*. His will established the Pulitzer Prizes for journalism, letters, drama and education.

1858 The great Missouri statesman Thomas Hart Benton died. He rose to prominence as one of Missouri's two original senators. He held the seat for 30 years.

1865 Meeting at the Mercantile Hall in St. Louis, a convention adopted the new state constitution. The Drake Constitution freed the slaves. It also established harsh rules dealing with Confederate sympathizers. It required most professionals, including teachers, lawyers and preachers, to take a loyalty oath.

1873 The *Globe-Democrat* reported that the "quiet little village of Webster Groves" was circulating petitions to close down the first saloon to open there. The report said "the establishment of a smallpox hospital or a social evil refuge could not have been more distasteful to the Websterians than a groggery in their midst."

1874 William and Frederick Niedringhaus opened a factory to produce "Graniteware" kitchen products. The brothers had perfected the process of enameling metal. As their business grew, they established the town of Granite City.

1885 Governor Marmaduke signed the Loring Act, allowing any town, village, or township to establish and support a free public library. Frederick Crunden, the librarian of the St. Louis Public Library, drafted the act.

1898 The St. Louis Board of Education was debating a ban on school picnics in parks where intoxicants were sold, including Forest Park. Most board members were against the plan. One said that 95% of school children from South St. Louis "drank beer with their parents at home or in beer gardens year-round."

1904 Governor Hunt of the Philippine Village at the World's Fair complained that it was difficult to obtain dogs for the Igorot feasts. Hunt said he faced paying \$2 for dogs that normally wouldn't bring ten cents. The Women's Humane Society of St. Louis had called on him. But Hunt said he expected no trouble, because the village was located in St. Louis County.

1948 The Board of Aldermen changed the name of the "Express Highway" (now I-64) to The Red Feather Express Highway. The red feather was the symbol of the Community Chest charity organization. Alderman J. Ray Weinbrenner was concerned over the use of the word "red." He suggested "Easter Bunny Highway" as an alternative. Most St. Louisans were expected to keep calling it the Express Highway anyway.

1953 August A. Busch Junior changed the name of Sportsmen's Park to Busch Stadium. The brewery had just bought the Cardinals, and would spend a huge amount of money to refurbish the deteriorating ballpark.

1957 Martin Luther King Junior made his first major appearance in St. Louis. He told a crowd of 5,000 at Kiel Auditorium that he brought greetings from Montgomery, where 50,000 blacks had decided to "substitute tired feet for tired souls" in the bus boycott he had organized. The event raised \$50,000 for King's organization.

1970 The Cardinals played their first game on Astroturf at Busch Stadium. They beat the Mets, 7-3 before 45,960. The media was already predicting that fans would see more extra base hits because the ball would move faster on the turf.

1978 The Major Indoor Soccer League was formed. The St. Louis franchise would be called "The Steamers." For a time, the Steamers were the hottest sports ticket in town.

1980 First Lady Rosalynn Carter and Lou Brock threw out the first pitch on opening day at Busch Stadium. The Carter-Mondale campaign ignited a controversy when it asked to have Carter throw out the first pitch, unaware that Lou had been chosen weeks earlier. Brock soothed things over by asking Carter to join him.

1982 On Opening Day, Busch Stadium sported a new look. A bright blue paint job replaced the faded green. The name of the ballpark was officially shortened to Busch Stadium and a new stylized stadium logo was unveiled. The 1982 season was off to a rough start. The Cards fell to 1-3 by losing the home opener to Pittsburgh 11-7.

1987 The body of Walter Scott, lead singer for Bob Kuban and the In-Men, was found in a cistern in rural St. Charles County. It marked the beginning of one of the most bizarre murder cases in St. Louis area history. James Howard Williams, who was having an affair with Scott's wife, was convicted of killing Scott and his own wife, Sharon. Scott's wife, JoAnn, would plead guilty to hindering the prosecution.

1997 St. Louisans were surprised by five inches of wet, heavy snow. The storm was the third biggest late-spring snowfall since record-keeping here began in 1870.

2001 Twisters and hail combined for the most expensive natural disaster in St. Louis since the Flood of 1993. Baseball sized hail ruined nearly every roof in Florissant and Hazelwood. The storm damaged over 60,000 cars. TWA cancelled flights to check on hail-damaged aircraft. Damage was put at over \$700 million.

2006 At 3:14 p.m, Mark Mulder threw a called strike past Brady Clark of the Milwaukee Brewers, the first pitch at the new Busch Stadium. The Cardinals won the game 6-4. The first was a single by Carlos Lee of the Brewers. Bill Hall of Milwaukee hit the first home run. Albert Pujols hit the first Cardinals home run in the third inning.