

April 23

1816 A group of 12 St. Charles County citizens asked the state to build a public road from St. Charles to the Howard County line. (At the time there was no Montgomery, Warren or Callaway County) The petition marked the beginning of the pioneer road that followed the Booneslick Trail. The route later became State Highway Number Two, U.S. 40, and eventually I-70.

1819 The first newspaper west of St. Louis was founded at Franklin, Missouri. It was called the *Missouri Intelligencer and Boone's Lick Advertiser*. In 1819, the town of Franklin had a population of two thousand, and was a commercial rival to St. Louis. But a flood wiped the town out.

1846 The St. Louis County Insane Asylum opened on part of the Kemper College tract, atop a hill at what is now Arsenal and Sublette Avenue in South St. Louis. 129 patients were admitted on opening day. The landmark is now known as the St. Louis State Hospital.

1877 St. Louis County, newly separated from the city, appointed a commission to find a site for a new county seat. The commission recommended sites in Creve Couer, Black Jack and elsewhere, but they were all rejected. A temporary county seat was set up at the Mount Olive House on Olive Street Road. Ralph Clayton then donated 100 acres for the courthouse.

1900 James LeRoy "Sunny Jim" Bottomley was born in Oglesby, Illinois. He starred at first base for the Cardinals from 1922 to 1932. On September 16, 1924 he went six-for-six and drove in a major league record 12 runs in a game against Brooklyn. He was named as the NL MVP in 1928 and served as player manager for the Browns in 1937. Bottomley was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1974.

1902 St. Louis Cardinals owner Frank DeHaas Robison laid \$10,000 on the line, betting that the Pittsburgh Pirates would not repeat as National League Champions. The Pittsburgh players accepted his challenge, and put up ten grand of their own money. The Pirates then went out and won the pennant by 27 and ½ games.

1904 Chief of Police Mathew Kiely ordered officers to shut down all houses of ill repute in the "Tenderloin District," along Pine and Chestnut between Jefferson and 20th. The action resulted from a movement to make Chestnut a broad boulevard, "The Driveway of St. Louis." Over 2,000 women inhabited some 250 houses in the district.

1907 Mayor Beall of Alton drove the first stake at the site of the new \$3 million Standard Oil Company Refinery in Wood River, Illinois.

1912 *Titanic* survivors Mrs Edward Robert, Miss Georgette Madill and Elizabeth Allen arrived home in St. Louis. Miss Allen said she couldn't understand the controversy over the actions of White Star Line President Bruce Ismay. She said Ismay acted as a "gallant

gentleman.” Allen said Ismay boarded the last lifeboat only because there were no more women around.

1912 Congressman R.W. Morrison of St. Louis proposed that Congress authorize construction of a \$5 million dam at Bagnell, Missouri. When it was finished in 1931, Bagnell Dam would create the largest man made lake in the world at the time.

1949 The Governor of Illinois, Adlai Stevenson, vetoed a bill that would have required all cats in Illinois to be kept on leashes. He said, "The state of Illinois and its local governing bodies have enough to do without trying to control feline delinquency.”

1954 The Federal Communications Commission granted a permit to radio station KWK to operate a television station on channel four in St. Louis. It would be the second VHF television station here. Channel Five signed on in February 1947. WTVI was broadcasting on UHF Channel 54.

1962 The operators of the *Admiral* said "anyone presenting himself in an orderly manner" would be admitted regardless of race. The ownership had dropped its lawsuit to prevent the city from enforcing its law against discrimination in public places.

1967 James Earl Ray, who had been convicted of a St. Louis grocery store robbery, escaped from the Missouri penitentiary in Jefferson City. On April 4, 1968, he killed Martin Luther King. A St. Louis attorney reportedly put up the money for the murder as part of a conspiracy based here.

1967 The first fully professional St. Louis soccer team played its first game at Busch Stadium. A crowd of 18,000 saw the St. Louis Stars 2-1 win over the Oakland Clippers. The Stars played in the National Professional Soccer League, and then moved to the North American Soccer League in 1968. The team moved to California in 1977.

1973 Officials predicted record flooding was about to hit the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers here. The rivers had crested just 18 days ago. More heavy spring rains were expected to push the Mississippi back to a record 43.5 feet in just four days.

1984 Bulldozers were tearing down the South Twin Drive-In at Lemay Ferry and Buckley. Wehrenberg Theaters President Ron Krueger said that the land would be much more valuable when developed into a supermarket. The South Twin had opened in 1954.

1990 The Cardinals traded pitcher John Costello to the Expos for Rex Hudler. Hudler endeared himself to Cardinal fans with his hustle. He fell into a slump in 1991, and was released before the 1993 season.

1998 In a case that attracted national attention, Brian Stewart pleaded not guilty of first degree assault. Prosecutors said the phlebotomist at a St. Charles County Hospital injected his son with HIV tainted blood to avoid paying child support back in 1992. The child was now seven, and had developed full-blown AIDS.

1998 Archbishop Justin Rigali announced that Pope John Paul the Second would come to St. Louis in January 1999

1999 Fernando Tatis of the Cardinals belted two grand slams in the third inning of a game against the Dodgers in Los Angeles. Dodger pitcher Chan Ho Park became the first hurler since Bill Phillips of the Pirates in 1890 to give up two grand slams in an inning. On December 14, 2000, the Cardinals traded Fernando and pitcher Britt Reames to Montreal for pitcher Dustin Hermanson and Steve Kline.

2002 Blues goalie Brent Johnson tied an NHL record with his third consecutive shutout in the playoffs. Johnson was the first goalie to reach the mark in 57 years.