

April 25

1214 Our city's namesake born near Poissy, France. King Louis the Ninth is best remembered as a great crusader. He took up the sword, vowing to recapture Jerusalem from the Moslems. Domestic troubles forced him to return to France. But he embarked on another crusade in 1270. He got as far as Tunis, where he died of dysentery.

1853 Missouri's pioneer medical genius, Doctor William Beaumont, died. He came here in 1834, after his experiments with Alexis St. Martin made him famous. St. Martin suffered a gaping stomach wound at the age of 19. Beaumont studied the digestive tract through the hole. St. Martin outlived the doctor, and died at the age of 83.

1869 Daniel Page died. He was the second mayor of St. Louis, serving from 1829 until 1833. He was also involved in the incorporation of the Missouri Pacific Railroad and Boatmen's Bank. Page Boulevard was named for him.

1871 President Grant came to St. Louis on business. City officials took him on a tour to show how the city had grown. He stopped in recently annexed Carondelet and at Jefferson Barracks. At the Barracks, he regaled the crowd with stories of the time he spent there as a recruit.

1895 Cliff Edwards was born in Hannibal. He started his show business career in St. Louis, playing the ukulele in saloons. Edwards was soon famous as "Ukulele Ike." He appeared 100 movies, but is best known as the voice of Jiminy Cricket in *Pinocchio*. He received no credit for singing "When You Wish Upon a Star." When Edwards died in 1971, his body went unclaimed for days because now one knew who he was.

1902 Former Governor David R. Francis, head of the World's Fair company, met with Secretary of State John Jay and fair commissioners in Washington. They discussed postponing the fair to give foreign governments time to complete their exhibits. Francis would reluctantly agree to postpone Opening Day for one year.

1906 The St. Louis Relief Fund for San Francisco reached \$150,000 in just four days. It was boosted again when Adolphus Busch pledged \$100,000.

1907 Carrie Nation spent three hours at Union Station between trains, but this time she never left the station. When word spread that she was there, concession operators removed all cigarettes from sight. During a 1901 visit to Union Station, she had boldly removed cigarettes from smoker's mouths and accosted a young woman for chewing gum. She swung a hatchet at the Carry Nation Bar on Market Street and police had to escort her back to the station.

1923 The man called "the most imitated blues guitarist in the world" was born in Indianola, Mississippi. In 1956, Albert King moved to Lovejoy, Illinois, across the river from St. Louis. He was soon was headlining at area clubs. In the 60's he signed with Stax Records and recorded such classics as *Crosscut Saw* and *Born Under a Bad Sign*. He

also recorded with the St. Louis Symphony, one of the first to combine the blues and classical music.

1924 Mayor Henry Kiel worked a huge earth mover as ground was broken for an \$11 million project to tame the River Des Peres. It would be placed underground in a 32-foot-wide cement pipe beneath Forest Park.

1926 Archbishop Glennon dedicated the new St. Ambrose Church on "The Hill." The present Romanesque landmark replaced a frame structure that burned down. One local legend says the fire started when a vat of moonshine exploded in the rectory. St. Ambrose played a vital role in the development of the Italian community.

1944 The St. Louis *Star-Times* reported that five blacks had been accepted for summer courses at St. Louis University. It was the first time blacks had been admitted in the history of the school. The article did not give their names.

1967 The FAA recommended against the use of the Columbia Bottoms site for a second airport. The city had bought the land north of I-270 and Riverview in 1944 and had been planning an airport there ever since. In 1997, the city sold the site to the state for development of a recreational area.

1967 The American Society of Civil Engineers named the Arch the outstanding civil engineering achievement of the year.

1968 East St. Louis Schools were closed and the teachers were demanding police protection after bomb threats by black militants. A bomb had been thrown into an assembly of 200 students but failed to detonate. The militants were protesting the recent dismissal of 70 workers from the school lunch program.

1973 Over 40% of St. Charles County was under water, as the flood smashed the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad levee. The Mississippi at St. Louis reached 42.02 feet, topping the estimated record level of 1785.

1974 Fire destroyed the main offices and pavilion at Fairmount Park. Damage was put at nearly a million dollars. The owner said it would take at least a year to rebuild.

1976 An ad in the *Globe-Democrat* for the St. Clair Square shopping center invited teenagers to "meet the five most exciting young rock and rollers to hit the scene since the Beatles." The Bay City Rollers were appearing at the mall to sign copies of their new album "Rock and Roll Love Letter."

1978 The Cardinals fired manager Vern Rapp. Rapp is best remembered for his edict banning long hair, beards and mustaches. The "Mad Hungarian," Al Hrabosky, said losing his menacing Fu Manchu mustache made him feel "Like a soldier going to war without a gun." Rapp clashed with other players, including Bake McBride and Gary Templeton. The end came when he called Ted Simmons "a loser."

1983 Raphael Clark and Walter Harvey were convicted of a murder that shocked the entire city. They abducted Gary and Donna Decker as the couple shopped for Christmas gifts for their young son at a North St. Louis County Grandpa's store in 1982. Donna was raped before they were both killed and their bodies dumped in East St. Louis.

1986 Joe Buck broadcast a Cardinals game for the first time. As a present for Joe's 17th birthday, his dad got up and walked out of the booth. Jack Buck told Joe to take over or there would be dead air. Joe called one inning. Joe became a regular on the Cardinals broadcasts seven years later. At Fox, Joe became one of only three broadcasters ever to serve as a network's lead announcer for Major League Baseball and the NFL.

1990 St. Louis became a one-newspaper town again, with the demise of the short-lived tabloid, The St. Louis *Sun*. Publisher Ralph Ingersoll II had launched the paper just seven months earlier, with a \$100 million bankroll. The *Sun* was known for its lurid headlines, splashy graphics and big color pictures.

1993 Craig Janney's goal in overtime gave the Blues a sweep of the Blackhawks in the Norris Division semi-finals. It was their first playoff sweep since 1969.

1995 Art Fleming died at a retirement home in Crystal River, Florida at the age of 70. Arthur Fleming Fazzin is best known as the host of television's *Jeopardy* from 1964 to 1975 and again in 1978 and 1979. Fleming worked at KMOX from 1980 until 1992.

2000 The Blues were stunned by the San Jose Sharks, and eliminated from the playoffs in the first round. The Blues became the first team ever to win the President's Trophy for the best regular season record in the NHL, only to be eliminated in Round One.