

April 26

1820 The *Missouri Gazette* carried an advertisement for the first book store in St. Louis. Thomas Essex and Charles Beynroth opened the store at 60 Main Street. Prior to that time, nearly every retail establishment, drug stores, hardware, confectionaries and shoe stores, all sold books.

1834 Farmer and surveyor Isaac Wood purchased more land in St. Louis County. He had already been awarded a big land grant for service during the War of 1812. Wood built a mill on a road through his land about one mile north of Conway. The little road through the quiet countryside to "Wood's Mill" became Route 141.

1847 The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod was organized in St. Louis. A group of 12 pastors representing 15 congregations in six states joined together to provide education, missionary work and publishing. Today, the synod has over 2.6 million members in 60 countries. The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod is now located in Kirkwood and operates Concordia University and the Concordia Publishing House.

1863 The first battle of Cape Girardeau saw the Confederates suffer 60 dead and 200 wounded. The Union lost just six men. After failing to capture Cape, the rebel forces under John S. Marmaduke retreated back into Arkansas. They ended their raid to harass isolated Union posts and encourage southern sympathizers in Missouri.

1876 William McKee, the owner of the *Globe-Democrat*, was sentenced to two years in jail and fined ten-thousand-dollars for his role in the "Whiskey Ring" scandal. The St. Louis based conspiracy defrauded the government out of thousands in tax revenue. The graft reached into the highest levels of the Grant administration. Ironically, McKee's own paper had exposed the ring.

1904 World's Fair officials granted a concession to a man who wanted to use a tethered balloon to give fairgoers a birds-eye view. The operator planned to have a justice of the peace on hand to perform airborne weddings.

1927 Opening night at a roadhouse on Lemay Ferry Road turned out to be an eventful one. With a large crowd assembled, the Rose Inn was raided. Minutes after the law had left, five gunmen burst in and relieved the patrons of their cash and jewelry.

1942 St. Louis' first hero of Second World War returned to a huge welcome. Over 60,000 cheering people greeted Lieutenant Commander Edward O'Hare on the downtown streets. Mayor Becker gave him the key to the city. On April 21, President Roosevelt awarded O'Hare the Congressional Medal of Honor for shooting down six Japanese bombers single-handedly. O'Hare Field in Chicago was named in his honor.

1943 St. Charles County Sheriff Omar Schatmeier warned "able bodied loafers" that unless they found jobs with hard pressed farmers in the county they would be put to work

on the rock pile. A circuit judge had asked the Sheriff for help in easing the labor shortage on the farms due to the war.

1948 City officials announced the effort to obtain over \$15 million for completion of the Jefferson Expansion Memorial would be put on hold "for the duration of the unsettled world conditions." Over \$9 million had already been spent to buy land and demolish buildings.

1960 At age 32, "Easy" Ed McCauley became the youngest player named to the Basketball Hall of Fame. McCauley was a two-time All American for the Bills before starting his NBA career with the old St. Louis Bombers. He was sent to Boston when the Bombers disbanded in 1950, and was dealt to the St. Louis Hawks in 1956. He helped lead the Hawks to the championship in 1958 and went on to coach them to a couple of division titles.

1969 The ill-fated replica of the *Santa Maria* was opened to the public on the St. Louis riverfront. Mayor Cervantes brought the ship here from New York, where it was part of the Spanish exhibit at the world's fair. The *Santa Maria* collided with the *Becky Thatcher* and sank during a thunderstorm later that year.

1970 The "Eco-Fair" in Forest Park featured an environmental teach-in. But the hundreds who attended were more interested in rock music. The Rush Band refused to give up the stage for the speakers on the environment.

1972 August A. Busch Junior told AB stockholders that the future of Cardinal baseball as a part of Anheuser-Busch was in doubt. Even before the strike, the Cardinals had reported a profit of just \$6,000 on attendance of 1.5 million.

1974 The St. Louis Regional Commerce and Growth Association kicked off a massive promotion campaign with the theme "St. Louis Has It All From A to Z." Remember the jingles? "Gimme an A....We've got the Gateway Arch, antiques, amusement parks.....B.....boat rides and boulevards, baseball and beer."

1988 Many female Cardinal fans were upset with the latest Redbird trade. The Cardinals sent second baseman Tommy Herr to the Minnesota Twins for outfielder Tom Brunansky. Herr was an important part of the Cardinals 1982 World Championship team and the pennant winning teams in 1985 and 1986.

1990 A bus carrying Kevin McCarthy of KLOU and KMOX and a production crew was seized by protesting Polish potato farmers. The crew was on the way to Moscow for a live broadcast from Red Square. Everyone was released unharmed 24 hours later.

1995 On an Opening Day delayed by the disastrous player's strike, the Cardinals officially unveiled the Plaza of Champions around the Stan Musial statue. Monuments marked the Cardinal's nine World Series championships. The team also announced that grass would replace the AstroTurf for the 1996 season.

1998 St. Charles was shocked by a gruesome murder. The decapitated body of 13-year-old Tiffany Sabourin was found near Lindenwood College. Fifteen-year-old Billie Joe Logsdon and 21-year-old Jason Shipman were later charged in the case.

1999 A burglary suspect died, two days after a scuffle with police officers on the roof of a South St. Louis pawnshop. Officers Steven Capkovic and Robert Dodson were charged with murder in the death of Julius Thurman. The charges against Capkovic were later dropped. A jury cleared Dodson on murder charges in March 2001.