

April 28

1836 A mob chained Francis L. McIntosh to a tree at 7th Chestnut and burned him alive. McIntosh was a free black man. He had stabbed deputy sheriff George Hammond to death and wounded deputy William Mull. The deputies were trying to arrest McIntosh for interfering as they tried to arrest an unruly boatman. A judge overseeing a grand jury in the case blamed abolitionists for the violence and no one was punished. Elijah Lovejoy repeatedly condemned the affair in his newspaper, *The Observer*. Threats forced him to move to Alton, where he died defending his press from a mob.

1846 Francis Parkman, a 23-year-old from Boston, left St. Louis on what he called "A tour of curiosity and amusement to the Rocky Mountains." His book about his experiences, *The Oregon Trail* is now considered a classic for its description of the frontier.

1904 The first specimens arrived for the U.S. Government bird exhibit at the World's Fair. A huge bird cage had been erected to house some one thousand birds. That same day, Prince Pu-Lin of China arrived. He was the nephew of the Chinese Emperor and Commissioner of China to the fair.

1907 A group of St. Louisans announced plans to raise \$50,000 to preserve the "Grant Cabin" as a Civil War museum. The cabin was located in Forest Park, where it had been moved for the World's Fair. Some members of the group were pushing to have the cabin returned to Grant's Farm, now owned by August A. Busch.

1918 The St. Louis School Board announced that beginning classes in German would be discontinued the following year. A board official reported that 90% fewer students had started studying German since the war began.

1919 Schools were closed and thousands of people lined the streets for the first "Welcome Home" parade for St. Louis units serving in World War One. The 128th Field Artillery was the first of the St. Louis National Guard regiments to return from France.

1924 A sensational raid on a popular restaurant made headlines. Prohibition agents raided the Naples Restaurant on DeBaliviere. Police arrested 13 well known St. Louisans when liquor was found on their tables.

1927 Ryan Aircraft of San Diego rolled out the completed "Spirit of St. Louis." The plane was custom built for Charles Lindbergh at a cost of \$10,580.

1931 Doctor Isaac Kelley was released by his abductors and met by the *Post-Dispatch* crime reporter on a lonely road in East St. Louis. Police were looking for three members of the old Cuckoo Gang in the case. It would be February 1934 before the *Post* broke the story that socialite Nellie Muench had chosen the victim. She owed money to gangsters and believed Kelley's family would pay a big ransom. The stage was set for the most sensational trial in St. Louis history.

1934 Postmaster James Farley laid the cornerstone for the new Federal Building on Market Street. The new Eagleton Federal Building replaced that building.

1935 Trade unions in St. Louis voted to boycott Cardinal games. Team captain Leo Durocher had made an anti-union statement on behalf of his wife's dress business. Pickets would be set up at the ballpark to protest non-union ushers, ticket takers and vendors.

1936 About 50 people staged a sit-down protest in the gallery of City Hall after the city cut 14,500 people from the direct relief rolls. Those designated as employable were cut, but the protesters countered that there were no jobs available. After 47 hours, Mayor Dickmann agreed to distribute surplus food from warehouses so no one would go hungry.

1952 The St. Louis Browns became the first ball club to send players outside of the United States. They shipped minor leaguers John Britton and Jim Newbury to the Hankyu Braves.

1957 The Vaughn Housing Project was dedicated. The site was named for George L. Vaughn, an attorney and editor of the St. Louis *Argus*. He successfully argued the case of Shelley versus Kraemer, which ended restrictive covenants that prohibited the sale of property to blacks. The mixed income Murphy Park Development stands on the Vaughn site today.

1959 St. Louis' first independent television station, KPLR Channel Eleven, signed on the air. At 7 p.m., KPLR was to air its first program, a telecast of the game between the Cardinals and the Reds. But the game was rained out. The next night, Jack Buck, Harry Carey and Joe Garagiola called the action as the Cards played the Milwaukee Braves.

1967 McDonnell Aircraft and Douglas Aircraft merged to become McDonnell-Douglas. The new company would be headquartered in St. Louis.

1971 Seventy-five Riverview Gardens Senior High School students faced suspension for refusing to end their protest against the school's new dress code. Over 300 students refused to attend classes, chanting "power to the people."

1973 The Mississippi River at St. Louis reached a record crest at 43.23 feet. The Army Corps of Engineers was estimating damage at \$150 million. Over 3 million acres were underwater and 25,000 people were homeless. The flood of 1993 would shatter that 1973 record.

1978 Ken Boyer was named as manager of the Cardinals, replacing the ousted Vern Rapp. Jack Krol had filled in as interim manager for two games. Boyer inherited a team filled with malcontents and drug addicts that would finish 9th in 1978, rise to 3rd in 1979 and then stagger badly in 1980. Several bad trades also hampered Boyer. He was fired between games of a doubleheader in June 1980.

1980 A crowd of 19,000 ignored a handful of protestors as The Who played at the Checkerdome. A group calling themselves "Parents Against Drugs at Rock Concerts" was calling for a ban on smoking at shows to discourage marijuana use. It was the first appearance by the Who in St. Louis since the death of eleven fans at a concert in Cincinnati.

1990 The first section of the KATY Trail was opened. Governor John Ashcroft cut the ribbon to open a five-mile stretch near Rocheport. The Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad turned the right-of-way over to the state in 1988.

1993 Missouri Governor Mel Carnahan declared a state of emergency in St. Charles County. Thousands of acres of farmland were under water. The worst was still to come.