

April 29

1825 St. Louis welcomed General Marie Joseph Paul Roche Yves Gilbert du Motier, the Marquis de Lafayette. Officials weren't sure if they could use city money to entertain their important guest. They invited the governor, reasoning that the state might then pick up the bill. But Governor Frederick Bates said no state money would be used, and he would not meet Lafayette. Aldermen voted to go ahead and use city money to pay the expenses, which amounted to \$37.

1844 The great age of the steamboat opened, as the *J.M. White* left on the first St. Louis to New Orleans run. It arrived in New Orleans 3 days and 16 hours later. The revolutionary design of the boat by Billy King of St. Louis made it one of the fastest ever. King placed the paddlewheel just behind the middle of the ship, which made it actually pick up speed with the swells of the river.

1877 The hit song of the day was "Southern Hotel Fire Hero" by St. Louis composer Harry Banks. The song honored firefighters Phelim O'Toole and Michael Hester for their heroics during the Southern Hotel Fire on April 11th. They saved dozens of lives by moving from window-to-window with a ladder.

1900 The St. Louis team was referred to as the "Cardinals" for the first time in the *Post-Dispatch*. The paper reported on "the best game of the season so far," a 3-1 Cardinal win in 10 innings in Chicago. New owners Frank DeHaas and Mathew Stanley Robison had outfitted the team in red and white. Willie McHale, a reporter for the *Republic*, overheard a female fan remark that the socks were "a lovely shade of Cardinal."

1907 The city decided to hire a woman as a telephone operator at the new Four Courts Building. A heated debate had taken place over whether a woman could keep the secrets of the court. The applicant assured officials that she could. Besides, it was pointed out, it would cost more to hire a man for the job.

1918 The St. Louis branch of the National Security League announced a campaign to rid the city of German publications, the German language and "every last vestige of Germanism," including street names. Mayor Kiel served on the executive committee of the group, pledging to make St. Louis "100 percent American."

1935 Thousands watched in horror at the Arena as Miss Aerietta Cornwall fell 40 feet to her death. A strap broke as she performed a spinning act. She was holding the strap in her mouth and twirling.

1944 Jim Hart was born in Evanston, Illinois. Hart starred at SIU-Carbondale, but was ignored by NFL teams because he played for a small school. In 1966 The Big Red signed him as a free agent. Hart became the starting quarterback when the Army drafted Charley Johnson. Hart would start for the Cardinals until 1981 and was released in 1983.

1945 Joseph Pulitzer III, editor and publisher of the Post-Dispatch, wrote about his tour of the Nazi death camps. Pulitzer said at first, he thought the tales might have been exaggerated. But he wrote, "It is my grim duty to report that the descriptions of the horrors of this camp, one of many which have been and which will be uncovered by the Allied armies have been given less than the whole truth. They have been understated."

1949 Marjorie Toliver won her lawsuit to attend the St. Louis School Board's all-white Harris Teacher's College. She was currently attending the Board's Stowe Teacher's College for Negroes. The suit claimed that the board was not providing equal facilities. The Board would merge both facilities in 1954, as part of the effort to integrate the schools.

1953 Director of Public Safety Miles Dyer requested a ban on bottles at Busch Stadium (until recently known as Sportsmen's Park). The request came after a melee during a game between the Browns and the Yankees. Several Browns players had to escort the Yankees to the dugout as bottles rained down from the stands.

1955 Construction began on the new highway bridge over the Missouri River at St. Charles. The four-lane bridge was clogged with traffic soon after it opened. A second bridge was completed next to it in 1979, and both were named for Louis Blanchette, the founder of St. Charles.

1978 The Cardinals beat the Dodgers 1-0 in just one hour and 33 minutes, the shortest game in Busch Stadium history. It was the first game for new manager Ken Boyer. Both teams combined for just six hits and two walks.

1989 Paula Sims of Brighton claimed her six-week-old daughter Heather had been kidnapped. The body was found stuffed in a trashcan four days later. In June 1986, Sims had claimed that 12 day-old Lorelei had been kidnapped. She was found dead one week later. Paula Sims claimed post-partum depression drove her to kill and was convicted of first-degree murder. The best-selling book "Precious Victims" was written about the case, and became a television movie starring Richard Thomas of *The Waltons* fame.

1993 Paul McCartney returned to Busch Stadium for the first time since the Beatle's concert in 1966. It was a rainy night, just as in 1966, as Paul sang 35 songs, including 19 Beatles tunes. Wife Linda joined him onstage on his "New World Tour."

2007 Cardinals pitcher Josh Hancock died when his SUV slammed into the back of a tow truck working with a stalled car on Eastbound 40 near the Forest Park/Grand exit. It was later determined that Hancock had been drinking that night at Mike Shannon's restaurant and was talking on his cell phone when the accident occurred.