

## **August 4**

**1895** Plans were scrapped for a \$7 million elevated rapid transit line in St. Louis. The plan had called for trains to run north and south between the Eads Bridge and the city limits. The plans were abandoned after two impartial engineers reported that St. Louis had better roads than any city in the world, enough to take care of all present and future transportation needs.

**1915** Luke Easter was born in Jonestown, Mississippi. But Luke always told his fans he was born in St. Louis. His family did move here in 1924, and Luke learned to hit by swinging a broomstick at bottle caps. Cleveland signed the Negro League star in 1949, making him the first African-American from St. Louis to play in the Major Leagues. Easter was working as a bank messenger in Cleveland, when he was killed in a robbery on May 29, 1979

**1921** The Governor of Missouri signed the Centennial Road Law, authorizing the construction of the modern system of Missouri roadways. The bill has been called one of the most important pieces of highway legislation ever enacted.

**1945** McDonnell Aircraft announced it was moving from its scattered facilities to the huge complex at Lambert Field that had been occupied by Curtiss-Wright during the war. McDonnell was expanding rapidly, just six years after it was founded.

**1947** Construction began on a \$9 million bridge linking Third and Franklin in St. Louis with Third and Missouri in East St. Louis. The "Veteran's Bridge" opened in 1951. The bridge was named in honor of Martin Luther King in 1972.

**1952** It was announced that there would be no pro hockey here in 1953. Emory Jones, owner of the St. Louis Flyers of the AHL, asked the league for a one-year suspension of the St. Louis franchise. He cited dwindling crowds and the inability of the franchise to get good players to come here.

**1954** Richmond Heights Mayor Lee Dugan was leading the opposition to the proposed extension of the Daniel Boone Expressway eastward from its current dead-end at Brentwood Boulevard. He told the county council the proposal was a disaster, threatening 200 homes and several schools. Councilmen told the mayor they would not approve the plan until Richmond Heights had every opportunity to fight it.

**1955** The owners of the Washington University Cyclotron were seeking a new dumping ground for the radioactive waste. For the past ten years, the waste has been dumped "at a safe 20 feet underground" in the backyard of Chancellor Ethan Shepley.

**1961** President Kennedy signed a bill that assured construction of the Gateway Arch. Completion was scheduled for January 1964, in time for the St. Louis bicentennial celebration.

**1961** The *Globe-Democrat* reported that Gaslight Square was becoming a well-known tourist destination. The article cited restaurants such as Le Quartier Francaise, Marty's and the Golden Eagle Saloon, where hot tuba player Singleton Palmer was appearing.

**1965** A spectacular fire wiped out two city blocks just west of the stadium construction project, and for a time threatened the Busch Stadium construction project. The blaze began in the Shapleigh Hardware buildings, part of the Cupples Complex. Eight buildings, including five big warehouses, were destroyed. Weary firemen managed to keep the fire from spreading to the new stadium, but construction was delayed for a week.

**1968** The ten-foot tall bronze statue of Stan Musial in front of Busch Stadium was dedicated. When Stan retired, Commissioner Ford Frick said: "Here stands baseball's perfect warrior. Here stands baseball's perfect knight." The quote is inscribed on the pedestal of the statue where hundreds of fans meet before each game. Stan later said the statue by Carl Morse showed him in "too straight a stance."

**1968** Dan Kelly was officially named as broadcaster for all Blues broadcasts on KMOX. During the Blues first season, Jack Buck had called many of their games. Blues coach Scotty Bowman urged owner Sid Salomon Junior to hire Kelly from Ottawa. Dan Kelly died of cancer on February 10, 1989 and was named to the Hockey Hall of Fame on October 3, 1989.

**1971** Bob Gibson notched his 200<sup>th</sup> career win with a fourth straight complete game, a 7-2 gem against Gaylord Perry and the San Francisco Giants at Busch Stadium. He became only the second Cardinal to record 200 wins, following Jessie "Pop" Haines in 1937.

**1974** Two people were killed, 19 injured, at St. Louis International Raceway. A racecar driven by Bill Bagshaw went out of control and flipped over the guardrail into the bleachers.

**1993** The motion picture *King of the Hill* premiered in St. Louis. The film was based on A.E. Hotchner's 1972 memoir about growing up here during the depression. It was filmed almost entirely in St. Louis in July 1992. *King of the Hill* was the third film for director Steven Soderbergh, who rose to fame with *Sex, Lies and Videotape*.

**1997** Ceremonies in Berkeley marked the launch of the new Boeing, following the buyout of McDonnell-Douglas. Boeing CEO Phil Condit said the military aircraft operations and the missiles systems would be headquartered in St. Louis.

**1997-** Over 180,000 wooden pallets burned in a general alarm fire at the Missouri Recycling Plant in Fenton. Two firemen were slightly injured. Damage was put at over \$1 million.

**2003** When the doors to the gas chamber at the city pound swung open, six dogs inside were dead. But a 30-pound Basenji mix somehow survived. The dog dubbed Quentin,

after the infamous San Quentin prison in California, made national headlines. Quentin went on to star in a campaign to raise awareness about the millions of strays that are euthanized each year.

**2004** The Cardinals announced that the new ballpark would retain the name Busch Stadium. The new stadium will be the Cardinals third home since Sportsmen's Park opened in 1920. Sportsman's was renamed Busch Stadium after Anheuser-Busch purchased the Redbirds in 1953. The current Busch Stadium opened in 1966.

**2005** The Cardinals stunned fans by announcing that the radio broadcasts would move from long-time home KMOX to KTRS, 550 AM, beginning in 2006. The team purchased a 50 percent share in KTRS.