

## August 5

**1811** William Greenleaf Eliot was born in Massachusetts. He founded the first Unitarian congregation here. In 1853, Eliot and Wayman Crow co-founded Eliot Seminary, which later became Washington University. He served as chancellor from 1872 until his death in 1887. Poet T.S. Eliot was his grandson.

**1861** Missouri's pro-southern governor issued a declaration of independence. Claiborne Jackson declared that the state was a sovereign republic, not only of the union, but a nation itself. Jackson had taken the state militia to fight for the Confederacy. He would set up a rebel legislature in Neosho.

**1900** The Post reported on one of the first auto accidents in St. Louis. A speeding car was racing against other autos on Clayton Road when it nearly collided with a wagon driven by the St. Louis County Coroner. The auto ended up in a ditch, but “the occupants of the machine” were not hurt.

**1919** The production committee of the St. Louis Municipal Opera voted to make itself permanent. It marked the first step towards making the Muny an established institution. The Muny was founded in June of 1919, and presented six productions that year.

**1931** "Sunny" Jim Bottomley of the Cardinals hit safely six times in six at-bats in game two of a doubleheader against the Pirates. Sunny Jim also had four hits in the opener, giving him ten for the day.

**1936** The first major air disaster in St. Louis. The Chicago and Southwestern airliner *City of Memphis* crashed in heavy fog north of Lambert Field. Eight people were killed. The plane crashed in farmer George Behlmann's field, 300 yards east of Howdershell and a half-mile north of Utz.

**1938** The controversy over the art museum's \$14,000 Egyptian cat sculpture heated up. The *Star-Times* printed a picture of the statue under the photo of a homeless family living in Forest Park. The purchase was criticized because the city faced a \$3 million deficit.

**1952** The Board of Education agreed to appropriate \$75,000 for the first year of operation for an educational television station here. It said the station could be set up for \$175,000 and be operated for \$150,000 the first year.

**1966** The *Globe-Democrat* reported on security plans for the Beatles August 21st concert at Busch Stadium. Extra officers, a small army of private guards and five-foot-tall barricades were all part of the plans. Management at KXOK and WGNU said their stations would continue playing Beatles records, despite the controversy over John Lennon's remarks that the Beatles were more popular than Christ.

**1968** Roger Maris announced he would retire after the World Series if the Cardinals made it. That seemed pretty likely, as the birds were in first place by 14 games at the time. Maris later said the years he spent in St. Louis were the happiest of his career.

**1983** The northwest wall of the five-story Welsh Baby Carriage factory collapsed onto Interstate 55 during a violent thunderstorm. A woman was killed and two other people were injured as the rubble smashed a car that had pulled over onto the shoulder because of the poor visibility. The factory later housed “The Darkness” Haunted theme park during the Halloween season.

**1986** Ozzie Smith made what may have been the most spectacular play of his career. Von Hayes hit a fly to short center field. With his back to the plate, Smith made the catch as he flew parallel to the ground with his body completely stretched out.

**1989** Thirteen-year-old Gina Dawn Brooks disappeared while riding her bike near her Fredericktown home. Her body has never been found. In July of 1996, authorities ordered a quarry in Iron County drained in a vain attempt to find her remains. Convicted child rapist Nathan “Danny” Williams was charged in the case, but the charges were withdrawn in May 2003.

**1990** Janet Jackson collapsed backstage, just three songs into her concert at the Arena. A couple more shows on her tour were cancelled while she recovered from a combination of illness and exhaustion.

**1999** Mark McGwire became the 16th player in Major League history to hit 500 career home runs. Number 500 came in the third inning of a game at Busch Stadium. Number 500 was a 451-foot shot off Andy Ashby of the Padres.

**2000** The single “Country Grammar” by Nelly entered the Top 40.

**2001** The Cardinals scored 16 runs against the San Diego Padres, matching their all time record for runs at Busch Stadium in a single game. The Redbirds had also plated 16 on August 7, 1998 against the Cubs, May 9, 1996 against the Giants and on August 5, 1993 against the expansion Florida Marlins.

**2005** Albert Pujols smashed his 30<sup>th</sup> home run of the season, a two run shot off John Smoltz of the Braves at Busch Stadium. Albert became the first player to surpass 30 home runs in his first five seasons.