

August 8

1845 An ordinance established Lucas Market. The market ran down the middle of 12th Street from St. Charles to Market Street. That's why 12th Street is so wide today. When the marker was demolished in 1882, the street was simply widened to 150 feet.

1877 Browns catcher John Clapp was hit in the face with a foul tip. His replacement, Mike Morgan, donned a mask as he came into the game. This may have been the first use of a catcher's mask in the National League. (They had been used before in the International Association)

1884 Poet Sara Teasdale was born in St. Louis. She is considered one of the foremost lyrical poets of the 20th century. Two of her most well known poetry books are *Love Songs* and *Flame and Shadow*. In 1917, *Love Songs* won the Columbia Poetry Society of America Prize, the forerunner of the Pulitzer Prize.

1899 Bishop John Jansen excommunicated 700 members of St. Patrick's Church in East St. Louis for refusing to submit to ecclesiastical authority. Jansen had appointed a German-born priest to the parish. But upset Irish parishioners were guarding the church to make sure the new priest could not enter. The unprecedented church revolt ended in October, when Father John Sweeney was appointed instead.

1900 The United States and Britain started play in the first Davis Cup tennis competition, at Longwood Cricket Club in Brookline, MA. Dwight F. Davis of St. Louis donated the cup. Davis, who would become City Parks Commissioner, was a player on the winning U. S. team.

1901 American League President Ban Johnson announced that the junior circuit would place a team in St. Louis for the 1902 season. The Milwaukee franchise would be moved here. Johnson also announced the league was making a pitch to buy the Cardinals.

1904 An advertisement in *The Globe* said that Buster Brown and Tige were a big hit at the fair. Cartoonist Richard Outcault sold 200 licenses for his character in St. Louis. Brown Shoe Company was the biggest licensee. The firm sent midgets dressed like Buster Brown on the road accompanied by a dog. The midgets would sing, dance, tell jokes and sell shoes.

1921 The Board of Public Service okayed an \$8 million project to widen Market and Walnut Streets downtown. The plan would create a grand plaza opposite Union Station to "provide recreation and enjoyment for incoming visitors."

1921 Browns rookie Luke Stuart hit a home run in his first at bat, the first American League rookie to do it. The homer came off the great Walter Johnson. Stuart would only play two more games in the Major Leagues. He would end his career with that home run as his only hit.

1952 City officials approved a plan for a new, ultra-modern terminal building at Lambert Field. The plan called for huge glass paneled walls, in order to make for easy expansion. The terminal opened in 1956. Minoru Yamasaki designed the new terminal, which set a standard for airport design. Yamasaki also designed a more famous structure, The World Trade Center.

1954 Mayor Raymond Tucker announced a giant slum clearance project for the Mill Creek Valley. A 330-acre area between 20th Street, Grand Avenue, Olive Street and Scott Avenue was cleared so completely that the area was known as "Hiroshima Flats" before it was redeveloped. About 20,000 people, mostly African-American, were forced to re-locate. At least 800 businesses, churches and institutions were leveled.

1965 A National Guard plane crashed in Bridgeton, narrowly missing a house at 64-hundred Garrett, where a housewife was doing her ironing. The pilot bailed out at 750 feet, as the plane barely cleared I-270 before it hit.

1977 The bitter fight over the proposed Meramec Dam came to an end. Voters rejected the proposal in an unprecedented referendum on the issue. The dam at Sullivan would have created a 12,600-acre lake. The government had already bought or acquired 280,000 acres for the project.

1984 KSDK anchor and reporter Chris Condon resigned. He was a mainstay on Channel Five for 23 years. Condon quit after a man won a lawsuit against him and Channel Five in connection with an investigative report.

1985 The \$176 million St. Louis Centre Mall opened its doors. Bob Hope joined Mayor Vincent Scheomehl at the opening ceremonies. The dignitaries pointed to the nearly 100 percent occupancy rate as a sign of renewed optimism in the future of downtown. But today, the center is largely empty.

1989 Morris Shenker died at the age of 82. The most powerful criminal lawyer in St. Louis, Shenker represented James R. Hoffa and leading racketeers. He was also a powerful Democratic politician. He survived many investigations into his financial affairs. Shenker was also owner of the Dunes Casino, and was accused of using the Teamster's pension fund to finance the mob's ventures in Las Vegas.

1993 Residents of Lemay and South St. Louis were allowed to return to their homes. Thousands living near the River Des Peres were cleared out when the flood ripped several propane tanks from their retaining straps. Among the evacuees were elderly and sick residents of the Community Care Center of Lemay

1997 Mark McGwire made his Busch Stadium debut in a game against Philadelphia. He smashed a 441-foot home run off the left field foul pole at the Stadium Club level.

2000 St. Louis Police officer Robert Stanze was shot to death at St. Louis and Marcus. Stanze was shot while attempting to arrest a suspect in the shooting and wounding of a Berkeley police officer. Eddie Belk was charged with the murder.