August 15

1797 Revolutionary War veteran Captain James Piggott received a "perpetual" lease from Spanish Commandant Zenon Trudeau for his ferry between Cahokia and St. Louis. Back in the winter of 1792-93, Piggott and his sons constructed a few crude buildings on the site that would become the city of East St. Louis. The road from his ferry to Cahokia later became Piggott Avenue.

1846 Residents of St. Charles County filed a petition for a state road running from Howell's Ferry, opposite St. Louis County near where the Boone Bridge is now, to Flint Hill. Today, that Route is U.S. Highway 40/61.

1859 Charlie Comiskey was born in Chicago. "The Old Roman" played for the Browns from 1882 to 1891 and managed the team to four straight championships beginning in 1885. The first baseman was the first to play off the base. He is best remembered as owner of the Chicago White Sox, beginning with the founding of the American League until 1931. Comiskey was named to the Hall of Fame in 1939.

1902 Worlds Fair Company President David R. Francis met with a vacationing President Theodore Roosevelt at Oyster Bay, Long Island. Francis gave a report on progress of the construction at the fair, and foreign governments plans for participation. Roosevelt accepted an invitation to take part in the formal dedication ceremonies on April 30, 1903.

1904 Geronimo took part in Zach Mulhall's Wild West Show at the Delmar Race Track. The 76-year-old warrior was permitted to dress in the regalia of his glory days. It was reported that he lassoed a steer on the first attempt. The crowd applauded as Geronimo roped and tied the steer in a very short time.

1924 Phyllis Schlafly was born in St. Louis. She emerged as a national conservative leader in 1964, with her book *A Choice Not An Echo.* She is probably best known for her ten-year fight against the Equal Rights Amendment. Schlafly also ran for Congress and heads the Eagle Forum, a grassroots conservative organization.

1944 A study of the future airport needs of St. Louis was presented to a special advisory conference of the Metropolitan Plan Association. The report predicted the area would need four major airports and 32 smaller ones by 1960.

1945 St. Louis celebrated the news of the Japanese surrender into the morning hours. After the news was made official at six p.m. the night before, radios broadcast pleas for the bars to close, and most did. Streetcar traffic was halted east of 12th Street. Crowds danced in the streets as a band played at the celebration at the Soldier's Memorial, following a solemn speech by Mayor Kaufman and the playing of taps.

1945 The *Globe-Democrat* reported that fans could expect 31 members of the Cardinals and 26 players from the Browns to return to the diamond soon. Among the Cardinals in the service were, pitchers Johnny Beazley, Al Brazle, Murry Dickson, Howie Pollet and

Max Lanier. Outfielders Stan Musial, Terry Moore and Enos Slaughter were in the military along with catcher Walker Cooper.

1963 A week of racial tension and protest in East St. Louis peaked with the arrest of 110 Negroes during a demonstration at the First National Bank. Demonstrators were demanding the immediate hiring of 50 blacks by leading East St. Louis banks and savings and loan institutions. The banks eventually agreed to hire 20.

1963 Reverend Charles Dismas Clark, S.J., died at the age of 61. Known as "The Hoodlum Priest," He established Dismas House in 1959, as a halfway house for released convicts. He helped more than 2,000 make their return to society. His story was made into a motion picture.

1964 Crews were demolishing the Winter Garden on DeBaliviere between Forest Park and Delmar. Built in 1903 as a jai alai fronton for the World's Fair, it was converted to an ice rink in 1916. Two generations learned to skate at the Winter Garden. The building was torn down to make room for a shopping center.

1967 The tram carrying tourists from the top of the Arch got stuck, trapping 36 passengers in the north leg for about a 1 and ½ hours. Workers at the top winched the tram back up and got everybody out.

1976 Thirteen police officers and several other people were hurt during a riot at the Hill Day festivities. Rocks and bottles were thrown at officers as they tried to break up a fistfight. At least 30 people were arrested.

1980 St. Louis was sweltering under a killer heat wave that had begun back on June 23rd. At least 147 people died from the heat here. The death toll across 20 states was at 1,272. Damage to crops was set at about $12 billion.

2007 St. Louis police officer Norvelle Brown was shot to death while on patrol in the neighborhood near Sherman Park where he had grown up. The 22-year-old officer had graduated from the Police Academy just ten months earlier.