

August 16

1870 President Ulysses S. Grant was in town for a visit to the Merchant's Exchange. One of the first people to meet him when he arrived was a fellow who served notice that Grant was being sued for \$3,000 by one of his neighbors. The neighbor claimed one of Grant's horses had kicked and badly injured one of his.

1882 Flamboyant Brown Stockings president Chris von Der Ahe had touched off another controversy. Residents around Sportsmen's Park were upset after he set up a small fireworks factory on the grounds. Residents complained that the factory was too close to the stands. The city ordered it shut down

1917 His Mysterious Majesty himself, the Veiled Prophet, announced that the ball and parade would be cancelled this year. Through the Grand Oracle, the Prophet said that the funds would instead be used to aid U.S. soldiers. It marked the first time since 1878 that the gala had not taken place. The Prophet, whose identity was a closely guarded secret, said that festivities would be resumed after the war.

1921 Regular air-mail service began between St. Louis and Chicago. The first pilots flew the route from Aviation Field in Forest Park to Chicago. Their hangar today serves as the mounted police stables. Charles Lindbergh would later fly the mail between here and Chicago, but he never flew out of Forest Park.

1923 Lon Chaney was in St. Louis to promote his new movie, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. Also in town was Patsy Ruth Miller, "The famous St. Louis girl," who played a leading role as Esmerelda in the movie. She had also appeared with Rudolf Valentino in *The Sheik*.

1927 Colonel Charles Lindbergh returned to St. Louis for the second time since his epic flight. In stark contrast to the wild welcome in June, Lindbergh ordered that this visit should be a subdued affair. He agreed to only one public appearance, at a luncheon.

1946 Rainfall records that had stood for the entire 109-year history of the weather bureau here were being shattered by one torrential storm after another. The series of storms dumped 15 inches of rain in five days. Crop damage was in the millions of dollars in St. Louis County.

1956 Stan Musial doubled in an 8-0 Cardinal loss to Milwaukee to become the all-time National League extra base hit champion. His 1,071st extra base hit broke the record set by Mel Ott. Ott played 600 more games in his career.

1958 The new 3900 foot long highway bridge over the Missouri River at St. Charles was dedicated. Within two years, it was already jammed with traffic, and plans were in motion to build a new one. The second span was completed in 1979. Then both bridges were named for Louis Blanchette, the first settler of St. Charles. (The westbound bridge is the old one)

1960 A proposal for a massive, 73-acre shopping center at the U.S. 66 By-Pass and the St. Charles Rock Road was before the St. Louis County Planning Commission. The proposed "Northwest Plaza", would be the largest shopping center in the state.

1961 Work on the Arch began in earnest with the first blasting for the foundations. 220-pounds of dynamite were set off 16-feet underground near Memorial and Chestnut.

1965 A big day for St. Louis shoppers. Sears opened its brand new store at Northwest Plaza, the first unit to open at one of the largest shopping centers in the country.

1971 The largest crowd in the history of the Mississippi River Festival came out to SIU Edwardsville. More than 33,000 people saw The Who and Wishbone Ash. President Delyte Morris first organized the summer performing arts festivals in 1969 as a way to publicize SIU-E. Performers such as Bob Dylan, the Beach Boys, The Grateful Dead and Janis Joplin played there. The last one was held in 1980.

1976 The Big Red played a preseason game in Tokyo, the first NFL game ever played outside North America. The Cards beat the San Diego Chargers, 20-10.

1988 The Cardinals traded pitcher John Tudor to the Dodgers for first baseman Pedro Guerrero.

1992 Nick Price won the 74th PGA Championship, held at Bellerive Country Club. The tournament, St. Louis' first major since 1965, was blessed with huge galleries and unseasonably nice St. Louis weather.

1994 The St. Louis Vipers Roller Hockey team lost to the Tampa Bay Tritons, 7-6. The game was the final sporting event held in the Arena. A crowd of 12,249 saw the game.

1999 A spokesman for the President Casino on the *Admiral* reported that admissions were double the usual amount on the first day of open boarding. Gamblers were being allowed to come and go as they pleased on an experimental basis.

2000 Nearly three years after the \$313 million-dollar facility opened, the first passenger flights took off from Mid-America Airport. Pan American Airways began service to Chicago-Gary and Orlando-Sanford. The service was short-lived, and no airlines currently use Mid-America.