

## **August 19**

**1877** Several noted scientists expressed interest in recent reports of a "sea serpent" sighted in the Mississippi here. The beast was described as 30-feet-long with dark scales, a head like a dog, and a mouth like a pelican. The *Globe-Democrat* reported that the reports had come from "several individuals whose honesty and sobriety were beyond reproach."

**1882** Belleville was in an uproar after the mayor banned "street parades with music" on the Sabbath. The mayor ordered musicians arrested at a workingman's society parade. A near riot ensued. Violence was feared at the trial of the bandleader.

**1889** The *Globe-Democrat* reported that Deaconess Hospital had been established in a residence at 2119 Eugenia Street.

**1900** Oliver "Patsy" Tebeau resigned as manager of the Cardinals. They were mired in last place, despite owner Frank Robinson's "lavish" spending of \$20,000 on five players, including the great John McGraw. McGraw was offered the manager's job, and turned it down.

**1907** Governor Joseph Folk moved to oust the St. Louis County Sheriff and Prosecuting Attorney. He was upset at their failure to enforce the law requiring saloons to close on Sundays. Folk said that on a recent motor tour, he noticed that the law was "violated openly, notoriously and intolerantly."

**1926** Doctor Benjamin Duggar of the Missouri Botanical Garden startled the scientific community with the announcement that he had discovered a lower form of life than any known at the time. He blamed the "virus" for several diseases in the plant world and said further research might link them to diseases in the animal kingdom.

**1939** The *Globe-Democrat* reported that the riverboat under construction at the foot of Franklin Avenue was 95 percent complete. Shrouded in secrecy, it had become known as the "mystery ship." The streamlined five-deck steamer was being built for the Streckfuss Line.

**1951** Browns owner Bill Veeck sent 37" tall, 65-pound Eddie Gaedel in to pinch-hit for Frank Saucier against Detroit. Gaedel wore the number 1/8. He carried a toy bat, and was ordered not to swing. Detroit manager Red Rolfe protested, but Browns manager Zach Taylor pulled out a valid contract for \$100. As 18,369 fans looked on, pitcher Bob Cain walked Gaedel on four straight. American League President Will Harridge tried to remove Gaedel's appearance from all records, and then promptly banned midgets.

**1955** The shopping center billed as "The first auto age shopping center in the St. Louis area" opened for business. The Northland Center, at Lucas and Hunt and West Florissant, was located on what were then the fringes of suburbia.

**1955** The Cardinals signed 19-year-old pitcher Lindy McDaniel to a \$40,000 bonus contract. Lindy and his brother Von caused a sensation in 1957. Lindy won 15 games and Von won seven, after signing with the Cardinals right out of high school. Von hurt his arm the next season, and was through at age 19. Lindy went on to a successful career as a relief pitcher for several teams

**1964** Water from the source and the mouth of the Mississippi was mixed in with concrete poured into the South Leg of the Arch at the 300 foot-level. Crystal clear water from Itasca State Park in Minnesota was mixed with muddy water from the Chalmette National Historic Site, south of New Orleans. Engineers thought this would be the last concrete poured into the Arch.

**1965** Lou Brock stole his 49th base of the season, breaking a Cardinal record set by John Murray in 1908, and equaled in 1927 by Frankie Frisch.

**1965** The Missouri State Highway Commission ordered the "By-Pass 66" signs removed from Lindbergh in St. Louis County. I-270 was now complete from the Mississippi River to I-70. When 270 was completely finished, it was expected to carry traffic now using Lindbergh.

**1973** 50 People were hurt, six seriously, in a fireworks accident at the Hill Day Festivities. A dud skyrocket fell back into the fireworks, and they exploded amid a huge crowd at Berra park.

**1981** Developer Donald Breckenridge announced plans for what he called the first truly world-class hotel in the St. Louis area. The \$45 million, 12-story hotel was to be built near the southeast corner of Lambert Field.

**1998** Less than one hour after Sammy Sosa of the Cubs took the home run lead in the fifth inning, Mark McGwire tied it at Wrigley Field with his 48th home run of the season in the eighth inning. McGwire then belted a game-winning home run in the ninth.