

August 23

1876 William Dierberg was born in Creve Couer. He worked as a blacksmith before buying Creve Couer House, a general store and livery stable on Olive near Craig in 1911. That roadhouse would become the first Dierberg's Market.

1896 Former St. Louis mayor and Missouri governor, David Francis, was named Secretary of the Interior by President Cleveland. Francis is best remembered for the role he would later play as the driving force behind the Louisiana Purchase Exposition.

1897 The *Post-Dispatch* reported that several dancing girls had been arrested in a raid on "Dago Hill." The cops busted a dance at a saloon owned by Joseph Ghiglione, the "King of Dago Hill." The article described the area as a "queer community," where the traditions of the old country were preserved with great care. The neighborhood was described as "not a place for strangers."

1908 The cornerstone was laid for the magnificent, 300-thousand-dollar Coliseum. The building stood on the southeast corner of Jefferson and Washington. It hosted the Democratic National Convention in 1916 and many of the biggest names of the era before it was torn down in 1954.

1926 The Cardinals moved into first place for the first time, by a few percentage points over Pittsburgh. But the news was overshadowed by word from New York of the death of movie idol Rudolph Valentino.

1932 The Board of Public Service invited bids on the first unit of the new City Hospital for Blacks. Construction on the Homer G. Phillips Hospital for the Colored had been delayed for years by a controversy over where it should be built.

1933 Over 300,000 people marched in the largest parade in St. Louis history to that date. The parade was to show support for President Roosevelt's recovery program. Mayor Bernard F. Dickmann led the parade.

1938 Huge crowds turned out to welcome Douglas "wrong-way" Corrigan to town. The aviator visited the Curtiss-Robinson plant, where his plane was built in 1929. On July 17, 1938, Corrigan filed a flight plan from New York to California, but ended up in Ireland. He claimed his compass failed. But he made up the story to fool aviation authorities that had refused permission for a trans-Atlantic flight.

1953 Promoters announced that the first drive-in movie theater in the St. Louis city limits would be open by spring. Plans called for the "Broadway Drive-In" at Broadway and Chariton to hold 750 cars.

1954 Hundreds packed a meeting to protest the proposed extension of Highway 40 beyond its current dead end at Brentwood Boulevard. The plan called for the demolition of 252 homes and businesses in Richmond Heights.

1958 Teddy Nadler, a 47-year-old \$70 per week supply clerk from St. Louis, became the all-time TV quiz show winnings champion. He raked in \$252,000 on the CBS show "The \$64,000 Question." Nadler had an amazing ability to memorize facts that he read, but he repeatedly failed the civil service examination because he lacked reasoning skills.

1969 *American Bandstand* featured an appearance by the group Smith. Beautiful blue-eyed lead singer Gayle McCormick was born in St. Louis in 1949. Smith had a top five hit that summer with their re-working of the Shirelle's "Baby it's You." McCormick would reach the middle of the charts with a couple of solo singles, including the underrated "It's a Cryin' Shame" in 1971.

1971 On the first Monday rush following the opening of the new elevated section of Highway 40, police said about 70 percent of the traffic was still exiting at 20th Street, where the highway used to dead end. Some drivers were complaining about the sharp turn on the 11th Street exit, and the fact that it was on the left-hand side of the highway.

1990 Preliminary census figures showed that the population of St. Louis had fallen below 400,000 for the first time since the 1880's. The current population stood at 393,109, a loss of 60,000 since 1980. The population of St. Louis peaked at 856,756 in 1950.