

August 24

1833 Six years before the University of Missouri was established, the first college was founded in Columbia. (Today known as "College City, U.S.A ") A group of residents met to form The Columbia Female Academy to educate their daughters. The school closed in 1855.

1936 A thunderstorm brought a temporary end to 13 straight days of one hundred degree plus highs for St. Louis. 471 People died during the heat wave. The Mississippi fell a foot below zero level. The storms did not end the heat wave, as the highs still hit 98 and 99, then topped one hundred again three days later.

1944 The *Sporting News* reported that Commissioner Kenesaw Mountain Landis would not allow Browns broadcaster Dizzy Dean to announce the World Series. Landis called Dean an embarrassment to baseball and "unfit for a national broadcaster" for his use of the word "ain't." Diz said, "I ain't never met anybody that didn't know what ain't means."

1951 Brown's owner Bill Veeck pulled another of his crazy PR stunts. On "Fan Manager's Night," a crowd of 1,115 fans at Sportsmen's Park voted "Yes" or "No" on plays held up by the Brownies coaches on placards. Two fans sat behind manager Zack Taylor to keep an eye on the voting. "The Clown Prince of Baseball," Max Patkin, served as first base coach. The Browns beat the A's 5-3. A's GM Art Ehlert condemned the game as "farfical."

1951 Mayor Darst cut the ribbon as the landmark South Town Famous-Barr opened at the corner of City Route 66 (Chippewa) and Kingshighway. The distinctive building was torn down in 1995 to make room for a Builder's Square that was never built. The land still stands vacant today.

1958 Testimony was underway before the Senate Rackets Committee investigating corruption in the St. Louis Teamsters Union. The Senators heard witnesses accuse Harold Gibbons of goon tactics and terrorism. The committee was focusing on his disputed election as head of the local and his rapid rise to vice-president of the international union.

1960 Mayor Raymond Tucker helped break ground for the new planetarium in Forest Park. The planetarium was constructed on the site of the old mounted police stables.

1965 The huge "PDM" letters on the stabilizing strut between the legs of the Arch were removed, ending a dispute between the National Park Service and Pittsburgh-Des Moines Steel. The Park Service claimed the letters were an advertisement for the prime contractor on the job.

1965 Ground was broken for one of the Illinois approaches to the Poplar Street Bridge. The \$8 million project would provide an elevated approach to the bridge from Trendley

in East St. Louis. The cost of constructing the maze of approaches on the Illinois side was put at \$30 million.

1966 A group of Gaslight Square businessmen spoke out about the future of the entertainment district. The area was facing an onslaught of teenagers and motorcycle gangs. One owner said, "The beatniks that used to be around here were creative and added to the flavor of the square. Now they're just plain bums as far as I can see."

1973 The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development announced that the notorious Pruitt-Igoe housing project would be torn down. The 350 families still living in a handful of the 33 high-rise buildings would be relocated.

1979 President Jimmy Carter arrived in St. Louis aboard the *Delta Queen*. He spoke to a crowd at the Arch before heading to the Airport Hilton for a reception. Also that day, Bill Bund of Alton became the ten millionth person to take the tram to the top of the Gateway Arch. The unique tram system opened in 1967, two years after the Arch was completed.

1981 U.S. District Judge William Hungate ordered 18 St. Louis County school districts to develop an inter-district school desegregation plan. He named County Supervisor Gene McNary and the school districts as defendants in the nine-and-one-half-year-old city desegregation lawsuit.

1984 President Ronald Reagan signed a bill extending the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial onto the East St. Louis riverfront. You can see how much good that did.

2003 Former KMOX-TV reporter Herb Humphries died of heart failure and diabetes at his home in Texas. He worked at Channel Four from 1974 to 1994. A year after he retired to a fishing hole in East Texas, the "Nightside" reporter with his Texas drawl and cowboy hat still finished 6th in a poll asking St. Louisans to name their favorite reporter.