

August 26

1831 Major Thomas Biddle and Congressman Spencer Pettis met in a duel on Bloody Island. (Now part of the East St. Louis riverfront) The duel stemmed from remarks Pettis made about Biddle's brother during his campaign for re-election to the House. As the word was given, Pettis ducked and fired. But both men fell mortally wounded. A county in Missouri is named in Pettis' honor.

1853 Al Spink was born in Quebec. Spink would become involved in the St. Louis sports scene while working for the *Post-Dispatch*. He helped found the St. Louis Browns and named Sportsmen's Park. On March 17, 1886, he published the first issue of his new publication, *The Sporting News*.

1856 In the last political duel in Missouri fought with firearms, Benjamin Gratz Brown, editor of the *Missouri Democrat* was wounded by Thomas Reynolds on Bloody Island. Brown would later become Governor, a Senator and a vice-presidential candidate. Reynolds would become Lieutenant Governor in exile after trying to get Missouri to secede from the Union.

1873 The School Board voted to accept the offer of Miss Susan Blow to establish a kindergarten at Des Peres School in St. Louis. It was the first kindergarten in the United States. Miss Mary Timberlake became the first kindergarten teacher in America.

1901 The director of the Smithsonian, W.G. McGee, announced he had been given the go-ahead for "The most gigantic undertaking of science on record." His project would assemble the most marvelous of the world's inhabitants at the fair in St. Louis. He said he would gather groups of "Every tribe of barbarians and semi-civilized people" from around the globe to bring to the fair.

1902 A report in the *Globe-Democrat* on city improvements being made for the fair said "A wonder is being wrought on Kingshighway." The dirt road had been a scar on the fine homes that lined it, but was now being transformed into a road of "magnificent length and stately proportions."

1904 Mayor Edward Paule said even the bars and undertaking establishments in his city were closed. It was St. Charles Day at the fair. Over 6,000 St. Charles residents attended, many arriving on special Wabash Railroad trains. That was about 2/3 of the population. There was a big parade and a special program at the Missouri Building.

1930 The new DePaul Hospital in St. Louis opened, and Mullanphy hospital closed. Mullanphy was a descendant of the very first hospital west of the Mississippi, operated by the Sisters of Charity on land donated by John Mullanphy in 1828.

1950 Ground was broken for the brand-new, 500-bed, \$7 million veteran's hospital in Vandeventer Place. In a letter read at the ceremony, President Truman suggested it be named for the late St. Louis Congressman, John J. Cochran. Vandeventer Place was once

the most exclusive neighborhood in St. Louis. The stately mansions in the eastern half of the place were torn down to make room for the hospital.

1950 The first Ozark Airlines flight took off from St. Louis with one person aboard. No one boarded at the first stop at Springfield, one boarded at Decatur and none boarded at Champaign. Over 49,000 flew Ozark in 1951. The familiar green and white planes disappeared when TWA bought Ozark in 1987.

1954 Over a century after his death, the remains of Bishop Rosati were brought to the Old Cathedral. The first Bishop of St. Louis died while on the way home from France in 1843. He was buried in Rome for 111 years.

1970 A group of 65 supporters of the Equal Rights Amendment marched downtown as part of a national "Strike for Equality." They were outnumbered by a group of counter-demonstrators.

1974 Charles Lindbergh died of lymphatic cancer in Hawaii at the age of 72. Lindbergh spent the final years of his life in seclusion on Maui. His funeral services were private, and held in the tiny Palapala Ho'omau Church. Lindbergh spent the latter part of his life working for wildlife and environmental causes.

1977 Seven years of headaches for St. Louis motorists began, as work got underway on the \$30 million, double-deck, Vandeventer Overpass on Highway 40. The overpass had been dubbed "The world's longest high rise parking lot" since shortly after it had opened some 20 years earlier.

1978 Busch Stadium was nearly sold out for the Super Jam '78 concert. Bob Welch, Eddie Money, Angel, Blue Oyster Cult and Styx performed.

1981 Garry Templeton was fined and suspended indefinitely by Whitey Herzog after he flipped fans the bird when they booed his lack of hustle. After two more gestures later in the game at Busch, he was kicked out. Whitey pulled him into the dugout and the two scuffled. Templeton was soon on his way to San Diego for a fellow named Ozzie Smith.

1982 Pride of St. Louis ReDevelopment announced a compromise plan between two rival developers for the controversial Gateway Mall project. The plan called for the demolition of the Title Guaranty, Buder and International Buildings.

1998 Mark McGwire became the third player in major league history, and the first National League player since Ralph Kiner in 1949, to hit as many as 54 home runs in a season. He smashed a 509-foot shot off the hitter's backdrop against Florida.

2005 Much of the Cardinals front office staff moved out of Busch Stadium, allowing crews to begin preparations for demolition at the end of the season. Workers began "environmental remediation" work on the site. The ticket department and stadium operations employees were still at Busch.