

August 31

1793 Louis Blanchette died. In 1769, the French fur trapper and trader known as "Le Chasseur" (the hunter) established a trading post on the Missouri River. He called the settlement "Les Petite Cotes," or Village of the Little Hills. He became commandant under Spanish rule and the town was called San Carlos, after King Carlos of Spain. The name was anglicized to St. Charles following the Louisiana Purchase.

1861 The entire state of Missouri was placed under martial law by the Commanding General of the Army of the West, Major General John C. Fremont. Under the order, anyone found armed north of the Union lines from Leavenworth to Cape Girardeau could be shot. President Lincoln said Fremont didn't have the authority to shoot anyone, and ordered him to amend the order. Fremont refused, and was removed from command.

1872 A group of property owners sued real estate promoter Hiram Leffingwell and the others instrumental in proposing the 3,000 acre "Forest Park." Landowners such as Thomas Skinker, Robert Forsythe and Charles Cabanne said the park would destroy the value of the little land they would have left.

1889 Business in St. Louis came to a halt, and thousands lined the streets for the funeral of Henry Shaw. His body was placed in a mausoleum he had ordered built years before at his botanical gardens.

1903 U.S. Treasury Secretary Leslie Shaw arrived in St. Louis to turn over the government's \$5 million share of money for the world's fair. Shaw inspected the grounds and the buildings and declared that the fair was sure to be the finest the world had ever seen.

1908 The *Globe-Democrat* reported on the success of a speed trap set up at Altheim, three miles west of Manchester. Twelve motorists were nabbed for exceeding the speed limit of 20 miles per hour. The farmers of the area had asked for the help in nabbing the "speed maniacs."

1927 In the wake of Mayor Victor Miller's announcement that the city couldn't afford to buy Albert Bond Lambert's flying field in Bridgeton, businessman and aviation enthusiast Albert van Hoffman offered to advance the city the \$60,000 dollars asking price. He stipulated that the property should revert to him if he was not reimbursed.

1931 Nicholas Bell died. Forest Park is his legacy. The state lawmaker risked his career to introduce a bill in March 1872 that set aside 2700 acres from the park. Critics said the land was too far away to be anything other than a playground for the rich. Property owners demanded his resignation at a mass meeting.

1934 Samuel Greenland, operations manager of the Public Service Company, announced that the remnants of the old amusement park at Creve Coeur Lake would be torn down. The United Railways Company developed the park at the end of the trolley line in 1881.

The landmark 255-foot tall tower at the site would also be demolished. Part of the trolley line would be paved over and is now Midland Boulevard.

1944 Two Army officers were killed when a training plane from Scott Field crashed into the rear of a home at 3106 Easton. The impact was so severe, the motor and propeller from the plane was buried in an eight-foot-deep crater.

1952 The St. Louis summer heat played havoc with what was to have been the largest parade in city history. The parade was the highlight of the American Legion convention here. 100,000 marchers were ready to go, but 15,000 people and 50 units dropped out because of the heat. Two legionnaires died and hundreds were treated for heat-related illness.

1956 Over 125,000 people jammed the downtown streets for a parade and fireworks marking the dedication of the "Mid-America Jubilee." The month-long, 37-acre exhibition on the riverfront was billed as the biggest show in St. Louis since the 1904 World's Fair.

1959 KMOX moved into new studios at Hampton and Wise. At the time, it was the most modern radio facility in the country. It was the first new radio facility built by CBS in 20 years. (The building is still there)

1972 Mayor Cervantes unveiled a proposal to a three-point-one-mile stretch of the River des Peres into a concrete lined boating and recreation area. The \$14 million plan called for a green belt between Lansdowne and Morganford. Cervantes said it was "one of the most unusual and unique plans ever imagined for the city." The public ridiculed the plan as the "River Des Peres Yacht Club."

1992 City Prosecutor George Peach resigned. Peach had cracked down hard on vice, but was arrested in a prostitution sting at a hotel near Lambert Field on March 10, 1992. Using the alias "Larry Johnson" Peach spent thousands on call girls, charging some of the bills to tax payers. City police were investigating allegations that Peach had also stolen donations intended for victims of crime.

1995 The new football stadium downtown was officially named the Trans World Dome.