

December 1

1746 Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi was born in Switzerland. His theories laid the groundwork for modern education of children, including stressing individualism and concepts such as the field trip and grade levels. He is better remembered in St. Louis because there is a brewery located on a street named in his honor.

1789 William Carr Lane was born in Fayette County, Pennsylvania. He was elected as the first mayor of St. Louis in 1823, and was re-elected to five consecutive one-year terms. In 1837, he was elected to fill an un-expired term as mayor. The voters re-elected him two more times. During his administration, the first streets were paved, the first town hall was constructed and the city seal adopted.

1850 Isaac Taylor was born in Nashville, Tennessee. He studied at St. Louis University before joining the architectural firm of George Barnett. Taylor was the chief architect and director of works for the Louisiana Purchase Exposition of 1904. He also designed the Jefferson Memorial, the Third Baptist Church at Grand and Washington, the Merchandise Mart Building on Washington and the Edison Brothers headquarters.

1875 President Grant okayed the request of his personal secretary, General Orville Babcock, for a Court of Inquiry to look into charges that Babcock was involved in the unfolding "Whiskey Ring" scandal here. Lieutenant General Philip Sheridan was named to head the military court.

1904 The greatest period in St. Louis history came to an end, as the world's fair closed. A crowd of 100,000 watched as David Francis, president of the exposition, said "Farewell to all thy splendor," and threw the switch. The band played "Auld Lang Syne" as the lights went down. More than 20 million people had seen the fair.

1917 Marty Marion was born in Richburg, South Carolina. He was the premiere shortstop of his day. Marion played on three Cardinal World Championship teams. He managed the Cardinals in 1951 and the Browns in 1953.

1926 Prohibition agents announced the seizure of the largest illegal distillery ever uncovered here. Five people were arrested just as they were putting the finishing touches on a \$50,000 plant. It took up three floors of a warehouse at First and Carr.

1929 The Village of Huntleigh was incorporated. It was established after August Busch Junior founded the Bridlespur Hunt Club. Today, the 323 Huntleigh residents have an average annual per capita income of \$200,000. That's the highest in the area, beating out poor Ladue by \$60,000. The residents include names such as Busch, Sansone and Auffenberg.

1948 The University of Missouri Board of Curators recommended that blacks be admitted to state-supported colleges "In those divisions and curricula where instruction of equivalent character is not afforded by Lincoln University."

1950 Mayor Darst announced the creation of the Urban Redevelopment Corporation. It would be charged with directing the \$50 million slum clearance and middle-income housing plan that would change the face of St. Louis forever.

1956 Robert Earl Hughes, the largest man alive at 1,041 pounds, was shipped air freight from St. Louis to New York. He was on his way from his home in Hannibal to a TV appearance. His 122-inch waist would not fit through the cabin door of a regular airliner. Hughes weighed 1,069 pounds when officially recognized by *The Guinness Book of World's Records*. He died in 1958.

1958 "Phil the Gorilla," one of the largest gorillas on record and a beloved resident of the St. Louis Zoo since 1941, died of ulcerative colitis. Zoo employees took Phil to the city scales in a truck. The truck was weighed with Phil, then without him. They calculated Phil's weight at 776 pounds. Schwarz Studios stuffed Phil, and he stands today in the Safari Shop near the South Gate of the Zoo.

1963 Work was halted on the Arch while engineers solved several tricky problems. The hardest one to tackle was a plan to pry the two legs of the Arch apart when the final section was inserted. The engineers were worried that the pressure would damage the structure.

1964 The latest British Invasion band to come to the U.S. made their first concert appearance in St. Louis. The Dave Clark Five played the Arena. Chuck Berry opened the show.

1967 The Missouri Pacific Railroad asked regulators for permission to end its last passenger service between St. Louis and Kansas City. If regulators granted all the pending requests to end service, just 17 trains would serve Union Station daily.

1972 The Highway Department announced a program of construction on I-70 in conjunction with plans to build a new bridge into St. Charles. The plan included a new interchange at Zumbahl.

1972 Only one theatre now remained open in the once thriving Grand Avenue theatre district. Leow's Mid-City closed its doors, leaving only the Fox Theatre. The Leow's opened in 1925 as the Shubert Rialto. It served as the home of the American Theatre from 1950 to 1961.

1979 The new I-70 bridge into St. Charles opened. The new bridge was built next to one that opened in 1958, and had been clogged with traffic from the start. Both bridges were then named after Louis Blanchette, the first settler of St. Charles. The westbound span is the old one.

1982 Russell Bliss said publicity over his handling of dioxin-tainted oil was forcing him out of the waste-oil business. Bliss said he didn't know the oil was contaminated when he sprayed it on the streets of Times Beach to keep the dust down.

1993 Parents in the St. Louis area were terrified that a serial killer might be preying on young children. Just days after Angie Houseman of St. Ann was found murdered, the body of ten-year-old Cassidy Senter was found in an alley in North St. Louis. Thomas Brooks Junior would be charged with killing Cassidy in February of 1994. He died of AIDS in prison in 2000. The Houseman case remains unsolved.

1993 The first car rolled off the line at the new General Motors Plant in Wentzville. The first vehicle built there was a Buick Electra.

1999 Someone made off with the second sign on I-55 recognizing the Klan's participation in the Adopt-a-Highway Program. The signs had gone up under a judges order on November 30th.

2004 The nation's first female poet laureate, Mona Van Duyn, died at her home in University City at the age of 83. She won the 1991 Pulitzer Prize for poetry with *Near Changes* and was named poet laureate in 1992. She was born in Eldora, Mississippi and came to St. Louis in 1950.