

December 10

1803 John Fletcher Darby was born. The fourth mayor of St. Louis, he was re-elected four times. He organized the first railroad convention held in Missouri. He pushed for the establishment of Lafayette Park, the first in the city. He was later elected to the State Senate, and then to the U.S. Congress.

1873 Construction superintendent Theodore Cooper became the first person to cross the Eads Bridge. In a hurry to cross, he had workmen throw narrow planks across the two remaining gaps, one 12-feet wide, and the other 24-feet across. As the stunned workmen watched, he nonchalantly crossed, 90 feet above the river.

1895 St. Louis was selected as the site of the 1896 Republican National Convention, to be held in June. Within days of the announcement, every hotel in the city was booked solid. City officials called for owners of boarding houses and homeowners with extra rooms to make them available.

1904 Washington University officials spoke out against a plan to establish "The Pike" on the World's Fair grounds as a permanent amusement park. In the *Globe-Democrat*, they expressed the hope that the city might one day see the area north of Forest Park "filled with the homes of multimillionaires" and an atmosphere of "solitude and gentility."

1908 The St. Louis Police Department received the first electric patrol car. The "speed buggy" was manufactured by Studebaker, cost \$3,000, and was capable of hitting 60 miles-per-hour.

1928 The streets of St. Louis got a little brighter. Once gaslights had become obsolete, the downtown area was lit with arc lights, a primitive light that sputtered and gave off long, dark shadows. On this date, the brand new incandescent electric lights came on.

1929 City officials were hailing "a great step towards placing St. Louis in its rightful place on the aviation map." The federal government had approved the first direct airmail service between St. Louis and New York City, scheduled to start July 1st.

1931 A huge crowd turned out for a performance by Duke Ellington and his orchestra at the Hotel Coronado. The \$2 admission charge was donated to unemployment relief. The *Globe-Democrat* said the audience was treated to "the bluest melodies that have been heard in St. Louis in years."

1932 The St. Louis School Board was blaming the depression for overcrowding in the schools. Officials said students who normally would not attend classes were staying in school because they couldn't find jobs. The board was considering a "branch" high school in an empty grade school building at 19th and Franklin.

1933 A crowd of 4,000 cheered as the cornerstone was laid for the new Homer G. Phillips Hospital for the Colored. The \$2,285,000 facility at St. Ferdinand and Whittier

opened in 1937. The hospital was named for the St. Louis attorney who crusaded for its construction before he was murdered. "Homer G" closed amid much controversy in 1979.

1941 Former Republican presidential nominee Wendell Wilkie addressed a huge patriotic rally at Kiel. The "It's Fun to Be Free" rally had been scheduled prior to Pearl Harbor. Burgess Meredith served as emcee, and the star-studded line-up included Rita Hayworth and Humphrey Bogart.

1951 The Cardinals traded Max Lanier and Chuck Diering to the Giants for Eddie Stanky. Stanky was signed as a player-manager. He replaced Marty Marion, who had recently been signed by the Browns.

1962 St. Louis County officials announced the county had paid Sidney Salomon Junior \$135,000 for his 73-acre Suson Farm. Plans called for the site to be opened as a park the following summer.

1972 The longest non-scoring pass in NFL history was made as Jim Hart of the Cardinals passed from his own one-yard-line to Bobby Moore, known now as Ahmad Rashad, who was tackled on the Los Angeles Rams' one-yard-line. The pass officially went for 98 yards.

1979 The Blues named Red Berenson as coach. Berenson replaced Barclay Plager, who had resigned for health reasons. Berenson would serve as coach until March 8, 1982.

1985 The Cardinals traded hot tempered pitcher Joaquin Andujar to Oakland. "One Tough Dominican" went to the A's for Mike Heath and Tim Conroy. Andujar blew his stack and charged umpire Don Denkinger in the Game Seven of the 1985 World Series.

1998 The Mayor of Town and Country came up with a compromise plan to relocate part of the booming deer population in the well-to-do suburb. The Board of Aldermen had ignited a controversy when they voted to shoot hundreds of deer.