

December 11

1748 Jean Baptiste Truteau was born. He was the first schoolmaster in St. Louis, but is better remembered for writing the first poem in what is now Missouri. It was a poem about the British and Indian attack on St. Louis in 1780. The poem was actually a scathing attack on the Spanish Lieutenant Governor, accusing him of cowardice during the attack.

1818 Franklin County was organized from St. Louis County and named after Benjamin Franklin.

1862 William Marion Reedy was born in St. Louis. For nearly 25 years, he was one of the leading figures of American literature. Through his "Reedy's Mirror" publication, he discovered or was instrumental in exposing such writers as Zoe Adkins, Sara Tesdale and Carl Sandburg.

1876 Property owners were up in arms over a proposal before the city council to improve the condition of city streets. The plan called for all streets to be reconstructed with granite blocks. The cost would be borne entirely by the homeowners.

1897 Indignant homeowners packed a public hearing on a proposed street car line into the most desirable streets of the West End. The residents along Cabanne, Delmar, Fountain and McPherson said the line would ruin the neighborhood.

1902 John H. Schettler became the ninth city official to be convicted in connection with the "boodle" scandals resulting from the sale of city streetcar franchises. Schettler said he felt no ill will towards crusading Circuit Attorney Joseph Folk. His only regret was "ever having run for office in the first place."

1925 The Department of Commerce assigned the call letters "KMOX" to the station sought by a group of civic and business leaders. The "Voice of St. Louis" group had asked for the call letters "KMO." Those calls were already assigned. Kirkwood Mayor RL Jacobsmeyer said the calls stood for "Kirkwood, Missouri's Christmas Gift to the World." The first transmitter was located in Kirkwood, and KMOX would begin broadcasting on December 24, 1925.

1930 A proposal to re-name Denny Road in honor of Charles Lindbergh was drawing some criticism. Opponents said Lindbergh had only lived here a short time, and never owned a foot of land in the county.

1941 Robert H. Westbrook became the first St. Louisan reported killed in action during World War Two. He was killed at Hickam Field, near Pearl Harbor, on December 7th.

1941 Cardinals fans were stunned as the Redbirds dealt first baseman Johnny Mize to the Giants. The Birds picked up catcher Jim O'Dea, pitcher Bill Lohrman and first baseman John McCarthy in return for the "Big Cat."

1948 The first “Steak and Shake” restaurant in St. Louis opened at 6622 Highway 66. It was the 26th restaurant in the chain founded in 1934 by A.H. Belt in Bloomington, Illinois. The chain planned to open six more restaurants in St. Louis.

1954 The first locally-originated color television show here aired over KSD-TV, Channel Five. The show was a 15-minute documentary on St. Louis produced for the Chamber of Commerce.

1951 The Cardinals traded pitcher Max Lanier and outfielder Chuck Diering to the Yankees for Eddie Stanky. Cards owner Fred Saigh named Stanky as manager for the 1952 season. The often-intense Stanky would manage the club until May 28, 1955.

1957 The St. Louis County Council cleared the way for the proposed 50-million-dollar Chrysler Assembly Plant on Highway 66. The Council voted to change the zoning of the 250-acre site to industrial from single-family residential.

1959 “Sunny Jim” Bottomley died of a heart attack at the age of 59. A Cardinal from 1922-1932, he was named National League MVP in 1929. He played on the first four St. Louis Cardinal world championship teams.

1980 The Veiled Prophet organization announced plans for the first “V-P Fair.” It was to be held on the Gateway Arch grounds July 3rd through the 5th. Fair General Chairman Robert Hermann promised the biggest fireworks display ever seen in St. Louis, along with big name entertainment and spectacular air shows.

1996 A newborn boy was found by a passer-by in a trash dumpster in South St. Louis. The staff at Cardinal-Glennon Hospital named him “Baby Nicholas.” It was later discovered that his mother had seven other children taken away because of abuse.