

December 14

1763 Joseph Conway was born in Virginia. Indians scalped Conway when he was a teenager on the Kentucky frontier. He survived four years in captivity and became a renowned Indian fighter. *Ripley's Believe it or Not* says Conway was tomahawked three times, shot three times and left for dead three times. He settled in St. Louis County in 1796. Conway Road led to his home in what is now Chesterfield.

1792 Missouri's sixth governor was born. Lilburn Bogg's term was tempestuous. Boggs threatened to exterminate the Mormons if they wouldn't leave the state. He almost went to war with Iowa over a border dispute, and survived an attempted assassination.

1818 Lincoln, Montgomery and Pike Counties were organized from St. Charles County. Lincoln was named for Revolutionary War General Benjamin Lincoln. Montgomery was named after a former Redcoat who fought for the Americans during the Revolution. Pike County was named for explorer Zebulon Pike.

1820 David Barton was born in Green County, TN. He moved to St. Louis in 1812, and became one of the six delegates that framed Missouri's first constitution. Upon statehood, Barton was elected as the first Senator from Missouri. When the Legislature could not decide on a second senator, Barton was allowed to choose. He picked Thomas Hart Benton.

1822 The Missouri General Assembly authorized a commission to select a site for a courthouse. They would choose a site offered by John Lucas and Auguste Chouteau on Forth Street. At the time, the public whipping post occupied the site where the Old Courthouse now stands.

1896 James Doolittle was born in Alameda, California. He came to St. Louis in 1930, to manage the Shell Oil Company's Aviation Department. Doolittle quickly dominated the aviation-racing world and set a new transcontinental record in 1931. In 1942, Doolittle led the first United States bombing raid on Tokyo. The town of Centreville in Phelps County, Missouri was renamed in his honor.

1902 Julia Dent Grant, the widow of president Grant, died at the age of 76. She was born in St. Louis County, and met Grant when he served at Jefferson Barracks. The Dent family estate, Whitehaven, still stands today.

1917 Mrs. Kate Richards O'Hare of St. Louis was sentenced to five years in prison for violating the espionage act. She was convicted of obstructing U.S. Army recruiting. In a speech in South Dakota, she said mothers who gave their boys to the Army were no better than "brood sows." O'Hare and her husband Frank founded *National Rip-Saw*, a popular socialist publication.

1920 Clark Terry was born in St. Louis. He would become a trumpeteer and flugelhorn player known for his association with Duke Ellington on the 1950's, his innovative flugelhorn sound, and unusual mumbling scat singing.

1922 Notorious gangster Edward "Jelly Roll" Hogan and four members of his gang were arrested. Police stopped his car for speeding and noticed guns and bloodstained clothing inside. Hogan would not only avoid prison, he would survive the bloody bootlegger's war and go on to a career in politics. Hogan served five terms in the state house and four terms in the state senate.

1927 Charles Lindbergh was met by 100,000 cheering Mexicans after completing the first non-stop flight between Washington D.C. and Mexico City. The flight took 27-hours and 10-minutes. That was about three hours longer than expected, because Lindbergh got lost.

1930 A relief station was completed in the "Hooverville" shantytown that sprang up beneath the Free Bridge. The St. Louis Basket Relief Committee planned to distribute food for the needy from the "Comfort Inn." Unemployed carpenters and electricians built it. They donated their labor for the right to be first in line on distribution days.

1941 Missouri's first war time blackout plunged the "little town" of O'Fallon into darkness. For 34 minutes the town of just 794 was blacked out. Residents feared the town was a target because of its proximity to the Weldon Spring T-N-T plant.

1946 The airport controversy heated up as Mayor Kaufman proposed building airports at Columbia Bottoms and on the East Side as part of an area-wide plan to boost aviation. Officials on the East Side appealed to Missouri Governor Donnelly to order an impartial survey of possible sites in Illinois.

1954 The Land Clearance for Re-Development Authority announced that it had lined up financing for the next big clearance project. The area around 15th and Chestnut would be leveled for six 13-story apartment buildings.

1956 A chemical substance believed to control heredity was created artificially for the first time by Washington University scientists. Doctor Arthur Kornberg, professor and chairman of the department of microbiology, described the effort to synthesize Dioxyribonucleic Acid, or DNA.

1960 The State Highway Department announced plans to eliminate the notorious "Dead Man's Stretch" on Lindbergh, between the Old Rock Road and Schuetz. Eight people had died in 1960, and 140 more had been injured in accidents on the hilly, curving stretch of roadway.

1962 Engineers for Pittsburgh-Des Moines announced a unique plan for construction of the Arch. The company planned to use two huge "creeper" cranes. The platform for the derricks would be raised up the side of the Arch as construction progressed.

1980 Over 5,000 people gathered in Forest Park for a tribute to John Lennon. They observed ten minutes of silence at one p.m. That was the same hour millions of fans around the world paused in prayer as requested by Lennon's widow, Yoko Ono.

1982 Gary and Donna Decker were abducted from the parking lot of a North County store while Christmas shopping for their four-year-old son. Their bodies were found the next day in a field in East St. Louis. Donna Decker had been raped. Walter Harvey Junior was sentenced to life for the crime after eight years of trials and appeals.

1982 The HBE Corporation announced plans for a 600-room "world class hotel" downtown. The Adams Mark of St. Louis would be built on the site of the Pierce Building on Chestnut between Fourth Street and Memorial Drive.

1984 Five people were killed in a fire at an apartment building in North St. Louis. Nine other people, including two firemen, were injured in the blaze at 5904 Cates.

1985 Slugger Roger Maris died at the age of 51. Maris broke Babe Ruth's single-season home run record with 61 in 1961. He played for the Cardinals in the late 1960's and often said the years he spent in St. Louis were the happiest of his career.

1988 Former Senator Stuart Symington died at the age of 87. The former head of Emerson Electric served in the Senate for 24 years. He failed in a bid to win the Democratic nomination for president in 1960.

1992 Blues superstar Brett Hull fired a puck into a net on the site to symbolically begin demolition work on the Old Kiel Auditorium to make room for the new Kiel Center.

2000 The Cardinals traded Fernando Tatis and Britt Reames to Montreal. The Birds picked up pitchers Dustin Hermanson and Steve Kline from the Expos.

2003 The long awaited Page Extension opened. The ceremony had been planned for a day earlier, but was delayed by a snowstorm. The highway, Route 364, was first proposed in 1969. But the project faced opposition from environmentalists concerned about the impact on Creve Couer Lake. A 1998 referendum in St. Louis County could have halted the project, but it was approved by 61% of the voters.

2004 Riverview officer Brad Schultz died when his patrol car crashed on Lilac Avenue as he responded to help a Bellefontaine Neighbors officer dealing with a stolen vehicle. Schultz was the first Riverview officer to die in the line of duty.

2005 The dam holding back the upper reservoir at Ameren's Taum Sauk Hydroelectric plant failed, sending over a billion gallons of water down Proffit Mountain and into the east fork of the Black River. Three children were hurt when the raging waters swept away a home. Johnson's Shut Ins State Park was badly damaged.