

February 5

1830 Fee Fee road was declared an open public road. One of the oldest roads in St. Louis County, Fee Fee is named for Nicholas "Fifi" Beaugenou. (Fifi denoted "son" in French) Beaugenou was one of the 30 men who helped Laclede begin construction on the trading post that became the city of St. Louis. He settled in what is now Bridgeton after his wife died.

1845 A group of county residents, led by Wesley Watson, filed a petition for a road "from Cooper's Farm on the Old Manchester Roads, thence to the River des Peres near the mouth of the Lick Branch, from thence the most practical route to the ferry landing opposite the town of Fenton." The road would be named after Watson.

1864 The St. Louis and Illinois Bridge Company was incorporated to build a bridge at St. Louis. James B. Eads was chosen as chief engineer. His plans for the bridge that would bear his name were ready by July 1867. The self-taught engineer's design called for three 500 foot long arches of steel connected to piers built upon the bedrock 100 feet below the river bottom.

1877 The county court created a committee to design a seal for St. Louis County, recently separated from the city. The committee chose a seal portraying a plow on a plain field.

1878 Since the deadly Southern Hotel fire a year earlier, St. Louis had been invented by a hoard of inventors. They all claimed to have perfected a foolproof fire escape. 18 people had died while trying out the contraptions, prompting a *Globe* editorial writer to say "A more deadly thing than a hotel fire is a patent fire escape."

1896 The Board of Aldermen was debating a bill limiting the height of buildings in St. Louis to 125 feet. The fire chief testified in favor of the measure, citing the difficulty of fighting fires in the "skyscrapers."

1898 Congressman Richard Bartholdt of St. Louis was introducing a bill appropriating \$250,000 for the government exhibit at the proposed Louisiana Purchase Exposition. The fair idea, originally proposed by organized labor, was gaining widespread support.

1903 The Missouri House approved a bill calling for the removal of the state capitol to St. Louis. A majority in the Senate was reportedly in favor of the measure. Some did express concern that the big city might present some distractions to lawmakers.

1904 The National Council of Women announced it would establish a bureau at the World's Fair to prevent young women from "insult or the danger of false steps." The organization was reacting to rumors that white slavery rings had raised \$125,000 to lure young girls to work in the haunts of vice in St. Louis.

1911 Lightning struck the state capitol building in Jefferson City. A train from Sedalia rushed firefighters to the scene, but it was too late. The building was gutted. The present state capitol was completed in 1917.

1914 Author William Burroughs was born at 4644 Pershing. He was the grandson of the man who founded the Burroughs Adding Machine Company. Burroughs went to New York in his 30's, and deliberately became a heroin addict before meeting future "Beat Generation" icons Jack Kerouac and Allen Ginsberg. Burrough's most famous work, *Naked Lunch*, was published in 1959.

1947 Governor Donnelly took action to prevent a gang war on the East Side. He ordered the phone lines removed between a lucrative racing news service and the St. Louis bookies. The Capone faction was trying to muscle in on the news service run by a local gang.

1951 Gabby Street died in Joplin at the age of 68. "The Old Sarge" served stints as manager of both the Cardinals and the Browns during his career. In recent years, he had been assisting Harry Carey on the Cardinals radio broadcasts.

1953 A bomb damaged the home of former St. Louis Sheriff Thomas Callahan. Callahan was the city's most controversial political figure, and a major labor union boss. Callahan had been upset in the race for the Democratic nomination for sheriff back in August, and had just announced he would run for mayor.

1960 The Board of Aldermen approved the city route for the proposed Ozark Expressway. (Now I-55) The approval ended a four-year roadblock to construction. The city section was to run from the Third Street Expressway to the city limits at Weber Road.

1965 The National Park Service announced that the Gateway Arch was now the tallest structure in St. Louis. With the addition of the latest 12-foot section on each leg, the Arch was now 372 feet tall on the North Leg and 384 feet tall on the South. The Southwestern Bell Building was now the second tallest, at 369 feet.

1977 The Blues called up a couple of rookies that would do okay in the NHL. Future Hall of Famer Bernie Federko and the great Brian Sutter came to the Blues on the same day. Rick Bourbonnais as also called up. Federko scored three goals in that game, including the winner against Buffalo.

1981 The Chrysler Corporation announced that the Fenton plant would be converted to produce a front-wheel drive car code named the "Super K." Company officials said the conversion would cost between \$50 and \$100 million. It was expected to add 500 jobs.

1981 Perry Turnbull became the second player in Blues history to score more than three goals in a game. He scored four against Toronto. Red Berenson holds the team record with six in one night against Philadelphia in 1968.

1984 A North Kirkwood Middle School teacher went on a killing rampage across two counties. Police said George Brandon killed four people, including his ex-wife and a fellow teacher. He then set his house on fire and took his own life.

2005 A crowd of over 22,000 at Saavis Center, including rap star Nelly, was on hand for the return of championship boxing to St. Louis. Zab Judah defeated Corey Spinks with a TKO in the 9th round to take the WBC WBA and IBF welterweight titles.