

February 6

1814 Five men barged into the office of Joseph Charless, publisher of the first newspaper in Missouri. They were upset about an article in the *Missouri Gazette* critical of their stance on a change in military leadership in St. Louis. Charless told them to get out. William Carr, William Christy, Clement Penrose, Doctor Farrar and Doctor Walker decided to found their own newspaper. Their *Western Journal* was the second in the state.

1836 Mayor Joseph Darby called for a town hall meeting to petition Congress to extend the National Road to St. Louis. The National Road (roughly the route of today's U.S. Highway 40) would not even make it to Indiana until 1850.

1837 The Legislature approved a state road from St. Louis to Springfield, following the old Indian "Osage Trail." The road became known as the Springfield to St. Louis Road. During the Civil War, telegraph wires along its length gave it the name the "Wire Road." Route 66 used much of the old road when it was laid out in 1926. Today, I-44 parallels the route.

1861 Captain Nathaniel Lyon arrived at the United States Arsenal at St. Louis. A fiery union man, Lyon and Congressman Frank Blair conspired to remove the Arsenal's more moderate commander, General William Harney. On May 9, Lyon would disguise himself as an old woman to spy on the rebel state militia encampment at Camp Jackson. His troops captured the camp a day later. While marching back to the Arsenal with their prisoners, Lyon's Home Guard fired on an angry civilian mob, killing at least 28 people.

1906 The Reverend Peter J. Dunne opened his Newsboys Home in a rented building at 2717 Locust. Now located in Florissant, the home still provides a home for disadvantaged youth.

1910 The man who named O'Fallon, Missouri and built the first home there died. Arnold Krekel bought the land and laid out the town, but he never lived there. His brother Nicolas built the home and store that still stands today. Nicolas named the railroad depot in honor of his friend, railroad executive and philanthropist, Colonel John O'Fallon.

1927 The *Globe-Democrat* reported that Charles Lindbergh, chief airmail pilot for the St. Louis to Chicago route was lining up financing for a solo transatlantic flight. Major Albert Bond Lambert, broker Harry Hall Knight and banker Harry Bixby had already signed on. The *Post-Dispatch* had turned Lindbergh down, saying they could not be associated with such a dangerous venture. Bixby, who was also president of the Chamber of Commerce, asked Lindbergh to name the plane "The Spirit of St. Louis."

1927 An article profiled an eight-year-old Alton boy named Robert Wadlow. He already stood 6 feet 2 ½ inches tall and weighed 185 pounds. He was already taller than his father and growing at the rate of five inches per year. Robert was attending fourth grade,

seated at a specially built desk. He told the *Globe* reporter he hoped his stature would help him find a career in Hollywood.

1927 A bill was introduced in Congress to obtain a charter for a group of St. Louisans promoting a new toll bridge north of downtown. The estimated cost of the bridge at Chain of Rocks was put at \$1,250,000.

1930 It was reported that the will of the late mining pioneer Firmin Desloge provided a million dollars for the construction of a hospital for those of moderate means. The hospital was to be administered by the St. Louis University School of Medicine and the sisters of St. Mary.

1934 An ordinance passed by the Belleville City Council gave wives veto power in the dispensing of liquor. No booze could be sold to a man if his wife put a request in writing to the proprietor of the saloon.

1951 The only killing ever reported at Union Station. Several drunken soldiers headed for Korea, got into a brawl with an MP. The MP shot and killed 19-year-old Corporal Robert McKenna of Massachusetts.

1963 The Navy said no to a request by the Missouri Legislature to bring the battleship *Missouri* up the Mississippi and moor it at St. Louis. Navy officials said there was no way the 45,000-ton 887-foot long battlewagon could be stripped down enough to make it upriver.

1969 Mayor Cervantes unveiled a \$41million redevelopment proposal for the DeSoto-Carr area. The plans called for a \$15 million office building and two major industrial facilities in the area bounded by 12th and Jefferson, Delmar and Cole.

1971 The Blues traded Red Berenson and Tim Ecclestone to Detroit. The deal was unpopular at first, but it turned out well. The Blues received Garry Unger and Wayne Connelly.

1972 The Committee to Save the Meramec launched a campaign to prevent the Corps of Engineers from building five high dams in the Meramec Basin. The group hoped to have the stream declared a National Scenic Riverway.

1976 The Blues announced they were raising ticket prices by as much as a dollar in an effort to keep the team here. The organization and staff, including Chairman Sid Salomon Junior, took pay cuts. The previous season, the average ticket price was \$6.11.

1988 Barclay Plager died of cancer. Number Eight was known as "The Spirit of the Blues" and was a four-time All-Star. Two of his brothers, Bobby and Billy, also played for the Blues. They were teammates from 1968-69 to 1971-72. Barclay also coached the Blues for parts of four seasons. The Blues retired his number in 1982.

1990 Brett Hull became the second Blues player ever to score 50 goals in a season. Wayne Babych was the first. Brett and his father Bobby became the first father and son to score 50 goals in a season during their careers.