

February 8

1820 William Tecumseh Sherman was born in Lancaster, Ohio. He first came to St. Louis in 1843, and reported for duty at Jefferson Barracks in 1850. He left the Army in 1853, and failed as a banker, lawyer and businessman. In March 1861, he returned to the city he loved to run a street railway. Sherman returned to the Army after the Camp Jackson affair and went on to become one of the top military figures in history. After the war, grateful citizens here bought Sherman a home at 912 North Garrison.

1851 Katherine Flaherty was born in St. Louis. She married a wealthy Creole named Oscar Chopin. Many of Kate Chopin's works were inspired by the time she spent as a wife and mother in Louisiana. She returned to St. Louis after her husband died in 1882. Chopin's later works presented frank discussion of sex, marriage, class and race. Her second novel, *The Awakening*, ignited a firestorm for its portrayal of an unhappy woman who commits adultery. The controversy ruined her career.

1853 The Missouri Legislature passed an act incorporating the "Kirkwood Association." Real estate agents Hiram Leffingwell and Richard S. Elliott wanted to promote a suburb along the proposed Pacific Railroad. They hoped to promote their development as an escape from the noise and disease of the city. Kirkwood is the first planned suburban community in the United States.

1909 Testimony began in the scandalous divorce trial between William Lemp, Junior and Lillian (Handlan) Lemp. Lillian was known as the "Lavender Lady," because of her reported fondness for dressing in that color. All four newspapers eagerly printed Lillian's claims that the head of the Lemp Brewery beat her, drank too much, dallied with women and ridiculed religion. The defense produced a shocking picture of Lillian smoking a cigarette and charged that she had been seen drinking in public.

1921 The East St. Louis City Council had a stern warning for dance hall operators. They were told they could lose their license if they permitted such "immoral" dances as the "camel-walk," "the toddle," "Texas Tommy," "the shuffle" or "the shimmy."

1928 St. Louis aviation pioneer Albert Bond Lambert presented the city with the deed to the flying field he had developed in Bridgeton. Lambert sold the 170-acre site for his original cost of \$60,000, a fraction of what the developed site was worth. Comptroller Louis Nolte criticized the site as too far away from the city to be of any practical use.

1947 The first television station in St. Louis signed on the air. KSD was one of only seven television stations in the US at the time. The call letters KSD stand for the initials of Joseph Pulitzer Junior's grandmother, Kate Star Davis. The first broadcast lasted 90 minutes. It featured news with KSD radio veteran Frank Eschen, ballroom dancers, a wrestler, and an appearance by Joe Garagiola.

1953 The new 40-million dollar Chain of Rocks Canal north of downtown opened. The 100-foot wide canal allows shipping to bypass the dangerous Chain of Rocks that stretches across the Mississippi. It took the Corps of Engineers 6 ½ years to build.

1960 Construction began on the ultramodern Grandview Plaza shopping center on the 66 Bypass (now Dunn Road) at Washington in Florissant.

1969 Radio station KDNA signed on at 102.5 FM from studios in Gaslight Square. The listener supported "underground" station was affiliated with "The Outlaw," a radical newspaper. It was shut down following a 1970 drug bust. Today, the former outlaw station plays Celine Dion.

1972 44-year-old Vincent Dobelman received the first heart transplant in St. Louis medical history at Firmin Desloge Hospital. Doctor Vallee Willman, chief of surgery at the St. Louis University School of Medicine, headed the team of surgeons.

1976 The town of Beckmeyer, Illinois was in mourning after a terrible accident. A grandfather and eleven children were killed in a camper that pulled out in front of a train at a crossing. Four other kids were hurt.

1979 A snow storm triggered a 50-car pileup on westbound I-270 between Graham Road and Lindbergh. 28 people were hurt, but only two required hospitalization. A 1 ½ mile f stretch of Interstate was transformed into a junkyard for over four hours.