

February 14

1764 Fifteen-year-old Auguste Chouteau and 30 men under his direction arrived on the west bank of the Mississippi, a few miles below the confluence with the Missouri. His stepfather, Pierre Laclède, had chosen the site a year earlier for his trading post. The next day, the workers began clearing the site that grew into the city of St. Louis. Chouteau became the business and social leader of the young town. His dealings with the Indians and Spanish officials were vital to the growth of the community, while he always managed to turn a hefty profit.

1789 Colonel George Morgan and 70 colonists founded New Madrid. Morgan wanted to establish a great Spanish state in Missouri.

1891 William Tecumseh Sherman died in St. Louis at the age of 71. He had issued orders that he was to be buried in St. Louis, next to his wife. His funeral on February 20th was one of the largest in St. Louis history. Sherman first visited here in 1843, and St. Louis became his favorite city. He was running a street railway here when the war broke out and was reluctant to join the Army.

1908 The *Globe-Democrat* reported that the chauffeur for a St. Louis businessman had become the first driver in Missouri convicted of manslaughter for killing a pedestrian. He was sentenced to a year in the workhouse and a thousand dollar fine. Prosecutors hoped the stiff sentence would stem the increasing recklessness on St. Louis streets.

1920 Rube Foster organized the Negro National League in Kansas City. The St. Louis Giants were among the original eight teams in the league. They played at Finley Park at Grand and Laclède in 1920-21. In 1922, The St. Louis Stars began play. The Stars won championships in 1928, 1930 and 1931. Their stars included James "Cool Papa" Bell; pitcher Ted "Highpockets" Trent, and the great shortstop, Willie "Devil" Wells.

1922 The first public wireless broadcast in St. Louis was made over KSD, "The wireless service of the *Post-Dispatch*. The station presented an address by Walter P. Upson of the Washington University Electrical Engineering Department. No one had bothered to get a license, so the station had to wait until June 26, 1922 to officially sign on.

1926 Plans were unveiled for the new \$4 million Civil Courts building downtown. The plans called for a classical design, with a terrace at the 12th floor level, to provide a "promenade" around the building.

1928 A crowd of 100,000 cheering spectators lined the riverfront to welcome Charles Lindbergh as he returned from a goodwill tour of Mexico and South America. He treated the crowd to an impromptu aerobatics display.

1929 Gunmen for Al Capone lined up seven members of the Bugs Moran Gang and shot them in cold blood inside a warehouse at 2122 North Clark in Chicago. Fred "Killer" Burke of the "Egan's Rats" gang in St. Louis was one of the gunmen. Burke murdered a

policeman in December 1929. The investigation turned up bullets traced to the “St. Valentine’s Day Massacre.” Burke died in prison in 1940.

1938 It was announced that the old customs house at Third and Olive would be torn down to make room for the Third Street Expressway and the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial. The structure was the first federal building west of the Mississippi. The six columns that adorned the front came from the St. Louis Theater, which stood on the site until 1851. Those columns were moved to a cemetery on St. Charles Rock Road.

1947 KSD TV aired the first television broadcast of a sporting event in Missouri. The first TV game was a Billikens contest against Oklahoma from Kiel Auditorium.

1959 Representative Frank Karsten was calling on the weather bureau to institute a crash program to warn of possible tornadoes. Mayor Tucker ordered Civil Defense officials to study the feasibility of using air raid sirens as a weather warning system. Sight-seers were hampering clean up in the devastated areas.

1959 The St. Louis Hawks clinched their third straight NBA Western Division title before a crowd of 8,324 at Kiel. That same day, "Easy" Ed McCauley signed an unprecedented three-year contract to continue as coach of the Hawks.

1964 President Lyndon Johnson came to St. Louis for the activities marking the city's bicentennial. The president heralded St. Louis' accomplishments in overcoming the blight that had defaced so many American cities.

1966 A group headed by Sidney Salomon Junior filed an application with the National Hockey League for the franchise the league was offering St. Louis. The group was negotiating to buy the Arena.

1970 Cardinals slugger Richie Allen was demanding \$150,000 to sign for the 1971 season. That would make him the highest paid player in baseball. Bob Gibson was the highest paid Cardinal at 125-thousand-dollars per year. Carl Yastremski was the highest paid player in baseball, at 130 thousand-dollars-a-year.

1970 The Wabash Station on Delmar closed. It was the last outlying station railroad station in the city of St. Louis. The Norfolk and Western "Wabash Cannonball" was the last train to stop there. The site is now a Metro-Link stop.