

February 18

1818 The Reverend John Mason Peck and the Reverend James Ely Welch founded the first Baptist Church of St. Louis. It had eleven members. The congregation soon solicited funds for a building at Third and Market. It would be the first Protestant church building in St. Louis.

1859 The city of Pacific was incorporated by the Missouri General Assembly. The town was originally named Franklin. But the name was changed because of the constant mix-ups in the mail between Franklin and New Franklin. The name Pacific was chosen to honor the new Pacific Railroad.

1861 The people of Missouri elected 99 delegates to a state convention to decide whether Missouri should secede from the Union. In March, the "Convention of 99" would vote to stay in the Union. It would reassemble in 1862, and declare all state offices vacant, though it had no authority to do so.

1866 The town of New Athens, Illinois was incorporated. It was originally known as Athens, but there was already an Athens in Menard County.

1885 *Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain was released in America. Many reviewers condemned the novel for its "coarseness," but it was an immediate hit. The Concord Library banned the book, adding to the publicity. Today, it is often criticized as racist. But Ernest Hemingway once wrote, "All modern American literature comes from *Huckleberry Finn*. There was nothing before. There has been nothing as good since."

1901 The United States House passed a St. Louis World's Fair Bill, providing for \$5 million for U.S. government participation in the fair. An amendment to prohibit the sale of alcohol was quickly defeated. Quick approval was expected in the Senate.

1908 School Superintendent Frank Soldan denied a charge by a Congregational Church Minister that "preliminary steps of dancing" were being taught. Soldan said students were doing calisthenics. But the minister said the excersizes were similar to dancing, and the same evils could be expected to result from them.

1909 The lurid divorce trial between William Lemp Junior and Lillian Handlan Lemp ended. Unsatisfied with her award of \$6,000 per year in alimony, she planned to seek a new trial. In March 1913, the Missouri Supreme Court granted her a record gross alimony of \$100,000. The "Lavender Lady" went into seclusion and became even stranger after the trial. Her ghost is said to still inhabit the Lemp mansion.

1915 Frank James, the brother of Jesse James, died. He had been living in Excelsior Springs, Missouri. He turned from a life of crime to that of a respectable farmer.

1918 Private David Hickey was killed in France. Hickey was the first St. Louisan to die in World War One. The Soldiers Memorial downtown lists the names of 1,075 St. Louisans who gave their lives in the war.

1921 The new police board appointed by Governor Arthur Hyde sent a message to the bootleggers and gangsters. With Chief of Police Martin and the board members personally supervising, police raided every "questionable resort" in the city. Police arrested 250 people at 14 saloons.

1925 A man who pleaded guilty to a second Volstead Act violation got off with an \$800 fine because all the jails were full. A second offense was normally punishable by jail time. The city and county jail, as well as the jails in Union, St. Charles and Warrenton, were filled with prohibition violators.

1930 The first flight by a cow in an airplane took place as part of the St. Louis Air Exposition. A Guernsey named Elm Farm Ollie made the 72-mile flight from Bismark, Missouri to St. Louis. Elsworth W. Bunce of Milwaukee became the first man to milk a cow in flight. The milk was sealed in paper containers and dropped by parachute. The event is marked each year as Elm Farm Ollie Day at the Mt. Horeb Mustard Museum, near Madison, Wisconsin.

1939 Dal Maxvill was born in Granite City. Maxvil played short stop for the Cardinals from 1962 to 1972, winning the NL Gold Glove in 1968. He played a key role in the pennant winning teams of the 1960's despite being a terrible hitter. Maxvill served as General Manager of the Cardinals from 1985 to 1994.

1955 The Cardinals signed Ken Boyer. Sportswriters were already calling the third basemen a Rookie of the Year candidate. Boyer was expected to take over at third base for Ray Jablonski. Jablonski had been traded to the Reds.

1972 Minnie Liddell and a group of North St. Louis parents filed suit against the St. Louis School Board and the State of Missouri, claiming city schools were still segregated. In 1981, 23 suburban districts were added to the case. A 1983 agreement required the state to fund a voluntary student transfer program between the city and suburban districts. The case was settled in 1999.

1974 A seminary-in-exile, or "Seminex," was established after 40 striking teachers and staff members at Concordia Seminary were fired in a theological split with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Eighty-five-percent of the 450 students voted to follow their teachers into exile.

1996 A six-alarm fire destroyed the Leonard Missionary Baptist Church on Grand. The fire broke out just as the congregation was arriving for services. Everyone got out safely.

1998 Harry Caray died, a few days after collapsing at a Palm Springs Restaurant. After he was fired from the Cardinals job in 1969, he broadcast for the A's and White Sox

before moving to Wrigley Field in 1982. He came beloved nationwide for his broadcasts on WGN-TV and his renditions of “Take Me Out to the Ballgame” during the seventh-inning stretch. Caray was inducted into the broadcasters wing of the Hall of Fame in 1989.