

February 21

1836 William Lemp was born in Germany. His father, Adam, founded the Western Brewery. When his father died, William took over and built a new Lemp brewery on Cherokee Street. The new brewery was built over a maze of caves that were used to “lager” or age the beer. By 1875, the Lemp Brewery was the largest in the city. William Lemp killed himself on February 13, 1904.

1851 The explosion of the ferry *St. Louis* killed 13 people. It marked the worst disaster in all the years that ferries operated here.

1871 Henry Kiel was born in St. Louis. He was the 36th Mayor of St. Louis, in office from 1913 to 1925. During his administration, the Muny was constructed and the city passed a bond issue that changed the face of the city with projects such as the Soldier’s Memorial and the Municipal Auditorium. Kiel’s construction firm built the auditorium that would bear his name.

1891 William T. Sherman was laid to rest. Sherman died on February 14th. Governor Francis and hundreds of St. Louisans gathered at Union Depot as the train carrying his body arrived from New York. Thousands more lined the streets as the procession traveled seven miles to Calvary Cemetery. The procession was the largest in the history of St. Louis.

1901 President William McKinley signed a bill authorizing a third bridge over the Mississippi here. This one was to be used for pedestrian, carriage and streetcar traffic, instead of catering to the railroad interests. The bill set maximum tolls at 1/2 those charged on other bridges, and ended an eight-year fight by our Congressmen for the bill.

1903 Mayor Rolla Wells signed an anti-spitting ordinance. The law was one of several designed to clean the city up in time for the fair. It provided fines of from \$1 to \$5 for expectorating in public places. It gave streetcar operators the right to arrest persistent offenders.

1908 The Mayor of East St. Louis was ordering his officers to enforce the ban on women in saloons. He pledged to revoke the license of any saloon frequented by women. Officers were told to arrest any women they found drinking, as well as the proprietors.

1911 The University City School District was chartered.

1923 The man called "The Brains" behind the "Jelly Roll" Hogan Gang was shot to death by gunmen in a speeding auto on Twelfth Street. Police said Jacob Machler was killed in revenge for the murder of politician William Egan, leader of the “Egan’s Rats” Gang. The Hogans quickly retaliated, murdering George Kurloff in a restaurant on Franklin Avenue. The Rats then gunned down three Hogan men in short succession.

1931 The gates of the \$33 million Union Electric Light and Power Company dam at Bagnell, Missouri were closed. The Osage River began forming what UE promised would be the largest man made lake in the world, with a shoreline of 1,300 miles.

1946 Arthur Holly Compton was installed as Chancellor of Washington University. His fellow A-Bomb scientists were on hand for the ceremony. With E.A.H Shepley, Compton is credited with changing the school from one with a largely local student body into a national institution.

1947 The Billikens won their first Missouri Valley Conference title with a 47-38 win over Drake. "Easy Ed" McCauley scored 22 points as the Bills won their 11th straight.

1948 Washington University was in an uproar after the student government voted to recognize a chapter of the Young Progressives of America. The group supported third party candidate Henry Wallace for president. Opponents said the group was a "Communist front."

1969 West County Center opened at Manchester and I-244, on the site of the old Manchester Drive-Inn. The design of the center was hailed as a new trend. All of the stores opened into a climate-controlled mall.

1970 The Army ROTC Building at Washington University was heavily damaged in a fire. Anti-war groups had been protesting the program's presence on campus. A crowd of 200 students cheered as the building burned. Police said it looked like a Molotov Cocktail had started the fire.

1978 Busch Stadium was being prepared for the installation of new AstroTurf. The old turf was sold off to home improvement firms and collectors for \$4 per foot for a 15 foot wide section, a minimum of ten feet long.

1996 A six-alarm fire destroyed the Fehlig Brothers Box and Lumber Company on the near North Side. Firefighters were taxed to the limit, as they had to battle two suspicious fires in North St. Louis at the same time. That area had been experiencing a rash of arson fires.