

## February 22

**1838** A court appointed trustees to lay out a road from "The late residence of Benjamin Long, deceased, by way of Louis Martin's on Coldwater Creek, and intersecting with the road called the St. Charles Road by way of Owen's Station at John Brown's." The road would be called Brown Road. (Part of which is now known as McDonnell Boulevard)

**1854** The Reverend William Greenleaf Elliot organized the board of directors under the charter of Elliot seminary. At that meeting, they chose to name their school Washington University. Elliot was the first pastor of the Church of the Messiah, now the First Unitarian Church of St. Louis. The church financed the school during the first few years. Poet T.S Eliot was the Reverend's grandson.

**1864** Members of the St. Louis African-American community met to promote the enlistment of "colored citizens." The slaves believed that enlistment in the Union Army was a means for immediate emancipation and the destruction of slavery. Missouri provided 8,344 black soldiers for the Union.

**1876** The Democratic National Committee announced that St. Louis had been chosen as the site for the national convention the following June. Senator Louis Bogy told the committee that St. Louis had a 25-thousand-seat hall and "Splendid and capacious accommodations," whose proprietors had pledged not to raise their rates.

**1901** The St. Louis world's fair bill was passed by the Senate. The bill appropriated \$5 million for the US government participation in the fair. An amendment was tacked on at the last minute that required the fair to close on Sundays.

**1903** The long debate over where the main entrance to the fair would be located was settled. It was announced that the main entrance would be at Lindell and DeBaliviere. The Jefferson Memorial stands there today.

**1918** "The Alton Giant," was born. Robert Pershing Wadlow weighed a normal eight pounds, six ounces at birth. But he weighed 30 pounds by six months and 62 pounds at 18 months. He was 6' 2" and weighed 195 pounds by the time he was eight years old. He reached a height of 8' 11.1" before his death in 1940, recognized as the tallest man who ever lived by the *Guinness Book of World Records*. His extraordinary growth was due to an overactive pituitary gland, a condition that is treatable today.

**1937** Homer G. Phillips Hospital on Whittier was dedicated. At the time, it was the largest and best health care facility in the nation dedicated to the care of African-Americans. It closed amid controversy and violence in 1979. Homer Phillips was an attorney who fought for better health care for African Americans. He was murdered in 1931.

**1943** Elizabeth Jane Froman, a well-known singer from University City, was seriously injured when her plane crashed into the Tagus River at Lisbon, Portugal. She was on a

tour of Europe with the USO. Of the 39 people on board the plane, 29 died. She overcame 39 operations and inspired wounded troops with her performances on crutches. In 1952, her life story became the movie *A Song in My Heart*, starring Susan Hayward.

**1951** Ambitious Senator Estes Kefauver arrived here for hearings of his organized crime investigating committee. Kefauver held hearings in 14 cities. Colonel William Holzhausen, Chairman of the Board of Police Commissioners said organized gambling, facilitated by racing results wire services with ties to the syndicate, was the top law enforcement problem in St. Louis.

**1951** The Atomic Energy Commission announced plans for a major atomic research facility at Weldon Spring. The AEC said the facility would cost \$100 million and provide 2500 construction jobs. It would be constructed on part of the site of a World War Two ordinance plant.

**1960** Three city firemen were killed, eleven injured, while fighting a general alarm fire in a three story building at Sixth and Chestnut. The building housed the Silver Dollar Bar and Cafe, a popular downtown nightspot.

**1962** Wally Lemm was named coach of the Football Cardinals. He replaced Frank "Pop" Ivy, who resigned on December 6, 1961. In his first year as coach, Lemm had led the Oilers to the AFL title in 1961.

**1966** A group of St. Louis businessmen unveiled plans to redevelop a section of historic riverfront north of downtown. Laclede's Landing was named for Pierre Laclede, the founder of the city. Clamorgan Alley on The Landing is named for Jacques Clamorgan. He was a fur trader and merchant of Welsh, Portuguese, Spanish and African descent. Clamorgan owned the land where the Peper Tobacco Building is located.

**1968** Irv Dagen, the director of the St. Louis Land Clearance Authority, called for closing the troubled Pruitt-Igoe public housing complex. He said it was clear it had outlived its usefulness and was "constructed with utter disregard of the many burdens, physical and financial, it would impose on tenants."

**1974** Missouri officials announced plans to save the historic Wainwright Building, which had been in danger of demolition. The nation's first skyscraper was to be renovated for a state office complex. The 10-story Wainwright was the first building in St. Louis supported by a steel frame. Louis Sullivan designed the terra cotta exterior.

**1983** The Environmental Protection Agency announced that the entire town of Times Beach would be bought out and leveled because of dioxin contamination. The site has been cleaned up, and is being developed into Route 66 state park.

**1990** With Prince Charles watching at a ceremony in Washington, DC, the American Institute of Architects honored the Arch with its 25-year award. The award is given to structures of "enduring significance, which have stood the test of time."

