

February 24

1829 Auguste Chouteau died at the age of 80. When he was just 14, he led the men who began building a trading post that would become the city of St. Louis. Chouteau helped build the settlement into an important commercial city. He became the first board of trustees chairman when the village was incorporated in 1809. He was considered the leading citizen of the city at the time of his death.

1804 Captain Amos Stoddard, commander of the American post at Fort Kaskaskia, arrived in St. Louis to take possession of Louisiana for France, and then for America. The winter weather delayed the arrival of his troops, so the transfer was not made until March 9th and 10th, 1804.

1853 Lindenwood College in St. Charles was chartered. It was founded in 1820 by Mary Easton Sibley and named for the grove of Linden trees in which the campus was set. Lindenwood was turned over to the Presbyterian Church in 1853.

1859 The Missouri Legislature set up a military organization to guard the Kansas border. It marked the beginning of a terrible border war that left hundreds dead and large parts of both states in flames, while settling nothing.

1876 President Grant's personal secretary, O.E. Babcock was acquitted on charges stemming from the Whiskey Ring scandal. The scheme to defraud the government of millions of dollars in tax revenue started in St. Louis. Grant testified on Babcock's behalf and the jury chose to acquit rather than repudiate the president.

1902 It was reported that a Pittsburgh syndicate had bought up almost all of Valley Park. They were planning a glass factory and a model town, with homes for about 6,000 workers. The population of Valley Park was expected to explode from about 200 to 10,000 within a few years. It would all wash away during a flood in 1902.

1906 The *Globe-Democrat* quoted Browns owner Robert Lee Hedges as saying the "Browns" would soon cease to exist. Hedges felt the team didn't look fierce enough in their brown uniforms. He ordered new black and white uniforms, and invited fans to come up with a new nickname for the team. The "Blackbirds" and "Black Flags" were among some of the suggestions.

1918 Private David Hickey became the first St. Louisian to die in World War One. He was killed in the Battle of the Toul Sector. The Soldier's Memorial lists 1075 names of St. Louisians who died in the "War To End All Wars." Hickey Park on North Broadway was dedicated in his honor on April 10, 1941.

1940 Raymond Tucker, appointed by Mayor Dickmann as head of the Municipal Smoke Elimination Committee, presented the committee's report to the mayor. Passed over opposition from the coal and railroad interests, Tucker's plan would yield spectacular

results. Before the tough anti-smoking ordinances pushed by the plan, St. Louis had been one of the grimmest cities in the country.

1947 General Dwight David Eisenhower arrived in St. Louis for his first visit since the end of the war. Over 75,000 lined the streets for a parade downtown. Ike was here to address the 19th Chamber of Commerce dinner.

1950 Mayor Joseph Darst named 21 of the city's top civic leaders to work for a \$50-million housing project on the fringes of downtown. Darst called his program to build low-cost housing the most important accomplishment of his term. By the end of the decade, St. Louis had 6,138,000 public housing units.

1954 A federal judge sent Frank "Buster" Wortman to jail for contempt. Wortman, the reputed leader of the Capone crime syndicate in Southern Illinois, had refused to answer questions before a federal grand jury investigating labor racketeering in St. Louis.

1958 Chuck Berry's biggest hit of the 1950's was released. *Sweet Little Sixteen* reached number two on the pop chart. *Tequila* by the Champs kept it from the top spot. Amazingly, none of Berry's rock classics reached number one. The childish wee-wee joke *My Ding-A-Ling* became his only chart-topper in 1972.

1960 A federal grand jury indicted Harold J. Gibbons, the head of the St. Louis teamsters, and five other top teamster officials. They were charged with making unlawful political contributions, capping a five-month investigation.

1968 Gary Unger's amazing record-breaking consecutive games streak began as he took to the ice as a rookie with the Toronto Maple Leafs. He would start the next 914 consecutive games, including 662 straight with the Blues. Doug Jarvis hit his "Iron Man" record in 1986. Jarvis' streak ended at 964 games. Unger did have another impressive streak. He appeared in seven consecutive All-Star games.

1971 A St. Louis-sponsored study on the site for a second airport recommended it be built at Columbia-Waterloo, Illinois. The committee had considered six sites in Missouri and six in Illinois. The fight over the airport would not be resolved until 1977.

1972 Edward J. Steska, the new boss of the politically powerful Steamfitter's Union, was found shot to death in his office. He had taken over following the death of long-time union boss Lawrence Callanan in May 1971. Police suspected an inside job.

1980 The "Southside Dentist," Glennon Englemann, was charged with murder-for-hire in the 1976 killing of Peter Halm. The case was one of four violent deaths over the past 20 years linked to Englemann so far.

2004 The Blues fired coach Joel Quenneville and named his assistant, Mike Kitchen, as the new coach. Quenneville replaced Mike Keenan behind the bench on January 6, 1997. He won more games than any other Blues coach and led the team longer than anyone

else. Under Quenneville, the Blues enjoyed great success in the regular season but foundered repeatedly in the playoffs.