

February 27

1843 The town of Bridgeton was incorporated. The town had been in existence since 1794. The French called it "Marais des Liards," which means "cottonwood swamp." The Spanish called it "Villa a Robert." The Americans called it Owen's Station, then Bridgeton.

1851 The Missouri Legislature authorized the state's first highway improvements, the construction of plank roads by private corporations. The plank roads were financial failures. Among the plank roads that were built here was the St. Charles Road. (Which was "rocked" when the plank road failed) Another one was built to Hall's Ferry on the Missouri River and another one was built that became Olive.

1881 Harry J. Kiener was born in St. Louis. Kiener was a respected amateur athlete, excelling at boxing, wrestling and swimming. He was a member of the U.S. track team at the 1904 Olympics in St. Louis. Kiener became a steel executive and philanthropist. When he died in 1960, his will provided money for a plaza, a fountain and a statue by William Zorach, called "The Runner." Kiener Plaza was dedicated on October 12, 1966.

1902 Major Edwin Goodwin, appointed by the Secretary of War as commandant of the special police force at the fair, was here to begin recruiting. All of the 2500 men on the force were to be at least six-feet-tall, and wear uniforms of the Jefferson era. The men would carry no weapons that "might make the quick-tempered or uneducated man a menace to visitors."

1903 Great Britain's King Edward granted an audience to David R. Francis, the president of the World's Fair Company. The King pledged to send the collection of gifts his mother Queen Victoria received on the 75th anniversary of her reign.

1907 Standard Oil announced plans for a \$2 million refinery south of Alton. The planned Wood River Refinery was expected to be one of the largest in the nation. Company agents had already bought up most of the land for the 400-acre plant and the company town of Wood River.

1916 Two people were dead and 85 injured, many of them seriously, after 3,000 pounds of dynamite exploded in Maplewood. Homes in an eight-block radius around Sarah and Limit were damaged.

1929 Charles Lindbergh, and his fiancée, Anne Morrow, narrowly escaped death. Lindbergh's borrowed airplane lost a wheel upon takeoff from Mexico City. The plane flipped over as it was landing. They were only slightly hurt.

1945 Missouri voters okayed a new constitution. The constitution of 1945 gave more representation to urban areas and provided for the non-partisan election of judges.

1948 Seven employees of the St. Louis Army Administration Office were fired for security reasons. During a six-month investigation, employee backgrounds were checked, and agents attended "subversive" meetings. Washington said Communists had infiltrated the post where the Army kept confidential records.

1965 It was announced that Carl Christian Moore, noted artist and former St. Louisan, had been chosen to design a statue of Stan Musial planned for outside the new stadium. The local chapter of the Baseball Writers of America had already raised \$30,000.

1967 Sidney Salomon the Third unveiled the logo for the new St. Louis National Hockey League franchise. Sid the Third was the son of the original owner of the Blues. He described the design as "a flying blue note," a quarter note taken off a cleff with wings added on.

1973 The bankrupt Spanish pavilion downtown was sold for \$1 to the bank. The association formed by Mayor Cervantes to bring the pavilion here from the New York World's Fair in 1965 owed the bank \$3.5 million. The pavilion had been closed since 1970. The Marriott Hotel would later be built on top of "Cervante's Folly."

1984 The *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* switched from an evening paper to a morning one. That same day, Jeffrey Gluck, a magazine publisher from Columbia, took over the *Globe-Democrat*. Unhappy with worthless paychecks from Gluck, employees put the *Globe* in bankruptcy in August 1985. The paper was sold to two St. Louis businessmen, who shut it down for good in October 1986.

1998 Authorities were calling it the most shocking case of child abuse they had ever seen. Three-year-old Valerie Phillips was near death after her mother allegedly beat her burned her with cigarettes and tortured the girl with a pair of pliers.

1999 It took less than 15 seconds for explosives to bring nearly 70 years of memories crashing down. Thousands of people gathered hours before the 5:45 p.m. implosion reduced the Arena to a pile of rubble. The former home of the Blues opened in 1929, and hosted its last event in 1994. The building had been closed 3 ½ years earlier, and was costing the city \$50,000 per month to sit idle. Mayor Clarence Harmon said an office park on the site would create jobs and revenue.