

February 29

1844 The city returned to normal after several days of violence. It started when boys playing ball stumbled upon dissected bodies at the Medical Department of St. Louis University. A mob destroyed the school, and then headed for another medical school. But students there hid the bodies, and the mob went away disappointed.

1880 The claims of a former colleague of Jesse James that he had killed the notorious outlaw were cast in doubt. The *Globe-Democrat* said it was known to a select few in St. Louis that Jesse had been here a few days earlier to visit with friends.

1904 John Leonard Roosevelt Martin was born in Temple, Oklahoma. His aggressive play earned "Pepper" Martin another nickname, "The Wild Horse of the Osage." Martin batted .500 in the 1931 World Series and starred for the "Gashouse Gang" World Champions of 1934. He was also one of the most colorful characters in Redbird history. Martin formed the "Mudcat Band" with other players, and entertained fans with jug and washboard country music.

1916 By a margin of 52,220 to 17,877, voters approved an ordinance legally mandating racial segregation in St. Louis. The measure prohibited members of any race from moving into an area where 75% of the residents were of another race. When the U.S. Supreme Court throw such ordinances out, many neighborhoods put in place covenants to keep homeowners from selling to blacks.

1920 Howard Nemerov was born in New York City. He became professor of English at Washington University in 1969. Nemerov was the poet laureate of the United States from 1988 to 1990 and was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for poetry in 1978. He published 13 volumes of poetry, as well as several novels. He died on July 5, 1991.

1948 Eero Saarinen's newly unveiled design for the proposed riverfront memorial was praised by the New York Times as "a modern monument fitting, beautiful and impressive." But Gilmore D. Clarke, chairman of the National Commission on Fine Arts, said it resembled an arch approved by Benito Mussolini for a Fascist exhibition in Rome in 1942. Saarinen said that the arch was not symbolic of any ideology.

1960 The talk radio era opened, as KMOX aired the first *At Your Service* program. Jack Buck hosted the show with Mayor Raymond Tucker as the first guest. Eleanor Roosevelt also appeared on the first show. The idea of newsmakers taking calls from listeners was given little chance of succeeding. But Robert Hyland was so convinced that he ordered the station's record library given away.

1960 The city instituted "Operation Safe Sledding," following media reports of the dangers on Art Hill. The Red Cross set up a first aid station and five park police officers were stationed on the hill.

1996 Fifteen-year-old Kyunia Taylor was shot to death on her school bus in North St. Louis. Her unborn child was delivered by C-section, but died 23 days later. Her boyfriend, Mark Boyd, would be convicted of hiring a hit man to kill Kyunia because he didn't want the baby.