

January 11

1822 Governor Alexander McNair signed a bill providing for the Missouri state seal. Legislator William Wells designed our seal. He suggested the white, or as he put it, the "grisly" bear to be the state symbol because of its power and courage.

1837 Julius Pitzman was born in Prussia. Pitzman was the St. Louis surveyor who developed Vandeventer, Portland and Westmoreland Places. He developed Flora Place to serve as the entrance to Tower Grove Park and cut off Arkansas, Tennessee, Louisiana, Virginia, Minnesota and Pennsylvania Streets to create Compton Heights. His places were some of the first areas in the country to have zoning restrictions.

1861 Federal troops arrived in St. Louis to guard the U.S. sub treasury in response to alarm raised by Assistant U.S. Treasurer Isaac Sturgeon. In response to "Sturgeon's Folly," rebel sympathizers founded their own militia group, the "Minute Men." The Minute Men became part of the state militia in February 1861.

1863 Former St. Louis Mayor John Wimer was killed while fighting for the Confederacy at Hartsville, Missouri. Wimer was mayor from 1843-44 and 1857-58. When war broke out, he took up the cause of his home state of Virginia. He was arrested in 1862, but escaped from the prison at Alton and joined Rebel forces.

1864 Actor John Wilkes Booth was here, performing in Shakespeare's *Richard the III* at the St. Louis Theatre. During the scene where Richard kills King Henry, Booth was reported to have thrust the dagger with such enthusiasm that he nearly injured the local actor playing King Henry. It was one of the last public appearances Booth made before leaving for Washington.

1865 A state constitutional convention passed an amendment prohibiting slavery. Governor Thomas Fletcher issued a proclamation that "no person within the jurisdiction of this state shall be subject to any abridgement of liberty, except as the law may prescribe for the common good, or know any master but God." Church bells in St. Louis rang out the news and business came to a halt.

1899 Representatives from the states of the Louisiana Purchase, having decided to hold an exposition in St. Louis, appointed an executive committee. Former Governor David R. Francis was named as chairman. A committee of 50 was appointed to put plans in motion for a fair in 1903 to commemorate the centennial of the purchase. (The date was later changed)

1903 A St. Louis man, who was seriously injured when the horse pulling his carriage was startled by a car and bolted, was suing the driver for \$1500 in damages. He said the "diabolical" machine made "unearthly noises that would have knocked an equestrian statue off its pedestal."

1911 The temperature plunged 60 degrees in just nine hours. It was 78 degrees at 2 p.m. By 11 p.m., it was 18 degrees. The temperature fell from 75 to 49 degrees in ten minutes.

1922 Missouri State Highway officials announced that they were banning advertisements along the new state roads. Make shift billboards had sprang up on fence posts, trees and billboards. (At least none of them were 75 feet tall or touted Branson) The state also announced it planned to post signs marking the directions and the distances to the major cities.

1924 The Miller administration reversed its four-year stance, and ordered that plans for a Negro hospital proceed without delay. The proposed \$1.2 million facility would be built on “the west end site,” bounded by Whittier, Kennerly, Goode and College.

1944 James H. Howard of St. Louis got separated from his fighter group and single-handedly attacked an enemy formation of 30 planes. He shot down six over Oschersleben, Germany. He was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. Howard had previously notched six kills while flying with the famed “Flying Tigers” in Asia, making him the first ace in both theatres.

1946 The owner of the Cleveland Rams, Donald F. Reeves, asked the N-F-L for permission to move his team to Los Angeles.

1947 The Cardinals launched a new radio network, made up of six stations in Missouri and Illinois. Harry Carey and Gabby Street would handle the play-by-play duties on WEW and WTMV. Dizzy Dean had served as announcer for the Cards and Browns, but Cards owner Sam Breadon said he wanted a more “dignified” broadcast. Dean would return as Brown’s broadcaster in 1952 and took over ABC-TV’s new “Game of the Week” in 1953.

1947 The McDonnell F2H Banshee made its first flight. The Navy would order 895 Banshees. The contract put the small aircraft company in the big leagues. McDonnell Aircraft had been founded just 7 ½ years earlier, with 15 employees.

1947 Card's owner Sam Breadon announced that all Cardinal games would be broadcast on the radio for the first time in 1948. Harry Carey and Gabby Street would handle the play-by-play duties on WEW and WTMV.

1963 The first stainless steel section to be used in the construction of the Arch was delivered. Each sheet was 12-feet high, three-feet wide and 54-feet long. When three sheets were welded together, they would form a triangular section. One steel section on each leg was expected to go up each week.

1970 Over 10,000 residents of the troubled Pruitt-Igoe public housing project were without heat or electricity in the freezing cold, due to broken water pipes. Officials blamed vandalism. Broken windows throughout the complex allowed the pipes to freeze. They burst, flooding electrical equipment.

1974 The Gateway Arch was named as one of the "Seven Man-Made Wonders of the USA" by the U.S. Travel Service of the Department of Commerce.

1981 Eleven children were killed in a house fire in the 1700 block of Cottage Avenue in East St. Louis. Police said the mother left the kids alone to go gambling with her boyfriend. It was the deadliest fire in the St. Louis area since 18 residents were killed at a nursing home in Hillsboro in October 1952. The mother would go on to have six more children after the fire.

1991 County Police Officer Joanne Liscombe was fatally shot in North County. She was the first county officer to be murdered in the line of duty. Dennis Blackman, who lived near the scene of the crime, was convicted of the crime and sentenced to life in prison.

1996 St. Louis diners were shocked to learn that Tony's Restaurant had been demoted from five-star status by the *Mobil Travel Guide*. Tony's had been a five-star restaurant for the past 22 years.

2002 Ford Motor Company announced that it would close its Hazelwood plant by 2005. Hazelwood Mayor T.R. Carr said he would form a task force to look for ways to keep the plant open. In September 2003, an agreement was reached to keep the plant open until 2007. It closed in March of that year.

2003 Governor George Ryan commuted the sentences of all 176 inmates on death row in Illinois. Ryan called the death penalty system "arbitrary and capricious." Ryan made the announcement just two days before leaving office.