

January 18

1803 President Thomas Jefferson sent a secret letter to Congress, seeking authorization for an expedition into the Louisiana Territory. He chose his personal Secretary, Meriwether Lewis to plan the expedition and asked Congress for \$2,500. The final cost of the Lewis and Clark Expedition would add up to \$38,000. It marked the first official U.S. Government exploration of unknown areas.

1900 It was announced that construction would begin soon on a hospital funded by the will of businessman Robert Barnes. When he died in 1892, he left most of his estate as an endowment for his dream of a hospital that would treat people of all races.

1902 The city was buzzing with rumors that the World's Fair would be postponed from the planned opening in April 1903. The President of the fair, David Francis and Adolphus Busch, the chairman of the foreign relations committee, had left for Washington. Federal officials and foreign governments wanted the fair to open in 1904 so they would have more time to prepare their exhibits.

1904 A grand jury here began an investigation into the biggest scandal in city history, the alleged "boodle" deals by members of city government. Circuit Attorney Joseph Folk exposed the corrupt alliance between city officials and big business in the granting of street railway franchises. His crusade won him nationwide attention and got him elected governor in 1904.

1909 George H. Rawlings died. In 1887, George and his brother Alfred opened a sporting goods store in downtown St. Louis. In 1919, Cardinals spitball pitcher Bill Doak asked the firm to manufacture a glove with a leather web between the thumb and forefinger. The Bill Doak model revolutionized glove design. Today, Rawlings is one of two major glove manufacturers left in the U.S.

1924 A grand jury report said "moonshine whiskey is being sold in almost every soft drink parlor, garage and road house in St. Louis County." More than 150 farms in the county were said to be manufacturing hooch.

1929 The *Globe-Democrat* reported that R. Marlin Perkins, the curator of the St. Louis Zoo, was recovering after being bitten by a Gabon Viper. There was no anti-venom for the viper, so he was given serum from the venom of several different snakes and had to undergo several blood transfusions. Perkins would go on to become director of the St. Louis Zoo and host *Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom*.

1938 Curtis Charles Flood was born in Houston, Texas. Flood would anchor the outfield for the Cardinals during their championship seasons in the 1960's and win seven Gold Gloves. Flood changed baseball forever when he refused to report to the Phillies following a trade in 1969. He fought baseball's reserve clause all the way to the Supreme Court. Flood lost, but his courage paved the way for today's free agency.

1947 A government survey said that 26,000 married veterans in the St. Louis area were living in substandard housing. Experts said war industry workers who had not returned to their former homes in rural areas once the work ran out worsened the situation.

1956 Senator Stuart Symington called for a Senate investigation into the “incredibly poor” airline service to and from St. Louis. He said the Civil Aviation Board and those running the airlines were determined to make St. Louis “a tank town” in respect to aviation service. I don’t think he mentioned American Airlines specifically.

1957 A new report said East St. Louis must clean up its reputation before it could hope to attract new industry. The study for the city, the Chamber of Commerce and the Buildings Trade Council found that the reputation of East St. Louis for violence, crime, vice and corruption "is likely to have adverse effects long after the original causes for the reputation have been eliminated."

1958 H. Sam Priest, President of the Board of Police Commissioners, said the department was considering the use of dogs to curb a rash of pedestrian robberies. Priest said police dogs had virtually eliminated a string of purse snatchings and thefts in London Parks.

1959 Hardesty-Johnson announced plans for a state-of-the-art shopping center at Highway 66 and Route 140 in Hazelwood. The Village Square shopping center would be the first in the area to employ a new concept. The stores would face each other across an open mall.

1961 Famed St. Louis missionary Doctor Tom Dooley died of malignant melanoma. Dooley’s first operation two years earlier was broadcast live over CBS Radio and KMOX. After his death, it was reported that he had provided information to the CIA while running his hospitals in Laos. The reports hurt efforts to canonize Dooley, but many people felt he was doing his patriotic duty.

1962 A major hurdle for construction of the downtown stadium was cleared. It was announced that \$20 million in equity capital needed to get the project underway had been secured. All that remained was voter approval of a \$6 million bond issue for public improvements related to the project.

1963 The city passed a controversial minimum housing standards bill. One city official said, "Aldermen have wisely decided that it is better to maintain our neighborhoods than to let them become the slums of tomorrow.

1970 Alderwoman Doris Bass was pushing an ordinance to prohibit performances of plays featuring nudity. The bill was aimed at preventing the opening of *Hair* at the American Theatre. It was introduced on behalf of the Missouri Women's Federation.

1973 The Big Red signed Don Coryell to a three year deal as head coach. Coryell had compiled a record of 27-24 and three in 15 years of coaching at the collegiate level. He

replaced Bob Hollway, who was fired at the end of the 1972 season. Coryell would go on to become the most successful coach in Big Red history before he quit in 1978.

1974 A Missouri Air National Guard F-100 McDonnell Phantom jet plane crashed just northwest of Lambert Airport, killing Second Lt. Donald Lautenschaefer of Mascoutah, Ill. The plane, which was on a training mission, was approaching a runway when it hit trees and wires and came down just off Lindbergh Blvd. between Fee Fee and Missouri Bottom Roads. The pilot ejected himself from the plane, but was killed nonetheless.