

January 20

1872 Governor B. Gratz Brown and his family moved into the new governor's mansion in Jefferson City. Brown had led the push to replace the old, dilapidated governor's home. The mansion was renovated in the 1950's and restored again during the Hearnes administration.

1886 William Seward Burroughs and three other men formed the Arithometer Company in St. Louis to market his invention, the adding machine. The company made one model, which sold for \$475. The firm grew into the Burroughs Adding Machine Company, which moved to Detroit in 1904. Burroughs was the grandfather of "Beat Generation" writer William S. Burroughs.

1905 Missouri's new governor ordered St. Louis Police Chief Mathew Kiley to shut down illicit wine rooms and gaming houses. Police had traditionally ignored such operations. Governor Joseph Folk was the crusading former St. Louis Circuit Attorney whose zeal got him elected as the youngest governor of Missouri.

1912 The decapitated body of Tony Lorenzo was found in an ash bin in the 1100 block of North 9th Street. Lorenzo was reported to be the only Italian in St. Louis who had testified against reputed "agents of the Black Hand." Lorenzo had spent five weeks as a voluntary prisoner of police because he feared for his life.

1917 The long-awaited Free Bridge (now the Macarthur) opened to traffic. For the first time, St. Louisans could cross the Mississippi for free. Before Mayor Henry Kiel's car could start toward East St. Louis following the ceremony, a crowd of 30,000 persons and 3,000 cars poured onto the bridge.

1923 State Highway Department officials were in St. Charles, placing numbered route markers on the first state highways. The route from St. Louis to Kansas City was to be designated Route Two. (Later U-S 40 and I-70) State Route number Nine would be marked from St. Louis to Hannibal. (Later U-S 61)

1933 Ron Townson was born in St. Louis. The portly, bearded Fifth Dimension member coined the group's name after Johnny Rivers signed them to his Soul City label and complained that their old handle, The Versatiles, sounded outdated. Ron retired from the group in the early '90s and died of kidney failure August 2nd, 2001 at 68

1937 The antelope houses and yards at the zoo were completed. The distinctive boulders there were modeled after rock outcroppings near Graniteville, Missouri.

1947 The eastern half of historic Vandeventer Place was chosen as part of the site for a new \$15 million dollar veteran's hospital. The plan called for the removal of 14 mansions.

1949 Harry S. Truman was sworn in for his first term after being elected in his own right. The stands were packed Missourians, including the Missouri Senators and Representatives. Secretary of the Treasury John Snyder of St. Louis and Secretary for Air W. Stuart Symington were also on hand.

1952 The final figures from the 1950 census showed St. Louis had retained its place as the eighth largest city in the nation. The population of the city was put at 856,800. The entire population of the county was put at about 400,000.

1958 Radio station KWK finished up its "Record-Breaking Week." During the week, disc jockeys gave every rock and roll record in the library a farewell spin, and then smashed it to bits on the air. Station manager Robert Convey called it "a simple weeding out of undesirable music." In response, Danny and the Juniors were inspired to record "Rock and Roll is Here to Stay."

1961 More than 2,000 mourners from around the world were in St. Louis for the funeral of Tom Dooley, world renowned missionary and founder of MEDICO. He was buried with full military honors in Calvary Cemetery.

1970 St. Louis became the first expansion city to host the NHL All-Star Game. The East team, made up of players from the original six teams, beat the expansion players from the west, 4-1 before 16,587 fans. Blues goalie Jacques Plante was spectacular in the last half of the game.

1975 Thomas Hart Benton died at the age of 75. Harry Truman called Benton "The best damn painter in America." His most famous works are the murals in the Missouri state capitol rotunda. The historical murals caused something of a scandal when they were unveiled, because they portrayed greedy politicians and criminals as well as heroic figures.

1980 The LA Rams appeared in the Super Bowl for the first time. The Rams lost to the Pittsburgh Steelers, 31-18.

1981 At 11:57 a.m., the parents of Marine Sergeant Rocky Sickmann of Krakow, Missouri cheered and church bells rang as the plane carrying the 52 hostages cleared Iranian airspace. Virgil Sickmann told reporters he wanted to make sure that the eight men who died in a rescue attempt on April 24, 1979 would not be forgotten. The family planned to wait up all night for a phone call from Rocky.

1983 A 14-year-old Parkway South Junior High School student shot and killed a classmate and wounded another before killing himself. Police said David Lawler was angered because classmates were taunting him about his brother.

1993 Maya Angelou read her poem "On The Pulse of the Morning" at the inauguration of President Clinton. The actress, author and civil rights activist was born Marguerite Johnson in St. Louis in 1928. Angelou's 1970 biography *I Know Why The Caged Bird*

Sings made her one of the first African-American women to appear on the best-seller lists.

1995 The NHL season got underway following a postponement due to the player's strike. The strike ruined the Blues plans to open the new Kiel Center with a game against the Blackhawks. The first Blues game after the strike was a 5-2 road win over San Jose. The game marked the debut of coach Mike Keenan.

1997 Former Cardinal outfielder Curt Flood died at the age of 59. Flood is now regarded as one of the most important figures in sports history for his battle against the reserve system. Gussie Busch traded Flood to the Phillies after a contract dispute in 1969. Flood sued, saying he was not a piece of property. He lost in the U.S. Supreme Court, but paved the way for today's high-dollar free agents.

1998 CBS News reported that a pilot from Florissant could be resting in the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery. The family of Lieutenant Michael Blassie wanted the remains exhumed for DNA testing. The tests proved that Blassie was in the tomb, and his remains were brought home for burial at Jefferson Barracks.

2003 Al Hirshfield died at the age of 99. Hirshfield was born in St. Louis. From 1929 until his death, he drew the greats of Broadway for the *New York Times*. His work appeared on two postage stamps, and in the collections of the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Museum of Modern Art, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.