

January 23

1872 The St. Louis press was denouncing the way a famed Negro statesman was treated on a visit here. The Honorable Frederick Douglass, here on a lecture tour, had been denied lodging at one of the finest hotels in the city.

1885 Architect Isaac S. Taylor was awarded a contract for the Third Baptist Church at Grand and Washington. The landmark church still stands today. It cost a then-unheard-of \$75,000. Taylor would later design the Jefferson Memorial and become chief of works for the World's Fair.

1887 William Greenleaf Eliot died. With Wayman Crow, he founded Eliot Seminary in 1853. The seminary eventually became Washington University. He became chancellor in 1871 and served until his death. Eliot was the grandfather of famed author T.S. Eliot.

1896 A tragedy took place that led to the founding of Webster Groves. Thieves had murdered Bertram Atwater, the latest in a series of holdups. Residents blamed the crimes on the lack of organized municipal government. Concerned citizens banded together to incorporate. Webster Groves incorporated seven commuter stations strung along the Frisco line.

1907 St. Louis Police were being ordered to remove telephones from houses of ill repute and saloons where women were allowed to drink. They were told to "tear the phones from the walls if necessary."

1930 The *Globe* reported that the Columbia Broadcasting System had bought a significant interest in the "Voice of St. Louis Incorporated," which operated KMOX. The new arrangement was expected to allow the station to increase its power to 50,000 watts and reach the entire country.

1941 A TWA "Skysleeper" crashed near Natural Bridge and Bridgeton Station Road, killing the pilot and mechanic. 12 passengers were injured.

1944 Eight people were killed and ten injured in a collision between a bus and train in Wellston. A Wabash train hit the bus as it crossed the tracks on Etzel Avenue. The death toll would eventually reach 15.

1957 County officials were upset over recent annexations. Bridgeton had just annexed a six-square-mile area, more than 50 times the original size of the municipality. Council Chairman L-Gordon Davis said such annexations avoided orderly planning and zoning.

1962 Actor and General Electric spokesperson Ronald Reagan made several speeches in St. Louis. He blasted the "progressive tax system spawned by Karl Marx" and also spoke out against welfare programs.

1967 The Cardinals named Stan Musial as their general manager, replacing Bob Howsam. Howsam left to take a similar job with Cincinnati.

1967 Stix, Baer and Fuller opened its third suburban St. Louis branch at Crestwood Plaza. President J.A. Baer joined Crestwood Mayor Paul Koenig and St. Louis County Executive Lawrence K. Roos at the grand opening ceremony. The chain was purchased in the late-1960s by Associated Dry Goods, which later sold the chain to Dillard's

1969 Mayor Alfonso J. Cervantes said a research firm's preliminary report showed a need for a new convention center. Three sites were under consideration at the time. The mayor said he wanted a facility big enough to handle 95% of the conventions.

1970 James Boevingloh became the second University City police officer in six weeks to die in the line of duty. He was shot as he interrupted a hold-up. Patrolman William Downey was killed on December 12th as he interrupted a gas station robbery.

1975 The 35-story Mercantile Tower was topped out downtown. At the time, it was the tallest building in the city. The Metropolitan Square and the Southwestern Bell Buildings have since eclipsed it.

1986 Chuck Berry was among the first group of performers to be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Keith Richards of the Rolling Stones inducted Berry that night. Richards said, "It's hard for me to induct Chuck Berry, because I lifted every lick he ever played!"

2000 Ricky Proehl assured himself a place in St. Louis sports history. With 4:44 seconds left in the NFC Championship Game, the wide receiver made "The Catch." His one-handed leaping 30-yard touchdown grab gave the Rams an 11-6 win over Tampa Bay, and gave St. Louis its first trip to the Super Bowl.

2003 President George Bush issued a stern warning to Iraq in a visit here. Bush said should the U.S. go to war, any Iraqi that ordered the use of weapons of mass destruction would be tried as a war criminal. He also touted his tax cut plans in a speech at J.S. Logistics on Gustine. About 150 protestors who braved the cold complained that they were moved out of sight.

2005 Johnny Carson, host of the "Tonight Show" for 30 years, died at the age of 79. Carson emceed a "Rat Pack" benefit for Dismas House at Kiel in 1965 and appeared there as a comedian in 1967. He brought St. Louisan Stan Kann onto the show 77 times beginning in June 1966.

2006 Ford announced plans to close the Hazelwood Assembly Plant by March, 2008. Some 1,445 workers would lose their jobs. The plant had opened in 1949.