

January 30

1801 Peter John DeSmet was born in Tremonde, Belgium. He came to Florissant in 1823 to establish a school for Indian's at Bishop's Farm. (Later St. Stanislaus Seminary, now the Gateway College of Evangelism) In 1829, he helped re-establish St. Louis University. He became a missionary and peacemaker with the Indians, who revered him as "Black Robe."

1806 Thomas Jefferson appointed James Wilkinson as the first Governor of the Louisiana Territory. Wilkinson was not popular here. He had a fondness for the drink and soon got mixed up in Aaron Burr's treasonous scheme to separate the land west of the Appalachians from the rest of the country. Jefferson removed him in 1807, and named Meriwether Lewis governor.

1817 Territorial Governor William Clark signed an act establishing a board of trustees for the regulation of St. Louis schools, the first such board in the town. No public school was opened here until 1839.

1821 The City of Alton was incorporated. Alton was named in honor of Alton Easton. He was the son of city founder, Colonel Rufus Easton. Colonel Easton was the postmaster general of St. Louis, who saw Alton as an ideal site for a steamboat landing.

1872 The United States House passed a bill authorizing \$250,000 to purchase a site for a new post office and customs house. The government had already appropriated money for construction, but specified the building could cost no more than \$2 million dollars.

1896 Public Library officials purchased a downtown site for a grand new public library. The site was the old exposition grounds on Olive. The library had outgrown its quarters in the Board of Education Building.

1903 The St. Louis Civic Improvement League said the first step in improving the city before the fair should be the elimination of the "bill posting nuisance." A speaker said nearly every available fence and building wall was covered with posters promoting events and patent medicines.

1905 Amid debris left over from the World's Fair, classes began at the new Washington University campus "west of Thomas Skinker's Road" and Forest Park. The site was acquired largely through the efforts of Robert Somers Brookings. The building now known as Brookings Hall served as the administration building during the fair.

1916 The Lion House opened at the St. Louis Zoo. It was torn down in 1974 to make room for "Big Cat Country."

1923 The head of Leow's Theatres was here to award contracts for a new, \$1 million theater at 8th and Washington. Plans called for a 3400 seat-theater with a refrigeration

plant capable of cooling the inside to ten degrees below the outside temperature in the summer.

1929 Ironworker Victor McKee drowned after falling from a pier at the construction site of the Chain of Rocks Bridge. For the next 30 years, flowers were placed anonymously on the bridge on Memorial Day. The mystery was solved when workers found a note explaining that McKee's relatives placed them there in his memory.

1933 At its Lambert Field plant, Curtiss-Wright unveiled what it billed as "The largest airplane built west of the Mississippi." The two-engine "Condor" could hit 170 miles per hour. Its luxurious interior was soundproofed, so travelers could converse at a normal level during their flight.

1959 The *Globe-Democrat* reported that preliminary work was underway on the design for the proposed one-million-dollar planetarium in Forest Park. The firm of Hellmuth, Obata and Kassebaum was chosen to create a unique space age design.

1982 About 3:30 that Saturday afternoon, forecasters issued a winter storm watch. That meant four or more inches of snow was expected. By supertime, heavy snow was falling, and a violent thunder snowstorm had developed. Officially, 13.9 inches of snow fell at Lambert Field by the next day, but unofficial totals were closer to 22 inches.

1982 Jim Hanifan was named as coach of the football Cardinals. He was credited with building the best offensive line in football while serving as Big Red assistant coach from 1973 to 1978.

1984 Robert and Anna Rucker of Florissant, MO kept their lucky numbers a secret from each other on this day. They both ended up winning over one-million dollars with identical numbers in the Illinois State Lottery!

2000 The Rams brought St. Louis its first Super Bowl title, with a 23-16 win over the Tennessee Titans in Super Bowl XXXIV at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta. Kurt Warner, who was named the game's most valuable player, was 24 of 45 for a Super Bowl-record 414 yards and 2 touchdowns. Isaac Bruce had 6 catches for 162 yards, Rams linebacker Mike Jones tackled Titans receiver Kevin Dyson at the one-yard line as time ran out to preserve the win.

2004 A suspected drug dealer shot and killed St. Louis Police officer Nick Sloan with the officer's own gun during a struggle in the 700 block of North Taylor. Sloan's partner, Gabriel Kiethley, was shot and wounded. But he managed to return fire and kill the suspect, Dennis Hathorn of Centreville.

2005 After 126 years, the Pulitzer family announced the sale of the *Post-Dispatch*. Pulitzer Incorporated would be sold to Lee Enterprises. The deal would make Lee the 4th largest U.S. newspaper publisher, counting the number of daily papers, and the 7th largest in circulation. The *Post* would be the biggest paper in the chain.