

## July 5

**1808** The leading citizens of St. Louis asked to be incorporated as a town. A petition was filed with the Court of Common Pleas of the Indiana Territory, of which St. Louis was still a part. The petition included 80 signatures out of a possible 101 "taxable inhabitants."

**1862** After their defeat at Booneville, the retreating Confederates won their first victory in Missouri at the Battle of Carthage. The rebels under Governor Claiborne Jackson and General Sterling Price retained a perilous foothold in southern Missouri.

**1875** The Washington Olympics, in town to play the Browns, were told the club didn't have enough money to get the players back to D.C. The club was disbanded, and the Browns paid for the player's tickets home.

**1879** Dwight F. Davis was born in St. Louis. An excellent tennis player, he served as the city parks commissioner and installed tennis courts in Forest Park. They were the first public courts in the nation. In 1900, he donated the "Davis Cup" for the international lawn tennis competitions. He played for the winning U.S. team in the first two Cup finals and won US and Wimbledon doubles titles in 1901. He also served as Secretary of War under President Coolidge.

**1925** The St. Louis Police Department fired its female telephone operators. A spokesman said the move was part of a "return to normalcy," meaning pre-war conditions when there were no female employees. The women protested, but the Police Board said the station house was "not a desirable environment" for women.

**1947** The flying saucer scare sweeping the country arrived in St. Louis. Dozens of people reported seeing an unidentified flying object streak across an area off the Old St. Charles Rock Road west of Pattonville. Over the next few days, such "sightings" were front-page banner headline news.

**1955** Mayor Raymond Tucker said a new city charter was his number one priority. He said the present 1914 charter didn't serve the needs of the city. Tucker also said he considered mass transit and the merger of the city and county to be top priorities.

**1974** Both Chuck Berry and St. Charles County officials said no more rock concerts would be held at Berry Park in Wentzville. A July 4th festival was a disaster because of stolen tickets, low attendance and no-shows by some of the acts. Enraged fans pelted Berry's home with rocks when Leon Russell failed to appear.

**1981** Robert Herman, Chairman of the Vield Prophet Fair, said he would push for a similar celebration on the riverfront in 1982. He said the first fair was a success, despite a downpour that wiped out most of the fireworks and a concert by Loretta Lynn. Fair organizers said about 500,000 people had attended over three days.

**1983** St. Louis became the first area in the nation where suburban districts cooperated with the city in a voluntary school desegregation program. The plan stemmed from a 1972 lawsuit by Minnie Liddell and a group of parents who claimed the city and the state were responsible for the segregation in city schools.

**1995** Over 70 followers of the Grateful Dead were injured in the collapse of a deck at the Pinewoods Lodge near Wentzville. The Deadheads were trying to take cover during a thunderstorm. A few weeks earlier, three thousand Dead fans had rioted in Indianapolis. Fans were devastated again when Jerry Garcia died, one month after the accident.

**2005** Kevin Johnson shot and killed Kirkwood Police Sgt. William McEntee after the officer stopped to speak with a boy in the historically black neighborhood of Meacham Park. Johnson was upset by the death of his brother earlier in the day. His brother suffered from a heart problem, and collapsed while police arrested Johnson for a parole violation.