

July 6

1763 Maxent, Laclede and Company of New Orleans was granted exclusive rights to the Indian trade in the Mississippi Valley. In August, Pierre Laclede and his grandson, Auguste Chouteau, would journey up the river to choose a site for their trading post. The site would become the city of St. Louis.

1878 St. Louisans were mystified by the announcement that the "Mythical Conclave of Veiled Prophets" would appear as part of "a grand pageant and spectacular procession to be followed by a unique and gorgeous tableaux and grand ball at the Opera House." The Veiled Prophet celebration was planned as part of the annual St. Louis Fair in October.

1880 Phelim O'Toole died when a fire extinguisher exploded in his hands as he fought a small fire in a vacant building. Over 20,000 people would line the route of his funeral procession. During the Southern Hotel fire on April 11, 1877, he climbed a horse-drawn hook and ladder and rushed from window to window. He saved at least a dozen lives. The city awarded him \$500, at a time when the average fire fighter made \$75 per month. He even became the subject of a hit song.

1900 A St. Louis grand jury found that the recent violence during the streetcar strike was the result of an "Iniquitous Law" passed by the state legislature. The law placed police affairs in the hands of the governor. The jury said the city police force was "incompetent, unfit and unreliable" and "nothing more or less than a political machine."

1904 The Democratic National Convention got underway in St. Louis. The convention nominated New York Appeals Court Judge Alton Parker. Parker ran a lackadaisical campaign against President Roosevelt. The delegates gave the vice presidential slot to Henry G. Davis, an 81 year-old Virginia millionaire. The party hoped, in vain as it turned out, that Davis would make big campaign contributions.

1909 A city ordinance authorized a Board of Control and designated the former Palace of the Fine Arts from the World's Fair as the City Art Museum. City voters in April had approved tax support for the museum. Court challenges to the state's museum legislation kept the board from meeting until 1912.

1929 The Cardinals beat the Phillies 28-6, establishing the National League record for runs scored in one game. The Cardinals racked up ten runs in the first inning and another ten in the fifth, pounding out 28 hits. Chick Hafey and Taylor Douthit each had five hits and pitcher Fred Frankhouse had four. The win snapped a ten game losing streak for the Cards.

1933 Four Cardinals were starters in the first All-Star Game at Comiskey Park in Chicago. Catcher Jimmy Wilson, second-baseman Frankie Frisch, third-baseman Pepper Martin, and pitcher "Wild Bill Hallahan" started the game.

1939 James S. McDonnell opened the McDonnell Aircraft Company with \$165,000 of his own money and funds from family and friends. He had one employee and no orders. McDonnell was very interested in the spirit world. He named the firm's second plane the "Phantom" and continued the trend with the "Banshee," the "Demon," and the "Voodoo." "Mr. Mac" was also a great philanthropist. He died on August 22, 1980.

1958 Efforts were launched to save the first Missouri State Capitol at St. Charles. The owner put the two-story building up for sale for 75-hundred dollars. He said he had exhausted efforts to find someone to save it. The building served as the capitol from 1821 to 1826.

1961 The Cardinals fired manager Solly Hemus and replaced him with Johnny Keane. Keane would lead the Cardinals to a world championship in 1964, only to quit and manage the Yankees the following season.

1964 A mob of 500 people, most of them black, attacked city police officers responding to a call to aid a sick person in the 500 block of Leffingwell. Sixteen officers were hurt, one seriously. Later, a group of 45 people marched on the police station in North St. Louis, hurling rocks and bricks.

1990 Whitey Herzog announced he was stepping down as manager of the Cardinals. He had piloted the Redbirds since 1980, leading them to the World Series three times. Joe Torre was named as his replacement on August 2nd.

1993 Sandbaggers gave up their fight to save the levee protecting West Alton. Five hundred families in St. Charles County were told to evacuate. The flood was inching towards the record crest of 1973, and more rain was on the way.

1999 President Bill Clinton came to East St. Louis. In a speech at a brand-new Walgreen's store, the president pushed his plan for tax cuts and incentives to attract corporate investment in poor areas.

2000 Cardinals rookie catcher Keith McDonald became only the second player in major league history to hit two home runs in his first two big league at bats. But the Reds won the game at Busch, 12-6. Bob Nieman of the Browns hit two home runs in his first two at bats backs in 1951.