

July 9

1806 The Territorial Legislature passed the first laws providing for the establishment of public roads in Missouri. The law stated that public roads could be built if 12 freeholders in a county petitioned the Court of Quarter Sessions.

1808 Alexander William Doniphan was born. He rose to fame as Missouri's hero of the Mexican war. He organized the First Missouri Volunteer Regiment, which defeated a superior Mexican force at Chihuahua, then marched to the sea at Monterrey.

1820 Delegates signed the first Missouri constitution at the Mansion House Hotel in St. Louis. The convention went into effect immediately, and was never submitted to the people for ratification. Alexander McNair of St. Louis was one of the delegates. He would become the state's first governor. Thomas Hart Benton and David Barton were also delegates. They became Missouri's first Senators.

1831 Major Thomas Biddle horsewhipped Congressman Spencer Pettis at the City Hotel. Pettis had criticized the Bank of the United States, and Biddle's brother, who served as its president. The episode led to one of the most famous duels in St. Louis history. Both men mortally wounded each other on August 26, 1831.

1841 About 75 percent of the population of St. Louis watched as Charles Brown, James Seward, Alfred Warrick and Madison Henderson were hanged on Duncan's Island for the murder of two white bank tellers during a robbery in May 1841. Stung by criticism after the lynching of Francis McIntosh five years earlier, city officials were determined that the men should receive a legal trial. After the executions, the men's heads were displayed in a drug store window for several days.

1860 The first recorded baseball game in St. Louis played under rules set out by the National Convention of Baseball Players took place. The "Morning Stars" beat "The Cyclones", 50 to 24, on a field just west of present-day Fairgrounds Park.

1878 Henry Tibbe of Washington, Missouri patented the improved corncob pipe. Tibbe and the local druggist came up with a plaster of Paris mixture that kept the pipes from becoming too porous. He had created the Missouri Meerschaum Pipe, still made today in Franklin County.

1887 Germans were toasting Judge E.A. Noonan of the St. Louis Court of Criminal Correction. Noonan ruled that the new Sunday closing laws did apply to whiskey, but not to wine or beer. The *Globe* reported that several people were proposing Noonan for mayor.

1900 Just days after ending their violent 55-day strike, streetcar workers walked off the job again. They claimed that management was not living up to the terms of the agreement. The weary workers gave up in September, but the strike exposed the corrupt alliance between city government and big business.

1901 The World's Fair Company appropriated \$5 million for construction of buildings at the fair. Commissioners advised architects to speak now if they couldn't meet the planned April 1903 opening date. Fair President David R. Francis said the fair must open by that date

1905 The Postmaster General banned the People's Bank of University City from using the mails. Founder Edward Garner Lewis was charged with defrauding depositors. Lewis, the founder of University City, ran the bank from his Women's Magazine Building, which is now city hall. His publishing and real estate empires were also under investigation.

1940 The National League won the All-Star Game at Sportsmen's Park. The final score was 4-0. It was the first shut out in All-Star history. Max West of the Boston Bees hit a three run home run in the first inning.

1957 The All-Star game was played here at Old Busch Stadium. The American League won, 6-5, in dramatic fashion. Both teams scored three runs in the ninth. But Minnie Minoso's catch in the bottom of the ninth with the bases loaded snuffed the NL rally.

1963 Stan Musial set a record with his 24th appearance in the All-Star Game. But it was Willie Mays' show. He singled, stole two bases, scored twice and made a spectacular catch as the National League won, 5-3.

1972 The Rolling Stones "Exile on Main Street" Tour made a stop here. Stevie Wonder was the opening act for the concert at Kiel Auditorium. The Stones played shows at 2 and 8 p.m. Mick Jagger reportedly wanted to go to East St. Louis for barbecue, but the limo driver talked him out of it. The *Post-Dispatch* reported that an entourage of 37 accompanied the Stones.

1977 Over 45,000 rock fans packed Busch Stadium for "Superjam '77." The concert featured Ted Nugent, REO Speedwagon, Head East, Gypsy and Judas Priest. Tickets were ten bucks.

1977 An eight-hour blackout left a 40-square block area of downtown from 8th Street to the Riverfront without power. Traffic came to a standstill. Fortunately, it happened on a Saturday. An explosion and a fire in an underground conduit triggered the blackout. Five workers were injured.

1993 The flooding Missouri River inundated a power station in St. Charles, cutting power to thousands. In Lemay, water topped a levee along Kayser Creek, inundating more homes. Over the next few days, hundreds more families would be forced from their homes.

1997 Ground was broken on the long-awaited Page extension into St. Charles County. The project lost federal funding twice, amid a controversy over construction through

Creve Coeur Lake Park and destruction of wetlands. Opponents forced a referendum on the project in November 1998, and voters approved the route.