

## July 11

**1739** Louis Pierre Blanchette was born in Canada. A trapper and trader known as "Le Chassuer," he was chosen by the Spanish to open a trading post on the Missouri River. He chose a site that would become the city of St. Charles.

**1863** Joseph Griesedieck was born in Stromberg, Germany. He operated the National Brewery, then founded Griesedieck Brothers in 1912. In 1921, he bought the Falstaff trademark from the Lemp Brewery and became president of Falstaff. Falstaff was originally organized to manufacture soft drinks. The brewery survived prohibition by processing pork products.

**1873** The City Council passed a law regulating the driving of cattle through the city streets. Drives were banned except during the hours of 10 p.m. through 6 a.m., and were limited to 25 head or less. Critics complained that the measure would drive the cattle business to East St. Louis.

**1875** The man who gave his name to two presidents was born in St. Louis. David Davis Walker founded Eli Walker and Company, which grew into the leading wholesale seller of dry goods west of the Mississippi. His daughter, Dorothy Walker, met Yale graduate and Army Captain Prescott Bush when he came here to work for Simmons Hardware. They named their second son George Herbert Walker Bush. His son is George Walker, or "dub-ya" Bush.

**1904** Doctor Mary Walker, "masculinely attired agitator for dress reform," caused a sensation at the World's Fair Administration Building. Dressed in a black coat, with trousers and a silk hat, Walker was there to demand a free pass from management. Women fled screaming when she stepped into the women's retiring room.

**1911** The Cardinals Pullman cars were placed near the front of a New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad train bound for Boston. That night, manager Roger Bresnahan complained that the noise kept his players awake and the cars were moved to the back. Near Bridgeport, Connecticut, the train crashed down an embankment, killing 14. The cars at the front of the train were completely destroyed. The players helped in the rescue efforts, and then took a special train to Boston.

**1917** The Post-Dispatch reported on 19-year-old tennis star Ted Drewes, who had just beaten veteran player Roland Hoerr in a Central States Tournament. Drewes once held the National Public Parks tennis championship. But he would become known more for his work with concretes than for his exploits on the clay surface. In the 1930's, Drewes would open a little frozen custard stand on Route 66.

**1928** A vehement protest from the Missouri Historical Society greeted a proposal to tear down the Old Cathedral as part of the proposed riverfront memorial. Doctor Alexander DeMenil of the society said that many of the most venerable buildings in the city had met the wrecking ball in the name of so-called improvements.

**1931** California prison officials announced that Edward Garner Lewis would soon be paroled. The founder of University City had been sentenced to five years for violating postal laws. He fled to California in 1905 after his banking, publishing and real estate empire here collapsed. The Post Office accused him of fraud and banned his bank from doing business through the mails.

**1932** About 1500 members of the Unemployed Council of St. Louis, organized by the Communist Party, stormed city hall. Four people were shot. Twenty people were hurt, including seven police officers. The mayor called an extraordinary meeting. He appropriated \$2 million in city funds for relief and issued bonds for a \$4.6 million loan from the federal government.

**1946** The Federal Communications Commission authorized the construction of the first television station in St. Louis. KSD TV, Channel Five, would sign on the air in February of 1947.

**1946** The *Globe-Democrat* reported that the English Teachers Association of Missouri had filed a complaint against Dizzy Dean with the Federal Communications Commission. They claimed his broadcasts “replete with errors of grammar and syntax” were a bad influence on the kids. Fans flooded the papers and WIL with telegrams and letters of support for Dean. There’s some evidence that the complaint may have been a hoax or publicity stunt.

**1950** A dramatic 14th-inning home run by Red Scheondienst of the Cardinals gave the National League an All-Star Game win at Comiskey Park in Chicago. The final score was 8-3.

**1953** Leon Spinks was born in St. Louis. Leon and his brother Michael grew up in the Pruitt-Igoe and Darst-Webbe Housing Projects. The brothers won gold medals at the 1976 Olympics. In 1978, Leon defeated Muhammed Ali for the heavyweight title. Michael won the title in 1985. The Spinks are the only brothers to win Olympic gold in the same sport and the only brothers to hold world-boxing titles.

**1961** During the first All-Star game to be played at Candlestick Park in San Francisco, Cardinals pitcher Stu Miller was blown off the mound by a gust of wind. A balk was called enabling the AL to tie the game. The National League didn't blow it though. They won 5-4 in ten innings.

**1966** With St. Louis in the grip of a terrible heat wave, Union Electric began to shut power off to areas for up to two hours at a time, in order to save the overloaded power grid. The shutdowns continued for two days, and resulted in something of a scandal. By the time the heat wave ended, 146 people had died.

**1978** The Rolling Stones came to St. Louis for the third time. The show at Kiel Auditorium was in support of their "Some Girls" album.

**1980** Eight more heat related deaths brought the toll to 25 since July 2nd. Mayor Conway declared a medical emergency to get air conditioning to sweltering patients at City Hospital. The Red Cross set up 21 emergency heat relief stations.

**1982** A crowd of 15,103 at the Arena saw John McEnroe defeat Mats Wilander in one of the longest matches in tennis history. The six-hour-30 minute match gave the U.S. a 3-2 Davis Cup win over Sweden.

**1983** The Miss Universe pageant was broadcast to a worldwide audience of 600 million from Kiel Auditorium. Miss New Zealand, Lorraine Downs, took the crown. Bob Barker, Joan Van Ark and John Schneider hosted the pageant.

**1984** The new \$42.7 million Jefferson Barracks Bridge opened. At the time, St. Louis area drivers were also waiting for work to be finished on the new 70/270 interchange and the eastbound lanes of the Vandeventer overpass.

**1995** "The Benchwarmer," *Globe-Democrat* sports columnist Bob Burnes, died of a heart attack three days shy of his 80th birthday. His column ran in the *Globe* from 1945 until 1986. He came to KMOX in 1953, and was the first host of *Sports Open Line*.

**1995** The Blues announced that they had signed free agent goaltender Grant Fuhr. The decision was widely criticized. The criticism increased when he showed up for training camp overweight.

**1998** Air Force First Lieutenant Michael Blassie of Florissant was laid to rest at Jefferson Barracks, 26 years after he was shot down over Vietnam. His remains rested in the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery for 14 years, until DNA tests confirmed his identity.