

July 15

1806 Lieutenant Zebulon Pike left St. Louis on an expedition to the southwestern part of the Louisiana Purchase. He discovered the mountain in Colorado that bears his name, but actually never set foot on it. He actually was spying on the Spanish. General James Wilkinson authorized the expedition without the knowledge of President Jefferson. Wilkinson was plotting a coup with Aaron Burr. Pike probably believed he was helping his country, unaware of Wilkinson's scheme.

1817 Henry Blow was born in Virginia. Blow was a St. Louis civic leader who helped establish the Republican Party in Missouri and became a congressman. He provided money and legal help for Dred Scott. His daughter Susan would open the first kindergarten in the U.S. at Des Peres School in Carondelet in 1873.

1867 James B. Eads presented his plans for a bridge across the Mississippi at St. Louis. His design called for arches made of cast steel tubes, two arches of 502 feet on either end and a central arch of 520 feet. It would be the first bridge to use steel extensively. Steamboat interests immediately protested and took their opposition to Washington.

1873 Residents of a 15-block area near an anchored boat used for rendering by the city's official dead animal scavenger demanded action from the mayor. They warned that they would cut the lines unless something was done within three days. The owner of the boat posted an armed guard.

1876 Pitcher George Bradley of the Browns threw a 2-0 no-hitter against Hartford here in St. Louis. It was the first no-hitter in major league history. Bradley would appear in every one of the 64 games the Browns played in that first NL season, winning 45! He threw 16 shutouts, a record that stood for 40 years.

1900 The second walkout by the streetcar workers here turned violent, just as the first one had. Two passengers were critically injured when someone dynamited a car being operated by strikebreakers.

1904 The Buffalo German Athletic Club won the Olympic Basketball Championship Tournament. No medals were awarded, since the games actually just decided the A.A.U. champions. Basketball was a demonstration sport at the St. Louis games, and didn't officially become part of the Olympics until 1936.

1909- The city announced plans to convert the old St. Louis Fairgrounds into a city park. Parks Commissioner Phillip Scanlan said the new park would include a lake, a boathouse and bear pits.

1925 The city shut down the free auto camp in Forest Park. Such camps had served intrepid auto travelers in the early days of motoring, but they had begun to attract the homeless and a bad reputation. Commercial auto camps were beginning to spring up along the highways into St. Louis.

1932 The Board of Aldermen passed an emergency measure establishing tolls on the Municipal or "Free" Bridge for one year. The ten-cent toll for cars and the 15-cent fee for commercial vehicles were expected to raise one million dollars for unemployment relief.

1939 Mike Shannon was born in St. Louis. Shannon starred in three sports at CBC and was named Missouri's number one basketball and football player. He was awarded a football scholarship to Mizzou but signed with the Cardinals in 1958. He played for the Cardinals from 1962 until 1970, when a kidney ailment cut his career short. He moved to the KMOX broadcast booth in 1972.

1948 General John "Blackjack" Pershing died at the age of 88. Born in Lancaster, Missouri, he led the hunt for Pancho Villa into Mexico in 1916, and commanded the American Expeditionary Force in France during World War One.

1959 The link between the Daniel Boone Expressway and the Red Feather Express Highway was opened. (Now Highway 40, between Brentwood Boulevard and Clayton-Skinker) It was now possible to drive from Vandeventer to Boonville, Missouri on four-lane highway. (40 still ended east of Vandeventer)

1964 The Beach Boys played their first show in St. Louis. The show at Kiel Opera House featured the Kingsmen and Freddie Cannon as the opening acts.

1964 The first section of I-55 south of downtown opened to traffic. It was a four-point-eight mile section between Carondelet and Lindbergh.

1967 It seemed as if the Cardinal's pennant hopes had suffered a mortal blow, as Bob Gibson's leg was broken by a line-drive off the bat of Roberto Clemente. Gibby got up and pitched to another batter before coming out of the game! The Redbird ace would be out of the line up until Labor Day. He would win three World Series games.

1980 The temperature in St. Louis hit 107 degrees, the hottest day of the heat wave. It was also the hottest day in St. Louis since July 18, 1954. The heat had killed 103 so far during the 13-day heat wave. Police were called in to help the city morgue handle the bodies.

1984 Workers began removing salvageable items from the Buder and International Buildings. Preservationists were preparing to return to court to block the demolition of the buildings for the Gateway Mall.

1993 The flood of 1993 surpassed the record crest of 1973, as more rain fell on the area. Union Electric had to shut off utilities to threatened homes in South St. Louis along the River des Peres.

1998 The 14 Venture discount stores in the St. Louis area closed forever. Many of the locations later re-opened as Kohl's or K-Mart Department Stores. The chain filed for bankruptcy in January 1998.

1998 Reginald Sublet killed his ex-wife, her new husband, and two children at a home in Ballwin following a bitter custody dispute. The family was locked in a garage with a running vehicle. Sublet's ex-wife, Rosalind Tramble, was beaten and tied up. Her husband, Michael Tramble Junior, was bound up in a car trunk. Reginald Sublet Junior and toddler Michael Tramble the Third also died in the garage.

1999 12-year-old Heather Kullorn disappeared from the Richmond Heights apartment where she was baby sitting. Detectives were concerned that the diabetic girl may have witnessed some drug activity. Her body was never found.

2003 Archbishop Justin Rigali announced he would leave St. Louis to head the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Rigali became the first St. Louis Archbishop to leave for a larger diocese. Rigali had served as archbishop here since January 1994. He was credited with bringing Pope John Paul II here.

2003 The St. Louis School Board announced plans to close 16 schools to deal with an estimated deficit of \$90 million. The Board had hired an out of town team to manage the district. Those moves prompted protests from many in the community.

2004 A performance by Eve 6 and Just Add Water kicked off the "Riversplash" series of free weekend concerts on the river front. The celebration also turned the Eads Bridge into "Eats Bridge," lined with restaurants. It was such a success that civic leaders began the "Live on the Levee" concert series each summer.