

July 16

1772 Joseph Charless was born in Ireland. Meriwether Lewis brought Charless to St. Louis, where there was no press. Charless began printing the laws and legal documents of the territory. On July 12, 1808, he published the first issue of the *Missouri Gazette*, making him the first journalist west of the Mississippi. Charless would later print the first book published in Missouri and the first almanac.

1849 About 700 people died from cholera in one week in St. Louis. Thousands had fled the city, many boats were tied idly at the levee, and business and social activity had ground to a halt. About 8500 people died before the epidemic ran its course.

1861 The Federal Eighth Infantry again skirmished with Confederate sympathizers along the railroad near Wentzville. Very little is known about the engagement, other than the fact that the Union and Confederate sides each lost seven soldiers.

1875 The news reached St. Louis that Mark Twain had been arrested. The humorist saw a boy steal his umbrella and jokingly offered a reward of \$205, \$5 for the umbrella and \$200 for the lad's "remains." He was arrested when a corpse turned up at his home, along with a note claiming the reward. It turned out that some pranksters at a medical school had sent the corpse.

1904 A Kansas girl and Wyoming cowboy were married while mounted on white spotted cow ponies aboard the Observation Wheel at the World's Fair. Ida Coffman of Clyde, Kansas and William Craven of Cheyenne said their vows as Car 19, "The Wedding Car," reached the highest point. Afterwards, the groom dropped his lariat around the bride in a "lover's loop."

1920 The city of St. Louis reached an agreement with postal authorities to establish an aerial landing field in Forest Park. The field near the mounted police stables was to be for the exclusive use of the aerial mail service.

1925 Truly a landmark day. The first White Castle restaurant in St. Louis opened, at 18th and Olive. The first White Castle in the nation opened in Wichita, Kansas in 1921.

1954 The University of Missouri was declared open to all races by the Board of Curators. The decision came after the board was informed a black student was about to apply for admission, following the U.S. Supreme Court ruling outlawing school desegregation.

1959 The section of Highway 40 between Hanley Road and the Red Feather Expressway was completed. Forty was completed between Wentzville and Lindbergh in 1938. But residents kept it a dead end at Brentwood Boulevard, until construction on the new section began in 1956.

1963 St. Louis County Supervisor L.K. Roos called on the State Highway Commission to launch a crash building program to end the terrible toll on the "Dead Man's Stretch" of Lindbergh. Twenty-two people had been killed and nearly 800 injured over the past 18 months between Midland and Olive.

1966 The terrible heat wave finally came to an end. St. Louis had registered six straight days of 100 plus temperatures. 146 people had died.

1967 The *Post-Dispatch* reported that a "hippie soft drink bar" in Gaslight Square was having big problems. "Love" at 4283 Olive had been burglarized four times and vandalized several more times. Owner Rodney Huskey had been arrested twice. He said the neighbors apparently had little Love for the place.

1970 Plans were announced for a \$30 million, 42-acre "Business City" at what was then Interstate 244 and Page. The development would be called "Westport Plaza."

1973 Union Electric announced it would build Missouri's first nuclear power plant in Callaway County. Plans called for the first of two reactors to be on line by 1981 at a cost of \$1.758 billion. But only one plant was constructed at a cost of \$3.1 billion. The plant was declared operational in December 1984.

1980 The temperature failed to hit one hundred degrees in St. Louis for the first time in four days. The temperature peaked at 97. The death toll from the heat wave that began on July 2nd stood at 136.

1981 Robert Herman, Chairman of the Veiled Prophet Fair, announced plans to sponsor another fair on the riverfront in 1982. The first fair was declared a success, despite a downpour on July 4th that ruined the fireworks and washed out the Loretta Lynn concert. Herman said 1.5 million people attended "America's Biggest Birthday Party." The event would be re-named Fair St. Louis in 1994.

1993 The record floods worsened as a levee broke near St. Charles. The Missouri now joined the Mississippi twenty miles upstream from their normal confluence. Seven thousand people were homeless in St. Charles County. Officials were urging some one thousand residents along the River des Peres to evacuate.

2003 American Airlines announced it would cut over ½ of its flights at Lambert Field and close the downtown reservation center. American would cut 210 flights daily, and about 2,000 jobs. Industry observers said it could have been worse. St. Louis retained its status as a "hub" city, albeit a smaller one. Civic leaders hoped other airlines would step in to fill the void.