

## July 17

**1765** The French commandant, St. Ange de Bellerive, surrendered Fort Chartres to the British and moved the capitol of Upper Louisiana to St. Louis. The British took over the lands east of the Mississippi. Bellerive would remain in command until the Spanish took over in 1770. Bellerive established liberal laws that gave every male over 14 the right to vote for local offices.

**1836** John Scullin was born. Scullin was in charge of constructing the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad, or the KATY. In 1898, he founded Scullin Steel on Manchester. By 1930, more than 1,200 people were employed at the plant, where the St. Louis Marketplace now stands. Scullin Steel closed in 1981.

**1845** The bodies of Daniel and Rebecca Boone were moved from his home at Defiance to Frankfort, Kentucky. Colonel William Boone arrived with permission from relatives to move the remains. (Which was against the expressed wishes of Daniel Boone. He wanted to be buried in St. Charles County) There's some evidence that angry relatives led the Frankfort delegation to the wrong remains.

**1860** This is believed to be the date that George Washington Carver was born into slavery at Diamond Grove, Missouri. He would establish a laboratory in Tuskegee, Alabama. It was there he would learn how to refine the peanut, and create 300 useful products from it.

**1862** Congress passed an act establishing the Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery. The grounds are an extension of the old post cemetery, which was established in 1827.

**1901** St. Louis barbers walked off the job. They were demanding ten cents per shave, and 25 cents for a haircut. They also wanted a guarantee of ten dollars a week, and closing hours no later than 11 p.m. on Saturday and noon on Sunday.

**1901** The census bureau reported that St. Louis was still the fourth-largest city in the nation. With a population of 575,237, St. Louis trailed only New York, Chicago, and Philadelphia.

**1903** Construction began on "The Pike," the area of the World's Fair set aside for amusements. Visitors could see a recreation of the Boer War, a naval battle fought with real shells and miniature ships, meet the people in the "Eskimo Village" or "Mysterious Asia" and see infants in incubators. It gave us the expression "What's coming down the Pike" to refer to something new or unusual. After the fair, there were plans to make The Pike a permanent amusement area. But opposition from Washington University officials killed the plan.

**1908** Auto enthusiasts DR Calhoun and Roy Button suggested that the Triple-A move its 300-mile Vanderbilt Cup Race from the crowded roads of New Jersey to St. Louis

County. They said the proposed course over North and South, Clayton Road, Baxter and Olive was "ideal for high speed racing."

**1917** Phyliss Ada Driver was born. In 1961, she changed her name to Phyliss Diller and moved to Webster Groves. She became a regular at the Crystal Palace in Gaslight Square before beginning her rise to national fame. She co-starred with her friend Bob Hope in three films: *Boy! Did I Get A Wrong Number*, *Eight on the Lam*, and *The Private Navy of Sergeant O'Farrell*. She also accompanied him to Vietnam and appeared on 22 of his specials.

**1918** A Congressional investigation into the deadliest race riot in U.S. history blasted East St. Louis officials and the business community. But no indictments or court martials resulted from the 5,000 pages of testimony. The tension that led to the riot stemmed from a decision by the Aluminum Ore Company's decision to bring in black workers to replace striking whites.

**1924** Jesse "Pop" Haines of the Cardinals threw the first no-hitter by a St. Louis pitcher since 1876. The 5-0 masterpiece over the Braves on "Tuberculosis Day" at Sportsmen's park was the first National League no-hitter ever here.

**1938** Flying a plane built here by the Curtiss-Robertson aircraft company, Douglas Corrigan took off from New York with the stated intention of flying to California. Corrigan had sought permission for the first solo flight from New York to Ireland, but authorities turned him down. He landed in Dublin 28 hours later. Although he probably did it on purpose, he went down in history as "Wrong Way" Corrigan.

**1947** Henry Thompson became the first black to play for a St. Louis major league team, as he took to the field for the Browns. Willie Brown joined him three days later, and they became the first black teammates in the majors. Their signing was a blatant attempt to boost attendance. They were both dismissed when it failed.

**1950** The two municipal pools at Marquette and Fairgrounds Park were declared open to all races after a judge refused to stay a court order. Mayor Darst then announced that from now on, men and women would not be allowed to use the facilities at the same time.

**1951** Legendary pitcher Satchel Paige joined the Browns. He was believed to have been 51 years old at the time. Paige had pitched for Browns owner Bill Veeck in Cleveland in 1948.

**1954** Creve Couer lake dried up. A combination of a long drought, pollution and silt had turned it into a lake of trash and weeds. The county would buy the lake, and restore it to its present condition.

**1957** The Urban Redevelopment Administration approved plans for the redevelopment of the Plaza Square area. Plans called for 1,087 units of middle income housing in the

area bounded by Market and Olive, 14th and 18th. Construction on the \$15 million project was slated to begin in the spring of 1958.

**1970** The Washington University Board of Trustees voted to move the controversial ROTC program off campus. The ROTC building had been the scene of unrest and was burned down the last semester.

**1974** Bob Gibson recorded his 3,000th career strike out. Cesar Geronimo of the Reds was the player who fanned to give Gibson 3,000. Six years later, Geronimo would become the victim of Nolan Ryan's 3,000<sup>th</sup> strikeout.

**1974** The great "Dizzy" Dean died at the age of 63. Dean starred with the Cardinals "Gashouse Gang" World Champions in 1934. He led the National League in strikeouts four straight times. In 1934, he won 30 games and lost only seven. He is also remembered for his colorful language while broadcasting games on WIL.

**1986** A group of investors headed by Michael Shanahan made a \$34 million offer to buy the Blues and the Arena from Harry Ornest. They offered \$19 million for the team. The city, through the Land Clearance for Redevelopment Authority, would pay \$15 million to buy the Arena.

**1991** Guns n' Roses lead singer Axl Rose was arrested by U.S. Customs officials at Kennedy Airport in New York as he returned from a European tour. He faced four counts of misdemeanor assault and one count of property damage for inciting the riot at Riverport on July 2. A judge ordered Rose to pay \$50,000 to five local social service organizations.

**1993** President Clinton came to St. Louis for a flood summit of Midwestern governors. Before the meeting at Fox High School in Arnold, the president flew over the devastation in St. Charles county. By this time, the Mississippi was 15 miles wide there, and cresting at 36.7 feet. Downtown, the river was 2/3 of the way up the Arch steps. A levee gave way in St. Louis County, rejoining Creve Couer Lake with the river.

**1994** The Blues stunned the hockey world as they announced the hiring of Mike Keenan to become the new Blues coach and general manager. St. Louis fans were elated, as Keenan had just led the New York Rangers to the Stanley Cup.

**1996** After nearly collapsing during the reign of Carl Icahn, TWA announced a small profit. But that night, TWA flight 800 exploded off Long Island. Among the victims were Flight Engineer Oliver Krick of Lake St. Louis and Jay and Patty Anderson of Warson Woods. The crash was the beginning of the end for the Hometown Airline.

**1998** Mark McGwire's two home runs against the Dodgers gave him 42, and tied the Cardinal record for home runs by a right handed batter. Rogers Hornsby had set the old mark in 1922. Big Mac also tied the mark held by Babe Ruth and Jimmy Foxx for the most home runs before August 1st.

