

July 20

1847 The St. Louis Diocese was raised to the status of archdiocese. Peter Richard Kenrick became the first archbishop of St. Louis.

1849 Cyrus P. Waldbridge was born in Madrid, New York. He served as the 32nd Mayor of St. Louis from 1893 to 1897. Waldbridge was the first mayor to appoint women to government offices. His administration came under harsh criticism for its handling of relief efforts following the tornado of 1896. South Side residents felt that aid was quickly sent to wealthier areas, while they received inadequate help.

1865 St. Louis threw a great banquet in honor of William T. Sherman. When the war broke out, Sherman was running a streetcar railway in St. Louis. In 1865, he was assigned to command the division of the Mississippi, headquartered here. Sherman loved St. Louis so much; he moved the headquarters of the Army's Western Department here in 1874.

1892 Joseph Cardinal Ritter was born in New Albany, Indiana. In 1944, he became the first archbishop of Indianapolis. In October of 1946, he succeeded the late Cardinal Glennon as the fourth archbishop of St. Louis. He integrated the Catholic schools in 1947, and was ordained a cardinal in 1960. Ritter died in 1967.

1904 A county judge called for a grand jury to probe corruption in connecting with gambling and immoral resorts operating near the Delmar Garden. The judge said the World's Fair had attracted "The scum of the earth." Police arrested "the girl in red" and the "girl in green," who were appearing in "muscle dances." The dancers were men.

1907 The St. Louis Sewer Commission announced plans to put the River Des Peres in a one and ¾ mile tunnel beneath Forest Park. One of the biggest engineering projects ever undertaken by the city; the work would shorten the course of the river by four miles.

1917 The War Department officially named its new training base for aviation cadets in St. Clair County. It was named after Corporal Frank Scott. Scott was a pioneer airplane mechanic who is believed to be the first enlisted man to die in a plane crash. Scott is the only base named for an enlisted man.

1921 Federal Prohibition Agent E. J. Hoover announced the seizure of a large still and quantity of mash at a farm on Olive Street Road in St. Louis County. It was disclosed that a "company" of 16 men capitalized especially to brew moonshine ran the operation.

1929 The new \$2.5 million dollar Chain of Rocks Bridge opened. The bridge carried Route 66 traffic around St. Louis from 1936 to 1965. The unique bend in the middle was ordered by the government to prevent the span from hindering navigation. Closed to traffic since 1968, the renovated bridge is now the world's longest pedestrian bridge.

1931 Aviation boosters said St. Louis was coming into its own as an airmail center. Nighttime air mail service was inaugurated between New York and St. Louis and daytime service was in place between St. Louis and New Orleans. What may have been the very first airmail in the world was flown between Kinloch Field and Fairgrounds Park on October 4, 1911.

1932 The city awarded a contract for construction of the municipal auditorium. The work was awarded to a construction firm headed by former Mayor Henry Kiel. Kiel said the project would employ 1,000 men, with \$2 million available for wages.

1946 Pope Pius the 12th named Joseph Elmer Ritter as the fourth Archbishop of St. Louis. He succeeded John Cardinal Glennon. Glennon had died a few months earlier, while on his journey home after being named a Cardinal.

1954 Freeman Bosley Junior was born in St. Louis. On April 6, 1993, he won election as the first African-American Mayor of St. Louis. His administration led the fight against the 1993 flood and the effort to bring the Rams to St. Louis. He also worked on the \$70 million bailout of TWA. His father was an Alderman who ran for mayor and lost in 1985.

1958 The *Post-Dispatch* reported that the one-room school house era in St. Louis County was over. The last one to close was the Crescent School on Lewis Road in Eureka. At one time, there were 29 one-room schoolhouses in the county.

1969 St. Louisans were glued to their TV sets as Neil Armstrong became the first man to walk on the moon. St. Louis police reported an increase in burglaries that night. The moonwalk kept the crowd at the Mississippi River Festival in Edwardsville down to just 700, the smallest crowd of the season.

1980 The temperatures continued to soar. But for the first time since July 2nd, no heat related deaths were reported in St. Louis. Karl J. Reid, Deputy Director of the Disaster Operations Center, was blunt in his assessment. He said the old and weak had died off.

1985. After a \$3.2 million renovation, the McDonnell Planetarium reopened as the St. Louis Science Center. A \$34 million main building for the Science Center opened on Oakland Avenue on November 2, 1991. A pedestrian bridge links the two buildings, where visitors can clock speeders on Highway 40 with radar guns.

1993 A thunderstorm dumped two inches of rain on flood-ravaged St. Louis. The River Des Peres swept away a mile-long section of levee along Gravois and Morganford, adding to the devastation. The Mississippi reached a new record high of 47.05 five feet. The worst was yet to come.

1998 Mark McGwire's 43rd home run of the year tied the single-season Cardinal record, set by Johnny Mize in 1930. His 43rd of the season came against the Padres in San Diego.

