

July 23

1808 St. Louis held its first election for town trustees. The town was not yet officially incorporated. Auguste Chouteau, Edward Pratte, Edward Hempstead, Peter Chouteau and Alexander McNair were named to the first board.

1885 Ulysses S. Grant died of throat cancer at Mount McGregor, New York. Grant only returned to St. Louis briefly after the Civil War. He planned to retire here, but sold all of his property after the Whiskey Ring scandal engulfed his presidency. Grant was outraged to learn many of his St. Louis friends had used their ties to him to defraud the government of liquor taxes.

1906 The police department ordered a crackdown on the opium dens of "Hop Alley," the area near where Busch Stadium stands today. An order was issued prohibiting the smoking of opium in the city. The move came following the release of a report by the Circuit Attorney's office on the horrible conditions in the dens.

1926 A dispute over the number of the federal highway from Chicago to Los Angeles was settled. The highway was designated as 60, and thousands of maps were printed up. But Kentucky Governor William J. Fields demanded the more important sounding 60 be assigned to the highway through his state. After a long battle, Missouri's Chief Highway Engineer B.H. Piepmeier and Oklahoma's Cryus Avery agreed to accept the number 66.

1933 Bernard Whalen "Burt" Convey was born in St. Louis. He is best remembered as a game show staple, including hosting gigs on *Tattletales* from 1974-84, *Super Password* from 84-89 and *Win Lose or Draw* from 1987-89. Convey's band, the Cheers, had a big hit in 1955 with "Black Denim Trousers and Motorcycle Boots." He was on dozens of TV shows and appeared in films such as *Semi-Tough* and *Cannonball Run*.

1955 The first tenants moved into the gleaming new William L. Igoe public housing complex. Combined with the Pruitt Apartments, the project had a capacity of nearly 3,000 families. Pruitt-Igoe was a catastrophe. Plagued by crime and vandalism, it was razed in 1975.

1959 Mayor Raymond Tucker and Mrs. Tucker took part in ceremonies marking the inauguration of TWA jet airliner service from Lambert Field. Mrs. Tucker sprayed Mississippi River water over a Boeing 707 from a seltzer bottle.

1959 The seven Mercury astronauts were in St. Louis to visit McDonnell Aircraft. McDonnell was building the capsule to carry them into space. Lieutenant John Glenn, Alan Shephard, Virgil Grissom, Gordon Cooper, Scott Carpenter, Wally Schirra and Donald Slayton stayed at the Stanley Motel on Highway 66. (Lindbergh) The hotel was recently torn down as part of Lambert expansion.

1966 The city announced that the Beatles, scheduled to appear in August, would be the first performers to have to pay city earnings tax. The collector of revenue had announced

a plan to charge promoters and performers one percent of their take. The promoters were protesting, saying they brought in business to the hotel owners, cabbies and restaurant operators.

1973 In the worst air disaster in St. Louis history, an Ozark Airlines Fairchild-Hiller turboprop slammed into a hillside in Normandy during a thunderstorm. 38 people died as the plane went down near Florissant Road and Highway 70 on the campus of Mount Providence School. Investigators later blamed a severe downdraft, what we know today as "wind shear."

1974 Cards fans were displeased as the Major League All-Star Game was played in Pittsburgh. They were upset that "The Mad Hungarian," Al Hrabosky, had not made the team. Instead, fans would honor the Redbird reliever with a "We Hlove Hrabosky Hbanner Day" at Busch Stadium.

1975 The last guest checked out of the Jefferson Hotel. The hotel at 12th and Locust, was built for the world's fair. Harry Truman, Woodrow Wilson and Enrico Caruso were among those who stayed there. The Jefferson Arms Retirement Community opened in 1975.

1993 Four boys and two adult counselors from the St. Joseph's Home for Boys drowned in a flash flood at Cliff Cave Park in South County. The bodies of Darnell E. Redmond, 31, Emmett Terry, 9, Tarrell P. Battle, 10, and Melvin E. Bell, 10, were found that day. Jennifer Metherd, 21, and Terrill A. Vincent, 12, were found the next day. 13-year-old Gary Mahr survived by clinging to a ledge for 20 hours.

2000 The Cardinals traded minor league third baseman Jose Leon to the Baltimore Orioles for Will Clark. Clark provided valuable leadership, filling in for the injured Mark McGwire.