July 25

1861 Major John C. Fremont arrived in St. Louis to begin his stormy tenure as commander of the Army's Western Department, headquartered here. Fremont put Missouri under martial law, and ordered the slaves freed and Confederate property seized. Mindful of the possible fallout in Border States, President Lincoln rescinded the order and removed Fremont from command in November of 1861.

1873 Steamboat operators in St. Louis were suing to halt constrcution of the Eads Bridge. They claimed it would be a hazard to navigation. James B. Eads said his bridge posed no threat, even to the largest boats.

1877 Two companies of infantry from Fort Riley, Kansas arrived here to prevent violence as the great railroad strike spread to other industries. The strikers ruled the streets. No trains were reaching St. Louis, most businesses were closed, and the merchants formed their own army of 1,000. But Mayor Overstolz took a moderate stance towards the strikers, and violence was averted.

1898 A citizen's commission organizing a great celebration to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase invited the governors of the states of the Louisiana Territory to St. Louis in November. They planned to discuss the idea of a world's fair.

1900 A group of citizens expressed their outrage over the "automobile menace." they were upset over an incident on Locust when something broke on a car, sending it careening down the crowded street while pedestrians ran for their lives. The driver managed to slow the car by sticking his cane into its gears. The car was tipped over onto its side, where the *Globe-Democrat* reported, "It was soon subdued."

1903 The Worlds Fair Corporation granted a concession to the Electric Autochair Company to rent self operated conveyances on the fair grounds. Semple Scott of St. Louis invented the Autochair, which could carry two people at a top speed of three miles per hour. It was said to be simple enough that “no previous automobiling experience” was necessary.

1918 The first paid full time fire department in Kirkwood went on duty. A volunteer bucket brigade served the city beginning in 1853. A volunteer fire company was set up after a huge fire wiped out the city armory on April 30, 1904 while most of the citizens were attending opening day at the World’s Fair.

1922 Thousands attended the opening of hearings in Jefferson City on the Highway Commission's recommendations for the construction of 1500 miles of hard surfaced roads. Most of the people were complaining that their communities were not on the proposed routes.

1934 Seventy-three more heat related fatalities brought the number of dead here to 217. For eight days straight, the temperature had risen above 100 degrees. Thousands of people were sleeping in the parks and along the highways to escape the heat.

1953 Archbishop Ritter broke ground for the Cardinal Glennon Memorial Hospital for Children. The $5,897,000 facility was financed by gifts from over 10,000 contributors. It was expected to be open sometime in 1956. Cardinal Glennon led the St. Louis Archdiocese from 1903 until his death in 1946.

1956 St. Louisans were waiting for word on five area residents involved in the *Andrea Doria* disaster. The liner had been hit by the *Stockholm* off the coast of Nantuckett, killing 51 people. A Webster Groves family was on board the *Stockholm.* Two St. Louisans, John Viviano and Mrs. Annette Longo Cusamano, were on board the *Doria*. All would be among the 763 people rescued.

1962 Stan Musial's two-run homer against the Dodgers here in St. Louis gave him one-1,862 RBIs, breaking the National League record set by Mel Ott.

1968 Bob Gibson set a Cardinal's team record with his 11th straight win. The 5-0 win over the Phillies was Gibson's 12th straight complete game. He also became the first pitcher in history to record shut outs against eight different clubs in a season. Gibson had not lost in three months. His dominance was a factor in major league baseball's decision to lower the mound after the 1968 season.

1970 Police were baffled by the apparent lack of a motive for the murder of Phillip Lucier. The president of Continental Telephone Company was killed by a car bomb on a Clayton parking lot.

1972 Democratic vice-presidential nominee Thomas Eagleton revealed that he had received psychiatric help and shock treatments while a Missouri state official. He said the treatments were for nervous exhaustion and fatigue. Presidential nominee George McGovern expressed full confidence in Eagleton. But less than a week later, Eagleton was out.

1973 Forty-three hours after the worst air disaster in St. Louis history, the last survivor of the crash was found. Rescuers located a two-year-old beagle in the wreckage of the Ozark Airlines Fairchild Hiller turboprop. Thirty-eight people died when the plane went down during a storm near I-70 and Florissant Road.

1984 The *Admiral* was returning to St. Louis for the first time since leaving for repairs in 1979. Pittsburgh businessman John Connelly bought the ship in 1981. He removed the engines and sold it back to the city at a hefty profit. A $26 million facelift was planned to convert the *Admiral* to an entertainment center, which proved to be a spectacular failure. Connelly would enter the picture again as CEO of President Casinos.