

July 26

1825 Nathan Cole was born in St. Louis. Cole was the 24th Mayor of St. Louis, running city hall from 1869 to 1871. He led a campaign to clean up city government. During his term, the city limits were expanded to take in the village of Carondelet. Cole Street is named in his honor.

1892 An explosion ripped a 20-foot deep, 1,000 long chasm along Chouteau avenue, killing six people. The opening of the Mill Creek sewer was covered with floodwater, trapping fumes from a refinery fire that had been washed into the sewer. The disaster came when a saloonkeeper at Fourth and Chouteau entered his cellar with a candle. Explosions erupted along the line from 12th near Gratiot almost to the riverfront.

1900 The Cardinals released the last pitcher in the Major Leagues to play without a glove. But Gus Wehring didn't get the 10 days pay he was entitled to. He got a deputy sheriff to seize the St. Louis share of the gate at Brooklyn, but it amounted to less than the \$100 he was owed. Wehring pitched briefly in 1901 before calling it quits.

1901 St. Louisans learned they were about to lose a popular gathering place they had enjoyed since 1852. "Uhrig's Cave" was to be demolished to make room for a monumental hotel at Jefferson and Washington, to be built for the fair. Uhrig's gave got its name from the caves beneath it, used to keep the beer cool in those days before refrigeration.

1904 The city was threatening to see Mrs. Anna Sneed Cairns, proprietress of Forest Park University. She allegedly had "objected to providing her building with fire escapes on the grounds that the girls who attend her school might make use of the stairs to meet their sweethearts."

1927 The notorious speed trap of Brentwood, avoided by most motorists, did away with the system that gave it the nasty reputation. The city fired 16 deputy marshals and ended the fee system that allowed the arresting officer and the judge to share the fines! Instead, the city hired two full-time cops.

1933 Rogers Hornsby was named manager of the last-place Browns after being acquired on waivers from the Cardinals. Hornsby managed the Cardinals to their first world title in 1926, then was traded to the Giants for Frankie Frisch.

1942 The very first monument in the U.S. to the heroes of Pearl Harbor was dedicated at the Clinton Hill Cemetery near Belleville. George Hoffman of St. Louis donated \$2500 for the 11-foot tall shaft of Vermont marble.

1946 The Most Reverend Joseph E. Ritter, the former Archbishop of Indianapolis, was appointed Archbishop of St. Louis. He replaced John Cardinal Glennon, who died in March 1946.

1955 The Clayton Board of Aldermen approved a measure to permit buildings up to three stories high. They had been limited to two-and-one-half stories.

1970 The last railroad post office car in St. Louis made its final run, along the Gulf, Mobil and Ohio between St. Louis and Chicago. At one time-1400 employees at Union Station ran post office operations on hundreds of railway cars.

1978 A support beam snapped and a gondola from the “Skyway” ride at Six Flags Over Mid-America plunged to earth. Ten-year-old Trisha Weeks, 15-year-old Kristen Johnson and 25-year-old Clark Johnson died. Another girl was seriously injured. Nearly 100 people were stranded in the cars, up to 200 feet in the air. Firefighters rescued them as severe weather threatened. A park spokesman said the ride had been inspected the day before.

1984 The *Admiral* returned for the first time since leaving for repairs in December 1979. The boat appeared destined for the scrap heap before Pittsburgh businessman John Connelly bought the world’s largest river liner in 1981. Connelly sold the boat back to St. Louis interests at a hefty profit and kept the engines. Plans called for the Admiral to be converted to a floating entertainment complex.

1988 A ceremony on I-255 north of Granite City marked the completion of the Interstate loop around St. Louis, Construction on the Missouri side began in 1962, and was finished by 1969. The 38-mile Missouri loop was divided into I-270, 244 and 255. In 1974, officials considered naming the whole thing after John F. Kennedy, then decided to designate it as 270 on the Missouri side, 255 in Illinois.

1989 Vince Coleman of the Cardinals stole his 50th consecutive base, swiping three in a 2-0 win over the Cubs at Busch Stadium. He shattered the old record of 38, held by Davey Lopes of the Dodgers since 1975. Coleman set a record by stealing over 100 bases during his first three seasons

1998 Mark McGwire became the all-time single season Cardinal home run king. The record breaker came against the Rockies at Coors Field. Johnny Mize set the old Redbird mark, hitting 43 in 1930. Rogers Hornsby was the only other Cardinal to hit 40 home runs. Stan Musial never hit more than 38 in a season.

2000 A pioneer in St. Louis television passed away. Fred Porterfield was the first African-American television anchor here. He was a reporter and anchor on KMOX-TV from August 1965 to March 1971. He was married for seven years to Dianne White, weather reporter for KSD-TV. White was the first black woman in the nation to handle TV weather duties.

2002 GM Walt Jocketty made a trade that would prove crucial to the future of the Cardinals. He swapped infielder Placido Polanco along with pitchers Bud Smith and Mike Timlin to the Phillies. The Cardinals picked up pitcher Doug Nickle and a third baseman by the name of Scott Rolen.

2002 The abduction and murder of a six-year-old girl stunned the area. Casey Williamson of Valley Park disappeared from her father's home in Valley Park. Her body was found in the abandoned glass factory. Police charged Johnny Johnson with the crime. He was a transient, who had stayed at her father's home. The story made national headlines due to a string of child abductions.