

## July 29

**1847** A newspaper account told of the sale of a white man named Jack Bowers to a stable keeper. In those days, vagrants or those with no visible means of support were sold for six months to the highest bidder at a courthouse auction. The inhabitants of St. Louis thought it helped rid the town of shady characters.

**1875** The *Globe-Democrat* endorsed a proposal that seemed like a good idea at the time, a plan to make the city and the county separate entities. The paper noted that taxpayers had been clamoring for the change for some time. City residents were fed up with paying for improvements miles outside the city limits.

**1879** Martin Hanley died. He had donated four acres to the county to add to the 100 acres donated by Ralph Clayton for the site of the new county seat. The Hanley home, built in 1855, still stands at Hanley and Westmoreland.

**1886** Saloon keepers were alarmed after some began selling beer in “schooners.” The glasses held “one quart and one gill” of beer for a nickel. In a meeting at Schuler’s Hall, the saloon owners resolved that such huge glasses were “not in the interest of the retail trade or temperance.”

**1901** The commission of architects submitted three plans for the world's fair grounds. They would pick one calling for a fan-like group of buildings, radiating outward from the highest point in Forest Park, today known as "Art Hill."

**1902** Thomas Skinker wrote his wife that he had leased his land and the road that ran through it to the World's Fair company. Skinker said the road was destined to become one of the main thoroughfares of the fair and would thereafter “rival Westmoreland and Vandeventer Places.” Skinker gave \$25 to the *St. Louis Republic* for a contest to choose the best poem about Skinker Road.

**1904** The International Association of Ice Cream Makers says Syrian immigrant Ernest Hamwi invented the ice cream cone on this date. Hamwi sold zalabia, a crisp wafer-like pastry from Syria. When ice cream vendor Charles Menches ran out of dishes, Hamwi supposedly plunked a scoop of ice cream atop a zalabia. Other ice cream vendors bought his waffles, and called the new treat a “World’s Fair Cornucopia.” Hamwi was certainly the man who popularized them.

Other sources say Menches came up with the idea on July 23rd. Still another says Arnold Fornachou was the vendor that Hamwi helped out. A Syrian immigrant named Abe Doumar claimed he first sold cones in Old Jerusalem. Nick and Albert Kabbaz also said it was their idea. They reportedly worked for Hamwi and may have come up with the idea to fold the zalabia into a cone shape. Nick Kabbaz went on to become president of the St. Louis Ice Cream Cone Company.

Some claim Italo Marchiony of New York City invented the cone seven months earlier. On September 22, 1903 he filed a patent for a device that was “split in two like a waffle iron and producing small pastry cups with sloping sides.” They were cups, not cones. After cones became popular, Marchiony sued, but failed to protect his patent.

**1926** Bowling Hall of Famer Don Carter was born in St. Louis. Carter was named Bowler of the Year six times. A 1970 poll named him as the best bowler of all time.

**1928** The war between the “Cuckoo” and the “Green Ones” Gangs came to an end. St. Louis Police officers escorted former Green Ones members William Thomas and Lawrence Russo to Union Station, so they could escape with their lives. The war between the Cuckoo’s and the Green Ones had claimed nearly 30 lives.

**1941** McDonnell Aircraft was awarded the first contract for a plane completely designed and built by the five-year-old firm. The "XP-67" was a failure. But by 1943, the company was working on its first jet, the FH-One "Phantom."

**1949** The St. Louis Board of Freeholders was writing a new city charter. They were considering a borough system, under which cities in the county and metro-east would be invited to join a confederation known as "Greater St. Louis."

**1964** A Senate appropriations committee approved plans to tear down the Old Post Office at Eighth and Olive. The government wanted to tear down the landmark to build a federal building on the site. The decision ignited protests from preservationists.

**1965** Workers took down the landmark 148-foot-tall steel tower at the Forest Park Highlands Amusement Park. The tower with its eight-foot-tall electrical American flags was visible for miles at night. The site was being cleared for Forest Park Community College.

**1974** Lou Brock stole his 65th base of the season and the 700th of his career. Only four other players in major league history had stolen 700 bases to that time.

**1983** The movie *National Lampoon's Vacation*, starring Chevy Chase, Beverly D'Angelo and Anthony Michael Hall, premiered. In the film, the Griswold Family vacation takes a disastrous turn in St. Louis. Their car is stripped while they ask for directions. In the scene, you will notice the Family Truckster is actually exiting off the Poplar Street Bridge onto Memorial Drive, not a bad neighborhood.

**1985** Cardinal greats Lou Brock and Enos Slaughter were inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. Brock was baseball's all-time leading base burglar before Rickey Henderson came along. He set the NL record with 118 steals in 1974. Slaughter is best remembered for his mad dash from first to home in the eighth inning of Game Seven of the 1946 World Series. He batted .291 in five World Series appearances.

**1990** Highway 40 was closed for nearly 24 hours, as crews erected structural steel for the new Science Center overpass. The pedestrian structure was to link the Science Center building in Forest Park with the new exhibition area on Oakland Avenue.

**2002** The Cardinals traded pitchers Bud Smith and Mike Timlen, along with third baseman Placido Polanco to Philadelphia. They picked up All-Star third baseman Scott Rolen. Rolen had turned down a seven-year, \$90 million offer from the Phillies.