

July 30

1861 A special state convention began meeting in Jefferson City to take emergency measures to keep the state stable in the face of the outbreak of fighting. Though it had no authority to do so, the convention declared all state offices to be vacant.

1870 St. Louis businessmen announced plans for a \$3 million complex of buildings, including a Union Rail Depot. The complex would take up three blocks, bounded by 5th and 8th, Washington and Green. By the time it opened, the first Union Depot was already obsolete.

1877 St. Louis returned to normal as the great railway strike came to an end. The strike nearly exploded into violence when the infantry showed up, and the merchants formed their own army. But strike leaders kept things in line, and a moderate attitude taken by city leaders is credited with keeping things calm. The strike did demonstrate the growing power of the labor movement here.

1877 The St. Louis County council passed a measure requiring all able-bodied males between the ages of 21 and 50 to work on the roads for six days each year. That same day, the city raised the drinking age from 16 to 18.

1900 More violence in the renewed city streetcar strike. Days after the 55-day strike that brought the city to a standstill was settled, the workers walked out again. They claimed management was not keeping its end of the bargain. On this date, someone dynamited two boarding houses at 22nd and Easton where strikebreakers were sleeping. Amazingly, no one was killed.

1902 The American League announced it would place a team in St. Louis in 1902. The team would be named the Browns.

1920 Babe Ruth smacked a home run called the greatest ever seen in St. Louis. It was higher than the grandstand at Sportsmen's Park as it cleared Grand Avenue. The Yankees beat the Browns that day 19-3. Just a couple of weeks earlier, Ruth broke his own single-season home run record with his 29th.

1929 Dale Jackson and Forest O'Brine landed their "St. Louis Robin" at Lambert Field, after establishing a new aerial endurance record. They stayed aloft for 420 hours, 21 minutes. In July 1930, two Chicago aviators beat the record. So the "Robin" took off again, regaining the record in August 1930.

1933 Dizzy Dean struck out 17 Cub batters, setting a record that would stand for another 26 years. (Of course they were Cub batters, so it's not as impressive as it seems)

1936 July 1936 went down in history as the hottest month in St. Louis history. The heat wave started on July 3, and the high temperature never dropped below 90 except for an 88-degree high on the 20th. For 17 straight days, the high reached over 100. On July 7

and July 15, the temperature never dropped below 81. At least 471 people died during the heat wave.

1954 Italo Marchiony died at the age of 86. His family members add to the controversy surrounding just who invented the ice cream cone. They insist he did, well before a Syrian concessionaire is credited with popularizing the cone at the world's fair here. Marchiony did patent a mold for making waffle cups in December 1903. But they were cups, not cones.

1958 Sidney Maestro was appointed chairman of the Downtown St. Louis Group. Maestro pledged to work to rid downtown of the "B-girls," push for funds to complete the riverfront memorial and work for the demolition of the Old Post Office. Maestro said "something worthwhile" should be placed at that location.

1959 Rookie Redbird pitcher Bob Gibson recorded his first victory, a 1-0 nothing win over the Reds in Cincinnati. Gibson was not a regular starter until his old minor league manager, Johnny Keane, took over as Redbird skipper in July 1961. By 1964, Gibson was one of the most dominating pitchers in baseball.

1962 A nine-mile stretch of Interstate 44 opened between Eureka and Gray Summit. The new section replaced the "Death-Lane" three-lane stretch of U.S. 66. Drivers could now travel on four-lane highway from Sylvan Beach (At the Meramec River near where 270 and 44 is now) to Springfield, Missouri.

1974 The Illinois Lottery began selling tickets. East side ticket agents said they were doing a brisk business with St. Louisans who crossed the river to buy a ticket.

1974 The Centers for Disease Control identified a toxic agent that had killed horses and birds at several sites in Eastern Missouri sprayed with waste oil by Russell Bliss. It was identified as dioxin, a little known and unwanted impurity formed in the manufacture of other chemicals.

1993 The Monarch Levee gave way, inundating the Chesterfield Valley. Spirit Airport and 500 businesses were swamped. Highway 40 was underwater, cutting off the Boone Bridge as a route into St. Charles County. Thousands were being evacuated in South St. Louis as 51 propane tanks were floating in the floodwaters. Officials feared an explosion. Today, a \$26 million levee is designed to protect the Chesterfield Valley from a 500-year flood. Nearly 3 million square feet of new development has occurred since the flood.

1998 After 27 years, the family of Michael Blassie of Florissant learned he had rested in the Tomb of the Unknowns in Washington, D.C. DNA tests had identified the remains. The family planned to bury him at Jefferson Barracks.