

## **June 2**

**1900** The streetcar strike had brought the city to a standstill. The night before, someone tried to blow up two car barns at Easton and Prairie. If they had succeeded, 150 replacement workers and 50 police guards would have died. The bombing was the third such attempt in a week.

**1914** Anthony Giordano was born in St. Louis. His police record began in 1938 and would grow to include over 50 busts. The charges ranged from carrying concealed weapons, to robbery, holdups, income tax evasion, and counterfeiting tax stamps. Giordano became the “godfather” of the St. Louis mob in 1960, and ruled until his death from cancer in 1980.

**1927** Harriett Woods was born. Her political career began with her election to the University City Council in 1967. She was elected to the state senate from the 13<sup>th</sup> District in 1980. In 1984, she was elected Lieutenant Governor, the first woman elected to a statewide office in Missouri. She served as president of the National Women’s Political Caucus from 1991-1995.

**1932** The city's reluctance to accept philanthropist C.A. Tilles' offer of his county estate as "a playground for city children" spurred the County Court to action. The Court asked Tilles to donate the land to the county. City officials were afraid that there was not enough money to maintain another park.

**1942** The War Department ordered the Village of Madison to repaint the Chain of Rocks Bridge. Parts of the bridge had been painted red. The government said the bridge was too conspicuous from the air, and ordered that it be painted green or another subdued color. The olive green paint is still there.

**1949** A New York federal judge refused to reinstate former Cardinals Max Lanier and Fred Martin. They had been banned from baseball for jumping to the Mexican League in 1946. The judge didn't rule on the players challenge to the "reserve clause," which bound players to one team.

**1958** The city, the Terminal Railroad Association and the Missouri Pacific Railroad signed an agreement removing the final obstacle to construction of the Arch. The deal provided for the removal of the elevated railroad tracks along the riverfront. They were to be placed in a tunnel beneath the memorial.

**1958** Chuck Berry was arrested for carrying a concealed weapon after his car got a flat tire on the new I-70 at Route 94. He peeled off \$1250 in cash to post bond for himself and an 18-year-old woman who was in his pink Cadillac. Two hundred screaming fans greeted Berry at the St. Charles County Courthouse when he appeared in court. The charges were later dropped.

**1959** The Missouri Highway Department announced an agreement had been reached to preserve the historic Bissell Mansion. The 129-year-old home in North St. Louis was in the path of the Mark Twain Expressway. Captain Bissell was a veteran of the War of 1812. He was a member of the 1818 Yellowstone Expedition, which founded the City of Omaha. His father was the first commandant of Fort Bellefontaine.

**1960** A federal jury found Chuck Berry not guilty on charges of transporting a woman across state lines for immoral purposes. Berry said he and the 18-year-old woman were in love, and he had no intention of breaking the law. Berry had been convicted in a similar case involving a 14-year-old girl.

**1967** Downtown St. Louis Incorporated awarded first prize in a national contest for a design for the proposed Gateway Mall. They picked a plan by a Massachusetts firm that called for the demolition of several buildings along Real Estate Row to create an open mall between Market and Chestnut from Third Street to 21st.

**1967** The Cardinals swept a doubleheader from the Mets at Shea and moved into first place. They would remain atop the National League for the rest of the season, and went on to defeat the Red Sox in the World Series.

**1970** The Defense Department approved plans to consolidate the ROTC programs at Washington University and UMSL off campus. Anti-ROTC disturbances at Washington University had culminated with the burning of two out of the three Quonset-type buildings that housed the ROTC on campus.

**1971** A new McDonnell-Douglas DC-10, dubbed "The Spirit of St. Louis 1971," became the first passenger jet to fly from St. Louis to Paris non-stop.

**1993** Johnny Mize died at the age of 80. "The Big Cat" played for the Cardinals from 1936 to 1941. In 1940, he slugged 43 home runs, a team record that stood until Mark McGwire came along. He slammed three home runs in a game six times. Mize led the NL in home runs in 1939, 1940, 1947 and 1948. He was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1981.

**1997** Red Chaney died in Springfield, Missouri at the age of 81. Chaney invented the drive-up window at his hamburger stand on Route 66. For 38 years he ran "Red's Giant Hamburg." (He ran out of room on the sign before he could put an R at the end)

**2003** "Classy" Freddie Blassie died at the age of 85. "The King of Men" started his career as the most hated villain in wrestling history in St. Louis at the age of 17. His 1977 single "Pencil Neck Geek" made him a cult figure after repeated airings on *The Doctor Demento Show*. In 1983, Andy Kaufman featured him in the film *Breakfast With Blassie*.