

June 4

1812 The United State Congress organized Missouri into a territory. It set up a House of Representatives elected by the voters of the five counties and a legislative council picked by the president from nominees by the House of Representatives. The president would appoint the governor of the territory.

1821 Meeting at the first state capitol building in St. Charles, the General Assembly passed the legislation required by Congress for Missouri to be admitted to the union. Missouri officially became a state on August 10, 1821.

1874 The Eads Bridge was opened to the general public for the first time. Huge crowds of St. Louisans thronged the bridge all day long. The bridge was not officially dedicated until July 4th.

1900 Congress passed a bill pledging the National Government's support of the World's Fair. The bill included \$5 million from the federal government. The money was contingent on the city appropriating another \$5 million and another \$5 million being raised by popular subscription.

1901 The Executive Committee of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition Company began hearing from advocates of each of the seven proposed sites for the fair. Steel magnate John Scullin argued for a site in Carondelet, where he was a big landowner. But the most powerful men in St. Louis were in favor of a site in Forest Park known as "The Wilderness."

1902 Mark Twain was awarded an honorary degree from the University of Missouri. During the commencement exercise, Twain remarked, "I have had many honors conferred upon me, but I deserved them all." On his return trip, Twain would take part in groundbreaking ceremonies for the World's Fair.

1903 The legislature passed a bill regulating automobiles in St. Louis County. The bill required a \$2 yearly license. It also required drivers to announce their presence with a horn or bell, and stop long enough for a rider to dismount and hold his horse. Violations were punishable by a fine of up to a \$1,000 or six months in jail.

1905 W.B. West became the first motorist to make it from St. Louis to Columbia, Missouri. He made the trip in his Oldsmobile in just 14½ hours.

1916 The *Post-Dispatch* reported on plans for the new Bevo Mill Restaurant on Gravois. August A. Busch chose a site exactly halfway between the brewery and the Busch Estate. He wanted to show that drinks could be served at a "high class" restaurant. Busch named it after Bevo, the brewery's non-alcoholic beer. Prohibition made Bevo a huge success for a time. But the public decided they liked illegal booze better, and Bevo flopped.

1924 Democratic State Senator Michael Kinney was in critical condition after he was shot while waiting for a train at a St. Louis County station. Kinney had recently declared war on narcotics peddlers. He recovered and retired in 1968 at the age of 93, having served longer than any other Missouri Senator.

1927 Charles Lindbergh and the "Spirit of St. Louis" sailed for home from Cherbourg aboard the cruiser *Memphis*. In St. Louis, the committee formed to plan the homecoming announced it needed to raise \$50,000 dollars for an appropriate celebration.

1931 A fire destroyed part of the landmark Beers Hotel at Grand and Olive. The 136-room hotel was famous for its Victorian architecture and fancy tower at one corner. It was torn down the following year, and the Woolworth's store was built on the site.

1933 Mayor Bernard Dickmann and a cheering crowd of 5,000 met Eleanor Roosevelt at Lambert Field. "The first mistress of the White House to travel by air" made a ten-minute stop. She was on her way to Los Angeles to see her son, Elliott.

1940 A crowd of 23,500 saw the first Cardinal night game in St. Louis. (The Browns had played one a few nights earlier) The Cardinals got the daylights knocked out of them that night, 10-1.

1955 The newly-created St. Louis County Police Department, scheduled to begin operations on July 1st, was advertising for applicants. Starting salary was \$4200 dollars per year. Male applicants had to have a high school diploma. Women were required to have a college degree

1964 Big Red vice-president Bill Bidwell said a research agency was studying whether St. Louis could continue to support a pro football team. He said the study would help him determine whether to accept an offer to move the team to Atlanta.

1967 Curt Flood's record streak of 568 straight innings without an error came to an end. He dropped a fly ball in a 4-3 Cardinal win over the Cubs. Flood had not made an error since September 3, 1965.

1971 Park officials unveiled plans for the Museum of Westward Expansion under the Arch.

1997 A premature infant died during the evacuation of the neonatal ICU at Children's Hospital because of a fire. The infant died while workers were preparing to move her.