

June 5

1822 Samuel T. Hawken came to St. Louis to make rifles with his brother Jacob. The Hawken "Mountain Rifle" became a favorite of trappers, traders and Indian fighters. They were renowned for their durability and were accurate up to 100 yards away. The home once owned by Jacob's son, Christopher, stands today in Webster Groves.

1888 The Democratic National Convention in St. Louis nominated President Grover Cleveland for a second term. Cleveland lost to Benjamin Harrison in the general election. But he would be elected president again in 1892.

1899 An editorial in the *Globe-Democrat* predicted that the horseless carriage would soon be as common in St. Louis as in New York, Paris and London. A firm planned to build electric cars here and operate a fleet of cabs. The *Globe* warned it presented a serious threat to the street railroads and the horse drawn cabs.

1900 The U.S. House passed a bill authorizing \$5 dollars in federal funds for the World's Fair. Members of the fair planning commission immediately asked President McKinley to notify the nations of the world and invite them to St. Louis.

1903 August Busch Senior purchased the 200 acres that now make up Grant's Farm. In 1907, Busch would buy the cabin U.S. Grant had built in 1855. Grant called it "Hardscrabble." Busch would move the cabin to the farm. Hardscrabble had been moved from its original site on Rock Hill Road to Forest Park for display during the World's Fair.

1904 Over 8,000 people filled an arena near the World's Fairgrounds to see a heavily promoted bullfight. After the St. Louis County Sheriff stopped the show, the angry crowd burned the bullring to the ground. The promoter left in disguise, taking the receipts. On June 8, Understudy Captain E. Carleton Bass would shoot and kill principal matador Don Manuci Cervera during an argument over money.

1911 The first recorded serious auto accident in Belleville occurred on West Main near the Belt Railroad. Liquor salesman Carl Forest was killed when he collided with another vehicle.

1913 Chris Von der Ahe, the flamboyant saloon keeper who owned the Browns during the 1880's and 90's, died of cirrhosis of the liver. Von der Ahe was ahead of his time, devising all sorts of promotions to get people to the ballpark. He tried a merry-go-round, a chute-the-chutes ride, and even horse racing. Forced by creditors to sell the team in 1898, Von der Ahe died broke.

1916 An outdoor presentation of *As You Like It* was given at Forest Park, to mark the tercentary of the death of William Shakespeare. The site chosen sloped down to a natural stage-like area with huge oak trees on either side. The St. Louis Advertising Club offered money to the city to build a concrete auditorium on the site for a presentation of *Aida* for

an advertising convention on June 5, 1917. The Municipal Theater Association was organized in 1919 to continue presentations at the “Muny.”

1937 The Cardinals signed a young pitcher from Donora, Pennsylvania to his first contract. An injury to his arm would necessitate a move to the outfield for Stanley Frank Musial.

1946 St. Louisan Joe Garagiola got his first hit in a Cardinal uniform before a home town crowd. He drove in a run with a double in the seventh inning as the Cardinals beat the Braves, 2-1.

1952 Mary Engelbreit was born in St. Louis. She worked briefly as an editorial cartoonist for the *Post Dispatch* before she began designing greeting cards with her whimsical drawings and phrases. Today, she heads what the *Wall Street Journal* called a “vast empire of cuteness,” with sales of over \$100 million annually.

1957 The City of Sunset Hills was chartered. The name dates back to 1911, when August Busch Senior and Eberhard Anheuser built the Sunset Inn. The inn featured a roof top restaurant, a pool and hunting facilities. The inn eventually grew into the Sunset Hills Country Club.

1969 Politicians here forced the cancellation of an upcoming concert by the Doors. They cited a recent incident in Miami, where Jim Morrison had been arrested for exposing himself. Morrison appeared with the Doors at the Arena in November 1967, calling the building a “F***ing old barn.”

1971 The Six Flags Over Mid-America amusement park opened in Eureka. The 220-acre park was expected to draw nearly 2 million visitors per year and provide a financial windfall for the town.

1981 The Wainwright Building downtown was rededicated as a state office building, transformed by a \$13.9 million renovation. Built in 1891, the ten story building was the one of the first steel frame supported skyscrapers in the world. Famed architect Louis Sullivan designed it.

1982 John J. Vitale died of natural causes at the age of 73. That was noteworthy because Vitale was the Mafia boss under Anthony Giordano. Vitale was the top hoodlum in the city during the 1950’s. The “Gentleman Gangster” ran the mob briefly after Giordano’s death in 1980. Vitale turned government informant towards the end of his life.

1996 Machinists at McDonnell Douglas walked off the job over outsourcing and job security issues. The strike was settled on September 6th.

1998 Mark McGwire established a new record for home runs in a season at Busch Stadium with his 28th. Number 28 on the season came against the Giants. It was Big Mac's first game back after being sidelined for three games with back spasms.

1999 The Chain of Rocks Bridge over the Mississippi north of St. Louis re-opened as the world's largest pedestrian and bicycle bridge. Trailnet Incorporated spent 4 million dollars to renovate the landmark and make it a part of a network of trails. The bridge carried Route 66 from 1936 to 1965, and closed in 1970.