

June 6

1822 Canadian voyageur Alexis St. Martin was shot in the stomach and brought to Fort Mackinac in the Michigan Territory, where William Beaumont served as post doctor. The wound healed in such a way as to leave a hole, through which Beaumont observed the digestive system. Beaumont's work was incorporated into every medical textbook. St. Martin lived to be 86. After he left the army, Beaumont became a renowned frontier doctor in St. Louis.

1865 The citizens of Missouri adopted a new state constitution, which included the abolition of slavery. It also required a drastic loyalty oath for all voters. Only those who took the oath were allowed to vote in the election that approved the constitution.

1874 The cornerstone was laid for one of St. Louis' grandest lost landmarks. The Merchants Exchange at Third and Olive served as the site of the first Veiled Prophet Ball, and many more in the years to come. It was torn down in 1957 to make room for Interstate 70.

1877 Four men were under arrest in Richland, Missouri, charged with a sensational crime. They derailed a train to rob the dead and injured passengers. The locomotive went down an embankment, killing three crewmen. But a faulty coupling pin saved the passengers. The would-be victims routed the bandits. The jail was under armed guard as much to protect the prisoners from being lynched as to prevent them from escaping.

1891 The cornerstone was laid for the new city hall. Construction had started in July 1890. No bond issue was passed for its construction, so the building took 14 years to complete. City hall was finally dedicated on November 5, 1904.

1902 Mark Twain dedicated a bronze tablet at the Eugene Field home at 634 South Broadway. Twain was told that there was a chance that Eugene Field may not have been born at the house. Twain replied, "Never mind. It is of no real consequence whether it is his birthplace or not. A rose in any other garden will bloom as sweet." A day earlier, Twain piloted a St. Louis harbor boat named in his honor

1903 The Belleville town square was the scene of a lynching. David Wyatt, a black school teacher from Brooklyn Illinois, shot and killed the county superintendent of schools, Charles Hertel. Hertel refused to renew his teaching license. A mob drug Wyatt out of the jail and hung him from a post.

1903 The *Globe-Democrat* reported that the newest hit song was "The Entertainer," by Scott Joplin. The article noted that the tune was selling thousands upon thousands of copies of sheet music.

1904 The Apache Chief Geronimo arrived at the St. Louis World's Fair to be part of the Indian anthropological exhibit. Visitors would pay a dime for his autograph and up to \$2 for a photo. The 75-year-old warrior was scared when his guards took him aboard

“curious little houses” that took him to a great height. He was on the Ferris Wheel. Geronimo also appeared in the Wild West shows on “The Pike.” He lived in the Apache Village until October 2nd.

1907 The St. Louis Library Board picked New York architect Cass Gilbert as the winner of a nationwide contest to pick a design for the new central library. The library had been made possible by a million dollar gift from Andrew Carnegie.

1920 The Cardinals played their last game at the deteriorating Cardinal Field, formerly Robison Park. The field at Vandeventer and Natural Bridge was the last wooden ballpark left in the big leagues. The property was sold to the Board of Education, and Beaumont High School stands on the site today. The Cardinals played their first game back at Sportsman’s Park on July 1, 1920.

1944 The news from the beaches of France reached St. Louis about 6:15 am. Mayor Kaufmann said it is an “hour for prayer and faith. It is an hour for courage and desperate sacrifice in France.” He announced that a prayer service would be held at the Soldier’s Memorial that evening, led by Archbishop John Glennon, Bishop William Scarlett and Rabbi Ferdinand Isserman.

1952 Police raided the Little Bohemia Bar, at 4th and Clark. The avant-garde of St. Louis had gathered at the Little Bohemia since the 1920’s, when it was located at the foot of Chestnut Street. Suspicious officers said it was too dark inside the club. Operated by the Radulovic Brothers, the club attracted such notables as Carl Sandburg and Thomas Hart Benton. The club is credited with launching the movement that led to Gaslight Square.

1957 A. Carl Weber, Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, suggested a mammoth riverfront stadium as an alternative to Eero Saarinen’s Gateway Arch plan. Weber said the Arch was a static structure useful “only from an artistic standpoint.” He added that a stadium would be the “focal point of all civic interest” and would draw tourists.

1967 The Blues made their picks in the NHL expansion draft. They chose Glenn Hall from the Blackhawks, Jimmy Roberts and Noel Picard from the Canadiens, Al Arbour from the Leafs and Rod Seiling from the Rangers. The Blues then made their first trade. They sent Seiling back to the Rangers for Gary Sabourin, Bob Plager and Tim Ecclestone.

1968 Senator Robert Kennedy died after Sirhan Bishara Sirhan shot him at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles on the night of the 5th. J.A. Baer President of Stix, Baer and Fuller department stores, reacted to the assassinations of Kennedy and Martin Luther King by announcing his company would no longer sell guns and ammunition.

1973 The St. Louis Housing Authority voted to close the notorious Pruitt-Igoe housing project. The 20 high-rise buildings opened in 1954. Within a few years, they were crime ridden and vandalized, standing as a national symbol of the failure of public housing.