

June 8

1874 General William Sherman returned home to St. Louis for the first time since the war. At the start of the Civil War, Sherman was president of a streetcar company here. He returned as general-in-chief of the U-S army, to establish a new post. St. Louisans contributed to a fund and bought him a house at 912 Garrison Avenue.

1896 With the Republican convention set to open the following week, the city faced a critical shortage of hotel rooms. Railroad officials had announced that they would set up 800 passenger cars at several locations to serve as sleeping quarters. Rooms were still needed for up to 20,000.

1901 The Executive Committee of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition Company began daily meetings to consider the seven proposed sites for the fair. Advocates of a site in Forest Park were making a strong case, noting the streetcar lines and the Wabash Railroad already served the site.

1903 The Mississippi River crested at 37.5 feet here, the highest level since 1844. Fifty people were feared lost in Madison, Venice and Granite City. Boats rescued more than 3,000 people from those areas.

1904 About 75,000 children welcomed the Liberty Bell. A petition by public school children resulted in the bell coming to St. Louis. Two troops of cavalry, along with Mayor Rolla Wells, accompanied the bell from the Jefferson Hotel to the fair. The symbol of Liberty was placed in the Pennsylvania Building, where it could be visited free of charge under the watchful eyes of Philadelphia Police.

1904 The fiasco of the June 5th bullfight and riot near the World's Fairgrounds ended in murder. Understudy Captain E. Carleton Bass shot principal matador Don Manuci Cervera. Cervera was the most famous bullfighter in Spain, awarded a medal for his bravery by the king. Cervera pulled a knife on Bass as they argued over money at the Mozart Motel, 2837 Morgan. (Delmar) (On June 5, 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.)

1920 The American Civil Liberties Union was organized in New York. The organization's stated goals were to protect free speech, a free press and the right to assemblage. Roger Baldwin, who began his career in social service in St. Louis, founded the organization. He was the former Secretary of the Civic League here.

1923 The national dance marathon continued at the old Coliseum. After dancing for 147 hours to establish a new women's record, 18-year-old Hilda Johnson of St. Louis dropped out. She won \$700 in prizes. Three men were still on their feet. George Groeger, of the St. Louis Dancing Teachers Association told the *Globe-Democrat* that the craze was "a disgrace to the art of dancing."

1926 A St. Louis Criminal court judge declared the city law holding automobiles to a 25 miles per hour speed limit to be unconstitutional. The judge said exceeding the limit of 25 did not violate the law as written. The judge said the driver had to be driving recklessly as well.

1930 The first large-scale auto race was held here. A crowd of about 10,000 fans packed the grandstands for the opening of the new speedway at Upper Creve Coeur Lake Park.

1950 The Boston Red Sox pummeled the hapless Brownies 29-4 at Fenway Park, the most lopsided win in Major League History. The Red Sox pounded out 28 hits and set a Major League record with 58 total bases. They had rapped out 23 hits against the Browns one day earlier.

1952 Three firemen were killed, six were injured, when a hook and ladder and pumper truck collided at Vandeventer and Easton. The crews had been rushing to a fire in a vacant building that ended up doing \$25 worth of damage.

1961 The zoo launched a worldwide "chimp hunt." A Miami court had ruled that the zoo was entitled to the performing chimp "Mr. Moke." He had been chimpnapped by his former owner, who was believed to have fled the country.

1966 Organist, gadget guru and local TV regular Stan Kann made his first appearance on the "Tonight Show," demonstrating his collection of antique vacuums. He was such a hit that Johnny extended the scheduled eight minute segment to 14 minutes. Stan would appear on the show a total of 77 times. He appeared on Mike Douglas' show 89 times.

1969 KDNL-TV signed on at Channel 30 UHF with a broadcast of the Western Open Golf Championship. Jack Miller is probably the best-remembered personality from the early KDNL days. He played "Mr. Patches" the clown until 1975. Miller formerly hosted the *World of Doctor Zoom* on KMOX-TV, with his puppets Cecil the Dragon, Norton the Duck and Princess Moonbeam.

1970 The Linclay Corporation filed plans with the county for a \$300 million development on the Missouri River flood plain west of 270 and 70. A planning department official said the 1,091-acre development would be "a city within itself."

1980 The Cardinals fired manager Ken Boyer between games of a doubleheader with Montreal. The Cardinals had lost 20 out of their last 25. Whitey Herzog was named as the 31st manager of the Cardinals the following day. Boyer played for the Cardinals from 1955 to 1965, and slugged a grand slam that turned the 1964 World Series around. "The Captain" died of lung cancer on September 7, 1982.

1981 Thousands turned out to see Mother Theresa. The 72-year old humanitarian nun and Nobel Prize winner spoke against abortion at the St. Louis Cathedral.

1982 Leroy "Satchel" Paige died at the age of 75. He is recognized as one of the greatest pitchers ever, though segregation kept him out of the majors until he was over 40. Statistics were not kept in the Negro leagues, but it is believed that he pitched in more than 25-hundred games and won 2,000 of them. He spent some of his career here with the Browns, when he was over 45!

1999 Minor League baseball came to St. Charles. A standing-room only crowd of 4,173 packed the Ozzie Smith Sports Complex to see the Class A River City Rascals make their Frontier League debut. Blues broadcaster Ken Wilson is one of the team owners. The Rascals beat the DuBois County (Indiana) Dragons 6-5 in the bottom of the ninth.