

June 11

1800 The Spanish government appointed Daniel Boone commandant or "syndic" of the Femme Osage District in what is now St. Charles County. Boone was granted 850 acres of land, and 650 more acres for each family he brought to the area. Boone served as justice of the peace and commander of the local militia. He held the post until the transfer of government to the United States in 1804.

1806 The first legislative body in what is now Missouri met in St. Louis. The first territorial legislature consisted of one house with only four members.

1850 The first part of the Concordia Seminary building in St. Louis was dedicated. Professors and their families, along with 16 students, immediately occupied the south wing. The first building was razed for a new one in 1882.

1861 Pro-Southern Governor Claiborne Jackson and Missouri State Guard commander Sterling Price met with Union General Nathaniel Lyon and Congressman Frank Blair at the Planter's Hotel. Lyon said he would see "every man, woman and child in the state dead and buried" before conceding that the state had the right to dictate orders to "my government." He turned to the governor and said: "This means war." Price and Jackson fled to Jefferson City, burning the bridges behind them.

1873 Luther Ely Smith was born in Downer's Grove, Illinois. Smith was an attorney who was very active in working for civic improvements. In 1933, he proposed a project on the St. Louis Riverfront to honor the city's role in the opening of the West and to revitalize downtown. He fought to keep the project alive for the next 18 years. He died in 1951, 11 years before construction began.

1875 The man who gave his name to a pair of presidents was born in St. Louis. George Herbert Walker is the grandfather of the 41st president of the US and the great-grandfather of the 43rd. His father founded Eli Walker and Company, which became the largest dry goods firm west of the Mississippi. George founded the GH Walker and Company investment firm, now part of Merrill Lynch, and at one time controlled 17 companies. His daughter Dorothy met Yale graduate and World War One Captain Prescott Bush when Prescott came here to work for Simmons Hardware. They were married in August 1921. Their first son is George Herbert Walker Bush and his son is George Walker Bush.

1881 President Ulysses Grant made a brief stop in St. Louis. He visited his stock farm on the Gravois Road that was netting him about \$3,000 per year. But Grant ended rumors that he would retire in St. Louis once his term was over. He said he planned to retire to New York City.

1923 St. Louis was chosen as the site for an air service unit of the National Guard from Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska. A federal grant would pay for eight planes and the construction of two hangars at the St. Louis flying field.

1927 Charles Lindbergh returned to the United States following his epic flight. President Coolidge welcomed him in Washington. After a parade down Pennsylvania Avenue, Coolidge presented Lindbergh with the Distinguished Flying Cross as a crowd of \$150,000 cheered.

1940 The St. Louis *Daily Record* reported that John Carr and architect Adolph Struebig were planning to build ten two-room cabins on Highway 66 at a cost of \$7,000. The cabins would form the nucleus of the Coral Court Motel.

1945 A huge ticker-tape parade downtown welcomed Missouri's General Omar Bradley. Bradley commanded the 12th Army Group during World War Two. Bradley said the world "should set up some kind of machine so it doesn't happen again."

1945 The last Confederate veteran in St. Louis died. General John M. Claypool served as a lieutenant during the war and was wounded three times. He attained his rank as commander of the United Confederate Veterans.

1956 The first local color television broadcast in St. Louis was presented by Channel Five. The station showed a film touting the city that was produced by the Chamber of Commerce.

1956 Doctor Thomas Dooley announced a "grass roots diplomatic effort" in Southeast Asia. He planned a private mission to Communist-threatened Laos. The former Navy doctor had rose to fame while working with the refugees of North Vietnam.

1958 St. Louis County Police pulled over Chuck Berry's pink 1958 Cadillac. The officers said they had followed as Berry weaved all over the roadway for two miles. He was stopped just 12 hours before appearing in a St. Charles court for a preliminary hearing on weapons charges.

1958 Nineteen-year-old Mike Shannon signed a bonus contract to play for the Cardinals Omaha farm team. The all-district and all-state football and basketball star from CBC had just finished his freshman year at Mizzou. He was considered a top prospect for the football team in the fall.

1974 In a jam against the Dodgers, Cards reliever Al Hrabosky turned his back to the plate and stood behind the mound psyching himself up. He turned around and struck out Tom Paciorek on three pitches, and the "Mad Hungarian" routine was born. Hrabosky became a fan favorite before being traded to Kansas City before the 1978 season.

1983 Lonnie Smith of the Cardinals checked into drug rehab. He was the third major leaguer to leave his team that season because of a drug problem. Lonnie recovered fully and was a big part of the Braves 1992 championship season.

1992 The Cardinals held a big celebration at Busch Stadium to mark the team's centennial as a National League franchise. A crowd of 17,673 came out to see over 70 players and former players on a 58 foot tall stage, complete with giant video screens, erected behind second base.

1995 Spirtas Wrecking completed demolition of one of the most famous motels on Route 66. The Coral Courts Motel was famous for its art-deco architecture and reputation as a "no-tell motel." The motel was torn down to make room for the Oak Knoll Manor Subdivision. One unit was partially reconstructed at the Museum of Transportation.

1997 Four people were killed and three people injured when a Bi-State bus crashed into a platform at the UMSL-South Metro-Link station. A trainee driver was behind the wheel when the bus lurched forward.

2003 Former Blues goaltender Grant Fuhr and St. Louisan Pat LaFontaine were named to the Hockey Hall of Fame. LaFontaine began playing at the Kirkwood rink when he was just five years old. He ended his career with 1,013 points. Fuhr would become the first black player in the Hall of Fame. He played for the Blues from 1995 to 1999.

2003 Christian Ferguson, a mentally disabled nine-year-old boy disappeared. His father told police his that his SUV with Christian inside was stolen as the father made a call on a pay phone at Page and Skinker. No trace of the child has been found.