

June 12

1820 A group of 41 delegates arrived in St. Louis for a convention to draft the state's first constitution. They met at the Old Mansion House Hotel on Third Street.

1840 Construction began on the landmark "Rock Building" at St. Stanislaus Seminary north of Florissant. The walls are made of massive limestone blocks hauled from the river bluffs by the brothers. The building was completed in 1849.

1861 Governor Claiborne Jackson, issued a proclamation stating that the federal government's refusal to leave Missouri violated the rights of the state. He called for 50,000 volunteers to repel the "invaders." Less than 24 hours later, Union General Nathaniel Lyon began moving Union troops toward Jefferson City.

1877 St. Louis police had a big round-up on their hands. A court here was debating a law requiring owners of livestock to keep animals on their own properly. A Mrs. Muldoon took matters into her own hands. She led a group of 150 irate citizens to a pen holding 150 stray cows and released them.

1903 The Webster Groves Board of Aldermen passed a measure to give the city its first paved street. The board voted to pave with brick a one-block section of Gore Avenue from the Missouri Pacific tracks to Lockwood.

1906 St. Louis voters approved a \$3.5 million bond issue for construction of a free bridge over the Mississippi. The Municipal Bridge (later the Macarthur) opened on January 27, 1917.

1926 The new 19-building Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary in Clayton was dedicated. Noting the then-current controversy over evolution, one speaker said "Though the buildings are modern, there shall be no modernistic teaching in these buildings."

1934 The Eugene Field home at 634 South Broadway was saved from the wrecking ball. The home is the lone survivor of what were once 12 homes known as Walsh's Row. Irving Dilliard wrote a passionate editorial in the *Post-Dispatch* decrying the planned demolition, which inspired two St. Louis businessmen to help the Board of Education save it. Field's father Roswell was the attorney who filed suit on behalf of Dred Scott.

1940 The new, streamlined *S.S. Admiral* made its first cruise. The 375-foot-long five decked *Admiral* was originally built in 1907 as the steamer *Albatross*. Cruising and dancing on the *Admiral* would be a favorite of St. Louisans for the next 40 years. Once destined for the scrap heap, the *Admiral* is now a floating casino.

1941 The first test blackout in the St. Louis area was declared a big "fizzle" by Civil Defense officials. It was held in East St. Louis for five minutes. Only a few lights were dimmed.

1948 Over 65,000 people lined up to tour the "Freedom Train" in St. Louis. The train was touring country to mark the 160th anniversary of the constitution. The line to view the historic documents on the train stretched for eight blocks in the 92-degree heat.

1949 The U.S. Treasury Department reported that two former St. Louisans were the top salaried man and woman in the country. Movie theatre magnate George Skouras made \$800,000 dollars in 1948. Movie star Betty Grable took in \$208,000.

1957 Stan Musial played in his 823rd consecutive game, breaking the National League record held by Gus Suhr. Suhr played in every Pittsburgh Pirates game from September 11, 1931 to June 5, 1937. Stan had played in every Cardinal game since the tail end of the 1951 season, when then-manager Marty Marion rested his star player.

1970 The manager of the Fred Harvey Restaurant at Union Station announced the doors would close forever on June 30th. The restaurant had served travelers since 1895. Harvey Restaurants were famous for their good food, cleanliness and extraordinary service by the waitresses known as "Harvey Girls." During the length of their contracts, the girls had to live in a Harvey dormitory, observe strict rules of conduct and appearance, and agree to remain single.

1981 Major League baseball players walked out for the second time in the history of the game. The strike resulted in a split season. The Cardinals were shut out of the playoffs, despite having the best record in the National League East for the entire year.

1993 East St. Louis Mayor Gordon Bush was among the dignitaries who greeted the Casino Queen as it docked for the first time.

2000 Undercover officers shot and killed drug suspect Earl Murray and his passenger Ronald Beasley, on the parking lot of a Berkeley fast food restaurant. County Police said Murray tried to run them down during a drug bust. At least 20 shots were fired. The shooting ignited protests by civil rights activists.

2003 Barrett Jackman of the Blues was named as the NHL Rookie of the Year. He was the first Blues player to ever win the award. Jackman also became just the 9th defenseman in NHL history to win the top rookie honors. Jackman racked up just 19 points during his first season.