

June 13

1816 The *Missouri Gazette* published an editorial about the shortcomings of St. Louis. The new paper said "With a capital of \$1 million, it has but a few factories, no respectable seminary, no place of worship for dissenters, no public edifices, no steam mill nor boats and no bank."

1837 A crowd of 5,000 gathered at the Lucas estate hear a speech by Daniel Webster. Webster was the Whig Party nominee for President. He spoke for 80 minutes before heading to Alton. Webster would make another speech from the porch of the Alton House on Front Street. Webster Groves, Webster College and several Webster schools are named in his honor.

1861 Union General Nathaniel Lyon and his forces left St. Louis aboard steamboats. They headed up the Missouri in pursuit of the pro-southern forces led by Governor Claiborne Jackson and Sterling Price. Lyon arrived in Jefferson City on the 15th, but the rebels had already fled to Boonville.

1921 The famous bear pits at the St. Louis Zoo were opened to the public. The rocks and walls were cast from molds made of actual cliffs near Herculaneum. The waterfalls and fountains were added in 1962.

1927 A giant ticker-tape parade welcomed Charles Lindbergh to New York City. Lindbergh received decorations from Mayor Walker and Governor Smith.

1947 One of the biggest traffic tie-ups in city history. Transit workers walked off the job, bringing the busses and streetcars to a halt. Downtown stores reported a sharp drop in business.

1952 A record-breaking June heat wave was causing major problems here. Several people had died, and widespread areas of North and South County were without water because of the record usage.

1954 The Eldon "Rip" Repulski of the Cardinals began a streak of ten consecutive games in which he had two or more hits. That's believed to be a National League record. Over those ten games, Repulski was 22 for 44, with eleven extra base hits.

1956 The State Highway Department awarded contracts for the section of Highway 40 between Hanley Road and the Red Feather Expressway. Highway 40 was proposed from Wentzville to St. Louis in 1928. It was completed to Lindbergh in 1938. But residents kept it a dead end at Brentwood Boulevard until the 50's.

1956 In an article headlined "Rock and Roll Fever," The *Post-Dispatch* quoted a sociologist as saying "Rock and Roll fever is caused by the same virus which induces panty raids and goldfish swallowing. When kids run wild, any stimulus will do." The

manager of a Washington DC armory where a fight had broken out during a Bill Haley and the Comets concert said “It’s that jungle strain that gets ‘em all worked up.”

1968 All-Time great Jacques Plante came out of retirement to play for the Blues. The Blues duo of Plante and Glenn Hall may have been the greatest goaltending team in NHL history.

1976 County Hospital obstetrician Randall Meglitsch was shot and killed by police who were firing at his kidnapper at a service station in St. Johns. The kidnapper was an escaped prisoner from the hospital. He had had not returned officer's fire. He killed himself at the scene.

1983 The National Hockey League took over the Blues. Ralston Purina had abandoned the team and sued the league for blocking the sale to interests in Saskatoon. The Blues did not take part in the 1983 draft, because the ownership issue was not settled. Entrepreneur Harry Ornest would come forward to keep the team here.

1997 The Vatican designated the Cathedral of St. Louis a basilica. The church at Lindell and Newstead was renamed the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis. St. Louis became one of the few cities in the world with two basilicas recognized by the Vatican. The "old" cathedral downtown is also a basilica.