

June 15

1844 The second and most devastating stage of the biggest flood in St. Louis history began. By the time the water receded, all of what is now East St. Louis was inundated, the St. Louis business district was under water as far west as Broadway. The Mississippi was ten miles wide in the American Bottoms area around Cahokia.

1859 Henry Shaw opened his botanical garden to the public. Shaw had transformed his Tower Grove estate into a scientific complex that would become internationally famous.

1861 Union forces under General Lyon took possession of Jefferson City. They met no resistance. The pro-southern Governor Jackson and his forces had fled to Booneville. The forces would meet in battle at Booneville on June 17th.

1869 The first international bare-knuckle prize fight involving an American was held at Foster's Island on the outskirts of St. Louis. Mike McCoole, the "Deck Hand Champion," defeated Tim Allen of England. In October 1873, McCoole would be arrested for shooting another boxer in St. Louis.

1896 For the first time, motion pictures were exhibited in St. Louis. "Edison's Vitascope" was presented at the Oriental Roof Garden Theatre at 17th and Pine. *The Bohemian Girl* was also being performed live. The theatre lasted just one week.

1904 Samuel Clemens had written World's Fair officials that "A portrait better than the original" would represent him at the fair. Clemens said it "has all the merits of the original and keeps still besides." He was against plans for a special day in his honor. Clemens said no society should honor him while he was still alive, "I might at some time or other do something which would cause its members to regret having done me that honor."

1921 Fifteenth Ward Alderman Harry Uhlmeier was arrested for violating the Volstead Act. Agents seized 200 barrels of beer at a warehouse with which he was connected. The beer was valued at about \$8,000.

1927 St. Louis was preparing to welcome Charles Lindbergh that coming weekend. The *Post-Dispatch* reported that Lindbergh pies, luncheons and sundaes adorned menus. There were no fewer than ten popular songs honoring Lindy on display. A Lindbergh display was a feature of nearly every shop window. A huge sign at Grand and Washington declared him "Our Ace of Hearts."

1934 President Roosevelt signed a joint Congressional resolution authorizing a commission to plan a riverfront memorial at St. Louis. The memorial was to honor the western expansion of the United States.

1947 Lew Worsham defeated Sam Snead by one putt in a playoff to win the U.S. Open Golf Championship on the grounds of the St. Louis Country Club. Worsham won \$2500

and Snead picked up \$2000. KSD-TV broadcast the tournament locally. It marked the first television golf broadcast in the nation.

1951 St. Louis became a two newspaper town, as the *Star-Times* ceased publication. The Pulitzer Publishing Company, publishers of the *Post-Dispatch*, bought the *Star-Times* circulation lists and printing equipment.

1951 The Cardinals traded catcher Joe Garagiola and pitchers Howie Polet and Ted Wilks to the Pirates. Pittsburgh sent outfielder Wally Westlake and pitcher Cliff Chambers to St. Louis.

1957 The St. Louis area was mopping up after the heaviest rain ever recorded here. Downtown reported 8.47 inches in 14 hours. Belleville reported 13.75 inches. Eleven deaths were blamed on the storm.

1961 National Park Service officials approved plans for the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial and the Museum of Westward Expansion. Final approval of the Arch awaited completion of the plans by architect Eero Saarinen.

1964 The Cardinals made the best trade in their history. The Birds sent pitchers Ernie Broglio and Bobby Shantz and outfielder Doug Clemens to the Cubs. In return, the Cardinals picked up pitchers Jack Spring and Paul Toth, along with an outfielder named Louis Clark Brock. Brock would spark the Cardinals to the pennant and star in the World Series. Broglio would win just seven more games in his career. Shantz only played 20 more games.

1965 This Redbird trade didn't turn out so well. The Cardinals sent pitchers Mike Cuellar and Ron Taylor to Houston. The Cards picked up pitchers Hal Woodeshick and Chuck Taylor. Cuellar would have 40 20-win seasons after a move to Baltimore.

1970 The Spanish Pavilion Foundation filed for bankruptcy. Mayor Cervantes pushed for the foundation to bring the pavilion here from the 1964 New York World's Fair. It opened as a cultural center in 1969, but closed less than one year later. The building now serves as the lobby of the downtown Marriott.

1973 The design for the proposed downtown convention center was unveiled. It featured a distinctive "space frame" jutting out from the top of the building. Completion was set for 1976.

1973 The business agent for the politically powerful and violence prone Steamfitter's Local 562 lost both of his legs in a car bombing. Police believed the bombing of Thomas Callahan's car was related to the murders of Local 562 business manager Ed Steska and labor hoodlum Louis Shoulders.

1977 The Cardinals traded Bake McBride and Steve Waterbury to the Phillies for pitcher Tom Underwood, outfielder Rick Bosetti and first baseman Danie Iorg. McBride would hit .339 for the remainder of the season in Philadelphia.

1983 The Cardinals made one of the worst trades in their history. They sent first baseman Keith Hernandez to the Mets for pitchers Neil Allen and Rick Ownbey. There were rumors of a feud with Whitey Herzog over Hernandez's drug use. But Hernandez would star for the hated Mets, while Allen and Ownbey were busts on the mound.

1984 The Cardinals swapped Ken Oberkfell to the Braves for pitcher Ken Dayley and first baseman Mike Jorgenson.

1989 The Blues traded one of their all-time greats. They sent Bernie Federko and Tony McCegney to Detroit for Adam Oates and Paul McLean.

1999 Residents along railroad tracks in Southern Illinois were on edge, as authorities said that the "Rail Car Killer" had killed two people in Gorham. He was now linked to eight murders. Rafael Resendez-Ramirez would be arrested in Texas and charged with the killings in July.

2000 A big night for the Blues. Chris Pronger was awarded the Hart Trophy as the NHL MVP and the Norris Trophy as the top defenseman. Pavol Demitra won the Lady Byng Trophy for sportsmanship. Joel Quenneville won Coach of the Year honors. Roman Turek took home the Vezina Trophy as the top goaltender.