

June 18

1808 The Missouri Territorial Legislature authorized the incorporation of St. Louis as a town with a Board of Trustees. At the time, the population was about 12-hundred. The petition for incorporation was not officially approved by the Court of Common Pleas for the District of St. Louis until November 9, 1809.

1808 Governor Meriweather Lewis signed the act incorporating the town of Ste. Genevieve. The exact date of the town's founding is not known, but it is probably sometime in the late 1720's.

1876 A St. Louis newspaper reported on what might have been the first air conditioner here. The complicated contraption ran tubes from a fan that cooled water in the cellar. The cool air was forced through tubes into the upstairs at the Goodyear Rubber Company store at Fourth and Locust.

1904 Three people were wounded in a real life Wild West shootout on "The Pike" at the world's fair. Colonel Zach Mulhall, who ran a Wild West show, took a shot at a man in charge of his horses. A show cowboy who tried to break it up was wounded, and an innocent bystander nearly died.

1905 Governor Joseph Folk was threatening to call out the militia if necessary to enforce a new state law banning betting a horse tracks. St. Louis area bookies said the law only banned the "recording" of bets, so they planned to take bets orally.

1920 The Missouri Aeronautical Society leased a 160-acre corn field on Natural Bridge Road. At his own expense, Albert Bond Lambert drained, graded and developed an airfield on the site. He later offered to turn it over to the city at cost, even though the value of the land had skyrocketed.

1926 The Southwestern Bell Building at 10th and Pine was completed. It would remain the tallest building in the city for the next 40-years. The 31-story tower would be eclipsed by the Mercantile building in 1976.

1927 Over 500,000 people packed the streets and tickertape rained down on Charles Lindbergh. A crowd at Sportsmen's Park cheered as Lindbergh led a procession with Mayor Victor Miller, Secretary of War Dwight Davis, Baseball Commissioner Kennesaw Mountain Landis and NL President John Heydler. Lindbergh raised the 1926 championship banner, and then presented World Series rings to the team. That night at the Chase Hotel, Lindbergh said he expected St. Louis to be the aviation hub of the United States.

1931 Two men shot and killed Homer G. Phillips as he waited for a bus at Aubert and Delmar. Phillips was an attorney and civic leader who fought for money to build a new hospital for African-Americans. Witnesses identified the killers as George McFarland

and Augustus Brooks, but juries found them innocent. Homer G. Phillips Hospital opened on February 22, 1937 and closed amid much controversy in 1979.

1939 Louis Clark Brock was born in El Dorado, Arkansas. As a youth, Brock learned about hitting by listening to KMOX as Harry Carey described the player's stance. He stole over 50 bases 12 times. In 1974, he swiped 118, a record at the time. He batted out 3,023 hits in his career. Brock also set the World Series record with a .391 batting average. Lou was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1985.

1961 Eddie Gaedel died of a heart attack at the age of 36 after he was mugged in Chicago. Browns owner Bill Veeck sent the 3' 7" 65-pound stage performer to the plate with a toy bat in an infamous 1951 publicity stunt. Gaedel walked on four straight, and the ML quickly banned midgets. He also appeared in other bizarre Veeck stunts, including serving as a vendor after White Sox fans complained that vendors were blocking their view.

1965 The 65th US Open got underway at Bellerive. Gary Player would win it by three strokes over Kel Nagle in a playoff, becoming the first player from overseas to win the US Open since Ted Ray of England in 1920.

1967 The Cardinals beat San Francisco 4-1 to move into first place. They would stay there the rest of the year. (The Cubs actually tied for first for a few days, then quickly folded)

1967 The Herbert Hoover Boys club was dedicated. It stands on the site of old Busch Stadium at Grand and Dodier.

1971 High wire artist Karl Wallenda made history as he walked a 600-foot-long tightwire 150-feet above Busch Stadium with no net. A crowd of 23,500 at the Shrine Circus held their breath.

1981 KSLQ traffic reporter Alan Barklage used his helicopter to rescue a toddler struck by a car. Barklage came upon the accident scene while on his way home. Police accepted his offer to get his helicopter and speed the child to the nearest hospital.

1982 The Cardinals split the last regularly scheduled doubleheader at Busch Stadium. Bruce Sutter blew a three-run lead in the 9th as the Mets won the first game 5-3. But Willie McGee's bases loaded triple in the 7th helped the Cards win the nitecap 5-4. McGee missed home plate when he tried to score on a grounder following his triple. He was actually tagged out in the dugout.

1998 Mark McGwire pounded one into the upper deck at the Astrodome in Houston. His 33rd homer broke the record held by Ken Griffey Junior for the most home runs before July 1st.

2002 Cardinals broadcaster Jack Buck died at the age of 77. He had been hospitalized for 5 ½ months due to complications following surgery for lung cancer. In 1954, Buck beat out Chick Hearn, who went on to become the Los Angeles Lakers announcer, for the Cardinals broadcasting job. He teamed with Harry Carey for 14 years. Buck was inducted into the broadcasting wing of the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1987.