

June 19

1792 The first deed for a land sale in what is now St. Clair County was recorded. John Antoine Alexix Claudius paid Antoine Girarden \$384.20 for land in Prairie Du Pont in the Cahokia District.

1820 Missouri's first constitution was adopted and signed by delegates to a convention held in St. Louis.

1853 The first rail line west of the Mississippi opened, as a Pacific Railroad train made the run from St. Louis to the Franklin County line and the town of Franklin. The town was later re-named Pacific to mark the occasion. It would be 1855 before the line made it to Jefferson City.

1880 The *Globe-Democrat* reported that the financially strapped city of East St. Louis faced mass resignations of employees. The police had not been paid in months. Many workers had exhausted their credit.

1923 Eagan Gang leader William "Dinty" Colbeck mailed a check for \$500 to 13-year-old Leonard Bickel. The boy was struck by a car as the Hogan and Eagan Gangs shot it out on a busy street on March 24th. Colbeck sent the money in the name of "The Boys," and said he hoped the Hogan Gang would "ante up" a like amount.

1926 The Memorial Plaza Association altered their plans for the new \$4 million courthouse downtown. The new design called for a structure in the form of a Greek temple at the top. Construction was slated to begin in ten days.

1927 Over 100,000 people packed Art Hill as Charles Lindbergh made a fly-by and performed some stunts in "The Spirit of St. Louis." The Missouri Historical Society announced it had accepted Lindbergh's offer to give the trophies and awards from his flight for permanent display at the Jefferson Memorial. Lindbergh described his welcome in St. Louis as the most enthusiastic and orderly so far.

1934 President Roosevelt signed a bill establishing a 15-member U-S Territorial Expansion Memorial Commission. It was to oversee the development of a memorial to westward expansion on the St. Louis riverfront.

1948 Babe Ruth made his final appearance in St. Louis. Ruth attended a youth clinic at Sportsmen's Park presented by the Ford Motor Company's American Legion Baseball Program. Ruth posed for pictures with Dizzy Dean and with six-year-old Bill DeWitt Junior, son of the Browns vice-president and general manager. Bill De Witt Junior is one of the current Cardinals owners.

1950 The city of Bellefontaine Neighbors was incorporated. In the few years since World War two, a town had sprung up where once there had been only farmland. The village was originally known as "Pull Tight," because farmers had to pull the reins

while coming down a hill on Parker Road. The French called the area "Bellefontaine," or "beautiful fountain. The name came from a nearby spring.

1958 St. Louis was awarded a \$38 million federal loan and a \$24 million grant to launch the Mill Creek redevelopment project. About 465 acres of slums were leveled and replaced with residential and commercial development.

1972 The United States Supreme Court ruled on Curt Flood's lawsuit against organized baseball. Flood had sued in 1969, after the Cardinals traded him to the Phillies. Flood said he would not be bought or sold like a piece of property. The high court ruled in favor of the reserve clause, stating that baseball was exempt from anti-trust statutes. But Flood's courageous fight paved the way for today's free agency.

1978 Jerry Berger's column made its debut in the *Globe-Democrat*. In that first column, Tony Randall was a "sight-em" at the Fox Theatre. Berger retired from the *Post-Dispatch* in 2004.

1980 Detective Gregory Erson was killed while working undercover on the notorious "Stroll." The next-day, the city declared an all-out war on prostitution and other crimes in the area. Over 1,200 people would be arrested for prostitution related crimes that year.

1981 A headache ball smacked the mural "Lindy Squared" right between the eyes. The popular mural of Charles Lindbergh adorned a parking garage at Tenth and Chestnut. The building was torn down to make room for the new Southwestern Bell Building.

1996 A pilot for McDonnell-Douglas was killed in the crash of an F-18 at Regional Airport in Bethalto. The pilot was practicing for an upcoming air show when the crash occurred. The plane narrowly missed several homes.

1996 Ozzie Smith tearfully announced that he would retire at the end of the 1996 season. The 41-year-old Smith led the Cardinals to three pennants and a world championship in the 1980's. In 1996, he was battling Royce Clayton for the starting shortstop job under new manager Tony Larussa.

2001 Cardinals executives joined Missouri Governor Bob Holden, St. Louis Mayor Francis Slay and County Executive Buzz Westfall at a ceremony marking an agreement clearing the way for a new downtown stadium.