

June 20

1778 Pierre Laclede died while returning from a business trip to New Orleans. He was buried near the mouth of the Arkansas River, but no trace of the site remains. Laclede had selected a site below the mouth of the Missouri River for his trading post in August 1763. He named the village St. Louis, and predicted it would someday become one of the most beautiful cities in America.

1808 The Louisiana Territorial Legislature ordered the marking of a pioneer trail running from St. Louis to Ste. Genevieve to New Madrid. The road was to be designated as "The King's Highway." It was the beginning of road planning here in Missouri. Parts of Lemay Ferry, Telegraph and Highway 61-67 roughly follow the route.

1844 The great flood of 1844 began to recede. By this time, the Mississippi was three to six miles wide at St. Louis. Front Street was six feet under water. River steamers were tied up at the doors of businesses on the levee.

1882 The town of Brotherton, opposite St. Charles, toppled into the rampaging Missouri River and disappeared forever. Founded by Marshall Brotherton, it was booming in the 1850's as the point where trains were loaded on the ferry for the trip across the river. Not a trace remains today.

1897 The St. Louis *Republic* published the first color Sunday comics section here. The comics actually were not in color; they were just printed on colored paper. The "Funny Weekly" section featured jokes and cartoons as well as the early comic strips.

1905 Hearings opened in St. Louis on the State of Missouri's anti-trust suit against Standard Oil. Attorney General Herbert Hadley action would serve as the basis for the federal suit that led to the break-up of the Standard Oil trust in 1911.

1906 Congress approved a bill giving the city the power to condemn land on both sides of the river for construction of a free bridge. The bridge was hailed as the city's emancipation from the monopoly held by the owners of the Eads Bridge.

1910 Josephine Johnson was born in Kirkwood. She won a Pulitzer Prize in 1935 for her book *Now in November*, a story about life in rural Missouri during the Great Depression. Johnson became a civil rights activist and wrote articles about the plight of the poor in the *Post-Dispatch*. She was active in the ACLU, the Urban League and the St. Louis Committee for the Rehabilitation of Sharecroppers.

1942 In one of the first civil rights protests ever here, the March on Washington Movement organized a four-mile march to protest discrimination at the small arms plant on Goodfellow. The protests succeeded in forcing the company to hire blacks, but they would work in a segregated facility.

1952 Actor John Goodman was born. The Affton High School graduate made his film debut in 1983's *Eddie Macon's Run* and appeared in the movies *CHUD* and *Revenge of the Nerds* in 1984. He quickly moved onto better films such as *True Stories* and *Raising Arizona*. He starred as Dan on the television show *Roseanne* from 1988 until 1997. He played leading roles in *The Babe* and *The Flintstones*.

1961 Martin Luther King Junior came to St. Louis to address a national Baptist Convention at Kiel. He praised the city's progress in the integration of schools and public facilities. King said he often used St. Louis as an example of what other cities could do.

1963 In one of the most publicized civil rights protests to that date in St. Louis, about 500 people marched in front of the Board of Education headquarters. They were protesting alleged discrimination in the schools. Fearing trouble, officials sent most employees home and the building was virtually empty.

1965 Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Junior performed at a "Rat Pack" summit to benefit Dismas House, a halfway house for convicts. The Kiel Auditorium show was broadcast via closed circuit TV to movie theaters around the country. Johnny Carson was pressed into service as an emcee when Joey Bishop hurt his back. Carson said, "I have never appeared onstage with a drink in my hand before. And the only reason I do so now is to set the stage." A tape of the show turned up in a closet at Dismas House in 1997.

1973 The Auto Club of Missouri reported that just 53 percent of the gas stations in the St. Louis area were operating during normal hours and allowing motorists to fill their tanks. Many stations were limiting motorists to ten gallons as the gas crunch worsened.

1974 Trash was piling up in the streets of St. Louis as a strike by city workers drug into its ninth day. Mayor Poelker was seeking injunctions and disciplinary actions to end the illegal strike.

1975 The motion picture *Jaws* opened at the Creve Couer, Grandview, South County and Stadium One.

1980 City police declared war on "The Stroll." The area bounded by Delmar, Olive, Sarah and Newstead was notorious for prostitution. The crackdown came after an undercover detective was killed during a robbery while working an undercover prostitution sting.

1987 Cardinals announcer Jack Buck found out he'd been selected for induction into the National Baseball Hall Of Fame as a recipient of the Ford C. Frick Award. CBS Radio Vice President Bob Hyland made the announcement during the annual Baseball Writer's Dinner. The Ford C. Frick Award is presented annually to a broadcaster for "major contributions to baseball."

1988 Brian Sutter was named coach of the Blues, replacing Jacques Martin. Sutter would coach the Blues for the next four years, setting a Blues record for the most games coached and the most wins in team history.

2002 Thousands of fans lined up at Busch Stadium to pay their last respects to Hall of Fame Cardinal broadcaster Jack Buck. His casket was placed at home plate. Cards manager Tony LaRussa joined civic leaders and Cardinal baseball and football greats at the memorial service. LaRussa called Buck “The greatest Cardinal of them all.”