

June 21

1819 The steamboat *Western Engineer*, designed to look like a steam hissing dragon to intimidate the Indians, left St. Louis on an expedition led by Major Stephen Long. His expedition would shape public perception of the west for decades. Long called the area barren, and "almost wholly unfit for cultivation."

1847 The Sisters of Loretto at the Foot of the Cross established their convent in Florissant. Six sisters leased for \$200 dollars the property abandoned a year earlier by the Sisters of the Sacred Heart.

1873 The James Gang held up a train on the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific near Council Bluffs, Iowa. It marked the first train robbery for the gang of Missouri outlaws.

1884 The steamboat *Montana* became the second to slam into the disaster prone Wabash Railroad bridge at St. Charles. In 1875, five people died when the *St. Luke* hit the bridge. Everybody on the *Montana* made it to shore safely as the boat sank.

1892 Karl Paul Reinhold Niebuhr was born in Wright City. Niebuhr was a theologian and philosopher best known as the author of the "Serenity Prayer." Niebuhr wrote, "God grant us the serenity to accept the things we cannot change, courage to change the things we can, and wisdom to know the difference." Alcoholics Anonymous and other self-help programs use the prayer.

1903 Renowned cartoonist Al Hirschfeld was born in St. Louis. He moved to Manhattan with his family at the age of 11. In the 1930's, he began making character drawings for the *New York Times*. He was soon known the world over for his drawings of the greats of Broadway. After his daughter Nina was born in 1945, Hirschfeld began hiding her name in his drawings.

1904 World's Fair officials announced they were setting aside one of the 36 cars on the giant Ferris Wheel for weddings. Car Number 19 had a capacity of 60 people, with room for a piano.

1905 State and local officials were reportedly looking into a variety of allegations against the founder of University City. Edward Garner Lewis was the President of the Peoples United States Bank and the Women's Magazine Publishing Company. The allegations against Lewis were said to include mail fraud and shady loans from his bank.

1923 President Warren G. Harding, while visiting St. Louis, became the first president to give a speech over the radio. The speech to the Rotarian Convention at the old Coliseum was broadcast over KSD. It was also one of the earliest network programs, picked up by WEAf in New York and WCAP in Washington.

1930 The \$4,500,000 Civil Courts Building downtown was dedicated. At the time, it was the tallest building in the city and signaled the end of the use of the Old Courthouse.

The courthouse is a traditional office building to the 12th floor. Then there's an Ionic Greek temple, topped with an Egyptian pyramid roof. Two aluminum griffins top it all off.

1946 The first FM station in St. Louis began broadcasting. WIL FM broadcast at 97.3 within a 40 mile radius. But the post-war experiments with FM here were a failure. The public was not ready to embrace FM. It was about 1960 before FM succeeded in St. Louis.

1949 The city opened the swimming pool in Fairgrounds Park to African Americans. A crowd gathered when black youths arrived to swim, and it soon turned into a riot. Twelve people were hospitalized. Police kept the peace later in the summer when the pool re-opened.

1950 The President of the Browns, William DeWitt, confirmed that interests in six cities, including Baltimore, were interested in buying the team. He denied there were any immediate plans to move, but warned that attendance would have to improve. The Browns were averaging just 4,361 fans per game.

1957 Just a month out of high school, Von McDaniel of the Cardinals threw a shutout in his first major league start. Von and his brother, Lindy, nearly pitched the Cardinals to a pennant. But Lindy faltered and was shipped out and Von lost his coordination. After the 1957 season, he only pitched two more innings.

1958 Bob Hope was in St. Louis, performing in "Roberta" at the Muny. Hope attended festivities marking the Muny's 40th anniversary. He was presented with a key to the city and a statue of King Louis IX. He also played an exhibition round of golf at Old Warson Country Club with golf pros Dave Douglas and Dutch Harrison, along with Missouri Governor James Blair.

1959 Stan Musial slugged the 652 and 653rd doubles of his career, breaking the National League mark held by Honus Wagner. The record breaker came in the first game of a doubleheader against the Pirates in St. Louis.

1966 An unknown pilot became the first to fly between the legs of the Arch. It is illegal to fly through the Arch, so he taped over the registration numbers on the plane. The FAA was conducting an exhaustive search to find the pilot.

1972 Bob Gibson won his 211th career game, breaking the Cardinals record held by Jesse "Pop" Haines. Gibson also slugged a three-run homer in the Cards 14-5 win over the San Diego Padres.

1988 A St. Charles County grand jury returned indictments in one of the most sensational murder cases ever there. Jim Williams and JoAnne Marie Williams were indicted for the murder of JoAnne's ex-husband, Walter Scott. Scott was the lead singer for Bob Kuban and the In-Men.

