

June 24

1770 The first church in St. Louis was dedicated by Father Pierre Gibault. That first small log church stood on the same block at Second and Market where the Old Cathedral stands today.

1814 Anne Lucas married Theodore Hunt. After Anne's brother Charles died in the famous duel with Thomas Hart Benton in 1817, the Hunt's moved to an estate on Gravois Road. In 1820 or 1821, they sold the property to Colonel Frederick Dent, and moved to the Lucas Estate, known as "Normandy." When Theodore died in 1832, Anne married his cousin, Wilson Price Hunt. You will find Lucas and Hunt Road in Normandy today. The property on Gravois became known as "Whitehaven." It was there that Ulysses S. Grant met his future wife Julia Dent, and where Grant built a cabin in October 1856.

1844 The Mississippi River hit the all-time high water mark here. During the 1844 flood, the water stood ten to 20 feet deep over what is now East St. Louis. The river was ten miles wide at Cahokia. It was 38 feet above the low water mark, which is how they measured it back then.

1874 A 4,880 foot-long double tunnel from the west end of the new Eads Bridge to the Mill Creek railyards was completed. Today, the tunnel carries Metro-Link trains beneath downtown.

1876 Over 50,000 people were on hand as Forest Park was officially opened to the public. A speaker at the ceremony said, "I present to you, the people of St. Louis, your own, this large and beautiful Forest Park for enjoyment of yourselves, your children and your children's children forever ... The rich and poor, the merchant and mechanic, the professional man and day laborer, each with his family and lunch basket, can come here and enjoy his own ... all without stint or hindrance ... and there will be no notice put up, Keep Off the Grass."

1904 Colonel Edwards of the War Department ordered the Igorots and Negritos on display at the World's Fair to wear more clothing, so their near nudity would not be subject to criticism. The chief of the Anthropological Department, and even the Fair Board of Lady Managers opposed the order. Edwards said the natives should at least wear a pair of trunks.

1915 The cornerstone was laid for the current state capitol building in Jefferson City. The previous building burned after it was hit by lightning in 1911.

1920 The Cardinals announced they would play all their games at Sportsmen's Park, which they would share with the Browns. It would mean the end of the line for Cardinal's Field, opposite Fairgrounds Park. It was one of the oldest ball fields in the country.

1932 The *St. Louis Star* bought out the *St. Louis Times*. The *Star* dated back to 1884.

The *Times* started in 1907, when the German-American Press Association decided to publish an English language newspaper. The papers were combined into the *Star-Times*, which published until 1953.

1932 The last streetcar left Belleville. Gerald Phillips was the last passenger. The Belleville grocer had ridden on Belleville's first streetcar on June 4, 1899.

1933 Mayor Bernard Dickmann predicted St. Louis would be the first city to emerge from the depression. He was reacting to news that the city was close to obtaining a three-million-380-thousand dollar loan from the Federal Public Works Association. The money would pay to finish a huge public works program, including the Municipal Auditorium, a hospital for Negroes, a zoological park and the Third Street Highway.

1934 The killer heat wave continued, as the temperature hit 110 degrees. That was the highest reading during the heat wave, and the 8th day in a row the temperature had topped 100. 73 more heat related deaths brought the toll to 217. Hundreds of people were spending the night in Forest Park to escape the heat.

1948 Browns President Richard Muckerman was threatening to move the team unless attendance increased. 127,395 fans had attended the 27 home games so far. That averaged out to 4,718 fans per game.

1951 Actor Ronald Reagan came to St. Louis. The President of the Screen Actors Guild was here to address a Kiwanis convention at Kiel Auditorium. He said that the movie industry was determined to root out communist infiltrators.

1960 Stan Musial returned to the Cardinal's line-up after being benched for a month by manager Solly Hemus. Hemus wanted more youthful players and believed that Musial was through. But Stan went on to be named "Comeback Player of the Year" for 1960. He would finish third on the team in RBI's, despite playing only 116 games. Stan also came off the bench to hit a home run in the All-Star Game.

1966 For the first time, a non-baseball sporting event took place at the new Busch Stadium. German soccer team Bayern Munchen pummeled the White Star club 11-2. White Star had won the Missouri Federation and Missouri Open Cup championships.

1985 The city began moving patients out of City Hospital to the newer Charter Hospital on Delmar. Charter was renamed Regional Medical Center. Mayor Vince Scheomehl laid off 12-hundred health care workers and hired a private management firm to run Regional. Then he cut a deal with the county to bring its poor patients to Regional. It marked the beginning of the end for County Hospital.

1993 A day after the Missouri rose over flood stage at St. Charles, the County Emergency Management Agency warned 800 families from the Lincoln County line to West Alton to move to higher ground. Ten inches of rain fell in Southern Iowa, prompting officials to warn the rivers could top the record crest of 1973.

2005 A fire at Praxair Incorporated, 2210 Chouteau, caused massive explosions. Highway 40 was closed and the game between the Cardinals and Pirates was delayed due to the fire, which was carried live on nationwide TV. Explosions hurled gas canisters and debris all over the neighborhood, but no one was seriously hurt.