

June 25

1849 St. Louisans packed a public meeting to deal with the cholera epidemic raging unchecked through the city. In June alone, 1,200 people had died. The City Council and nearly half the residents had fled. The residents voted to give sweeping powers to a new Committee of Public Health. Its efforts failed to check the spread of the diseases. Eventually 4,285 people would die in St. Louis.

1901 The Louisiana Purchase Exposition Company announced it had chosen a section of Forest Park known as "The Wilderness" as the site for the World's Fair. There was some opposition from those who feared the park would be ruined. On August 21, 1901, President McKinley issued a proclamation inviting "all the nations of the earth" to come take part in the exposition to begin by May 1, 1903.

1903 Thomas Elliott Huntley was born. Huntley served as pastor of Central Baptist Church from 1942 until 1983. He led the first national Negro Ministers Prayer March on Washington D.C. in 1948. The march spurred passage of the first Civil Rights Bill. Doctor Martin Luther King delivered his first St. Louis sermon at Huntley's church in 1961. Ewing Street between Olive and Doctor King was re-named in honor of Huntley.

1906 Real estate promoter and publisher E.G. Lewis applied to the St. Louis County Court for a charter for University City. Lewis wanted his planned community to be the headquarters of his empire. His ornate headquarters now serves as City Hall. Lewis ordered monumental gates topped with stone lions to be built on Delmar at the entrance to his city.

1935 A runaway Wabash train struck a pier of the St. Charles Highway Bridge. A span crashed down onto Main Street and the train smashed into the side of a hotel. Amazingly, no one was killed. But ferries had to be pressed into service until the bridge was repaired.

1965 The National Park Service announced that the Gateway Arch was now the tallest man-made national monument. The addition of another 12-foot section on the North Leg brought the Arch up to 562 feet two inches. That was six-feet taller than the Washington Monument.

1970 The last railway post office car left St. Louis on a final run to Chicago. For years, the mail had been sent from the post office to Union Station via an underground tunnel. It was raised to track level on a hydraulic lift.

1970 About 50,000 people along the riverfront and Market Street cheered President Richard Nixon on his first visit here since taking office. In a speech to a Jaycees convention, Nixon said it was "time to speak out about what is right with America."

1974 Route 66 from Chicago to Joplin was officially decertified. The action was deferred for a time, because parts of 55 were not yet up to interstate standards. In

February of 1975, the 66 signs were removed on Gravois, Chippewa and Watson. I-44 continued to be marked with 66 shields until January of 1977. By then, 55 was finished, and the signs came down.

1989 The St. Louis Walk of Fame on Delmar was dedicated. The first ten inductees were Chuck Berry, Katherine Dunham, James B. Eads, T.S. Eliot, Scott Joplin, Charles Lindbergh, Stan Musial, Vincent Price, Joseph Pulitzer and Tennessee Williams. Blueberry Hill owner Joe Edwards founded the organization to advance awareness of great St. Louisans and their accomplishments.

1993 The Corps of Engineers reported that repeated heavy rains in the Missouri and Mississippi River basins could cause some flooding here. They were not kidding.

1994 The section of Metro-Link line between the North Hanley station and the Airport was opened.

1999 Jose Jimenez became the eighth Cardinal to throw a no-hitter. His masterpiece came against the Arizona Diamondbacks in Phoenix. The Cardinals won the game, 1-0. Jimenez allowed two walks and hit a batter.

2002 Nelly released his “Nellyville” CD, the follow up to his breakthrough “Country Grammar.” The St. Louis flavored “Hot in Herre” was the first single from “Nellyville.” It went to number one on June 29, 2002.