

June 28

1834 Major William S. Harney beat his slave Hannah to death after she misplaced his keys. A mob formed to hunt him down, but Harney escaped on a steamboat for Virginia. He would be acquitted of the crime and go on to head the Army's Western Department, headquartered at St. Louis. Harney was relieved of command for pro-southern sympathies, but there is still a street in the city named after him.

1844 The rampaging Mississippi began to recede following the worst flood in St. Louis history. 1993 was a trickle compared to this one. At the height of the 1844 flood, the Mississippi was ten miles wide at Cahokia, all of what is now East St. Louis was under water, and the business section of St. Louis was flooded as far west as Broadway.

1872 George Lynn Lackland died. Lackland settled here in 1828, and acquired 400 acres of land in St. Louis County. That's where you find Lackland Road today.

1900 World's fair executives and the finance commission named ex-governor David R. Francis and W.H. Thompson to go to Paris and open a headquarters to solicit exhibitors. A proposal to move the date of the fair from 1903 to 1904 was introduced and quickly dismissed.

1902 Congress authorized postponement of the World's Fair opening date from 1903 to 1904. The U.S. and several foreign governments said they needed more time to prepare their exhibits.

1904 Someone slashed the gasbag of the airship belonging to Brazilian aviator, Alberto Santos-Dumont at the World's Fair. St. Louis Police were convinced that Santos-Dumont arranged for the vandalism. He had brought the ship here to compete for a \$100,000 prize at the fair, and was irritated when fair officials asked him to make a July 4th exhibition flight.

1920 A.E. Hotchner was born in St. Louis. A graduate of Soldan High School and Washington University, he became a military journalist, a novelist and playwright. He wrote a respected biography of Ernest Hemingway, who was his close friend. His novel "King of the Hill" told his story of growing up in St. Louis. It became a movie in 1993. Hotchner is also well known for his charity and arts ventures with Paul Newman.

1926 The magnificent "new" cathedral on Lindell was dedicated. Cardinal John Glennon, "The Eloquent Builder," began construction in 1906. Twenty artists completed the 83,000 square feet of mosaics. Work on the mosaics began in 1912 and was completed in 1988. The Cathedral of St. Louis was designated a Basilica by Pope John Paul II on April 4, 1997.

1927 Debutante Marian Greene became the first female pilot in St. Louis as she flew solo at Lambert Field.

1930 Curtiss-Steinberg Airport at Cahokia was dedicated. Financier Mark Steinberg (as in Steinberg Rink) and the aircraft firm of Curtiss-Wright developed the field. In 1940, Oliver Parks moved his air college there from Lambert. One out of every six US Army pilots trained at the re-named Parks Field during World War Two. The field was re-named St. Louis Downtown-Parks Airport in 1984

1950 The United States Supreme Court ruled that the University of Missouri and all other state supported schools must admit blacks when equal courses were not available somewhere else. The ruling opened Mizzou to black engineering students who sued because their courses were not available at Lincoln University.

1951 Famous St. Louis singer Helen Traubel sold her 5,000 shares of Browns stock to Bill Veeck, and urged other stockholders to follow suit. Veeck had acquired an option to buy the team from Bill and Charlie DeWitt. He would acquire the necessary 75% of the stock on the final day of the option. Veeck would prove to be the most flamboyant owner in St. Louis baseball history.

1960 Jerry Lewis and his film company agreed to delete a scene for the movie *The Bellboy* featuring the St. Louis Zoo's famous chimp "Mister Moke." At the time the scene was filmed, Mister Moke had been chimpnapped from the zoo by his former owner.

1961 A foundation set up by A.P. Greensfelder presented a 1700 acre park site to St. Louis County. County officials said the site was worth about \$2 million, and would be the largest park in the area.

1969 During a violent thunderstorm, the riverboat restaurant *Becky Thatcher* was torn from her moorings and drifted down the river with 100 terrified people on board. The replica of the *Santa Maria*, brought here by Mayor Cervantes from the 1964 world's fair, also broke free. The *Becky Thatcher* snagged a Monsanto dock and the passengers were rescued. The badly damaged Santa Maria ran aground in Illinois.

1972 The FBI was combing the fields near Peru, Indiana. Farmers had found a submachine gun and a bag containing the \$500,000 ransom paid to a man who hijacked a plane at Lambert Field on June 23rd. Authorities speculated that the shock of bailing out at over 300 miles-per-hour caused the hijacker to drop the gun and the money.

1990 Whitey Herzog managed his final game at Busch Stadium. The Cards put on a great display of "Whiteyball," with 14 hits, only two for extra bases en route to a 5-1 win over the Pirates. A week later, with the team mired in last place, Herzog stepped down.

2000 Twenty-two people were arrested during a protest over a deadly police shooting in Berkeley. Hundreds marched on the office of the County Prosecutor. They demanded the release of a video surveillance tape from the parking lot where officers shot a drug suspect and his passenger on June 12th.