

## June 29

**1816** The town of North St. Louis was incorporated. It was bounded by present day Tucker on the west, the river on the east, Madison Street on the south and Montgomery Street on the north. St. Louis annexed North St. Louis in 1841.

**1896** The St. Louis County Court granted permission to the Midland Street Railway to construct a trolley line to Creve Couer Lake. When the trollies stopped running in the 1950's, most of the line was paved over and re-named Midland Boulevard.

**1905** A crowd of 10,000 attended the opening of the St. Louis Public Museum, located in the former west wing of the world's fair art pavilion in Forest Park. Every item in the \$500,000 collection was a reminder and trophy of the fair. The collection represented the contributions of 40 nations.

**1906** A legal fight erupted over a landmark from the World's Fair. The Louisiana Purchase Exposition Company wanted to cast the temporary plaster sculpture of King Louis the IX of France in bronze and present it to the city. But sculptor Charles Niehaus demanded \$90,000. A local firm agreed to do the job for \$37,500. Niehaus sued and was awarded \$3,000 for the rights. The statue stands today on Art Hill.

**1912** The golf course at Forest Park opened. Park Commissioner Dwight Davis, pushed for the course as a means of exercise for those who couldn't afford membership in the clubs. Davis is best remembered for launching a worldwide team tennis competition in 1900. He donated a silver bowl that he intended to be called the International Lawn Tennis Challenge Trophy. But it was soon known as the Davis Cup.

**1925** Construction began on a 176-foot-high mooring mast at Scott Field. The airship hangar at Scott was 810-feet long and covered five acres under one roof. It was second in size only to the hangar at the Naval Air Station at Lakehurst, New Jersey.

**1926** The "new" cathedral at Lindell and Newstead was consecrated by Archbishop Glennon. Construction had begun in May 1907. The structure was actually completed in 1914. Pope John Paul the Second declared the cathedral to be a basilica in 1997.

**1947** The strongest earthquake here since the New Madrid quake of 1811 shook downtown buildings and jolted shoppers. Frightened callers flooded the switchboards. Only slight damage was reported.

**1949** Dan Dierdorf was born in Canton, Ohio. He played for the football Cardinals from 1971 to 1983. Dierdorf anchored an offensive line that permitted the fewest sacks in the NFC for five years in a row in the 1970's. He went on to become one of the *Monday Night Football* announcers. He was elected to the Football Hall of Fame in 1986.

**1950** The US Soccer team shocked England 1-0, in what many regard as the greatest upset in World Cup history. Five of the starters were from St. Louis, and four of those

were from "The Hill." The team had played just one tryout game in St. Louis and three practice matches. In 2003, the story became the basis for the motion picture, *The Game of Their Lives*.

**1952** A searing June heatwave was holding St. Louis in its grip. The temperature here hit 104, the fifth straight day of 100-plus readings. 25 deaths that day brought the total to 52.

**1956** President Dwight Eisenhower signed an act authorizing the construction of the Interstate Highway System. Ike originally conceived the interstates to aid national defense. The first construction on the 41,000 mile system took place on I-70 between Highway 94 and the Missouri River in 1956.

**1961** The ownership of the Admiral sued to prevent the city from enforcing a new law prohibiting discrimination in public places. The owners said the admission of large numbers of Negroes could result in disturbances while the boat was on the river, where police help was not readily available.

**1966** The first day game at the new Busch stadium downtown created one of the worst traffic jams in city history. Downtown was not ready to handle the crowds during the day, when the parking was already taken by the work force. The Stadium West Garage had not opened yet. At that time, Highway 40 was not built east of 18th street.

**1972** Martin McNally was arrested near his home in suburban Detroit and charged with the hijacking at Lambert Field six days earlier. The shock of bailing out at 30,000 feet over Indiana caused him to drop the \$500,000 ransom.

**1976** A crowd of 38,000 rock fans came to Busch Stadium for "Superjam 76." It was the largest rock concert here since 1966, when the Beatles came to Busch. Superjam featured Jefferson Starship, Fleetwood Mac, Ted Nugent and Jeff Beck.

**1980** Ground was broken for the new \$500 million General Motors plant in Wentzville. It was scheduled to begin operations in 1982. The new facility replaced the 60-year-old plant at Natural Bridge and Union.

**1980** Over 40,000 fans turned out at Busch Stadium for "Superjam 80." The line-up included Journey, Sammy Hagar, Judas Priest, April Wine and Shooting Star.