

March 1

1836 The first Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City was completed. By 1838, it was already overcrowded. There were 46 inmates in a prison designed to hold 40.

1851 Carondelet was incorporated as a city. At the time, it had a population of about 1,200. Carondelet was bounded by the River des Peres on the South, what is now Virginia Street on the West, Morganford on the North and the Mississippi on the East. St. Louis annexed Carondelet in 1870.

1869 John Meyers died. Two years earlier, he bought 50 acres on Taylor Road to build a handsome home for his family. His wife had the home finished and lived there until she died in 1926. The home was threatened when I-170 was proposed. Historic Florissant and concerned citizens banded together to force the highway department to change its plans for the 170/270 interchange and saved the home.

1871 The Irish Sisters of Mercy opened St. John's Infirmary in a converted classroom at St. Bridget's School at 742 North 23rd Street. The 25-bed facility became St. John's Hospital in 1873. A 200-bed facility opened overlooking Forest Park in 1910. St. John's moved to its current location on Ballas in 1963. Within two years, 4,400 babies annually were being delivered at "The Baby Factory."

1893 In St. Louis, Nikola Tesla made the first public demonstration of radio communication. Addressing the National Electric Light Association, he described and demonstrated in detail the principles of radio. The apparatus he used contained all the elements that were incorporated into radio systems before the development of the vacuum tube.

1897 Daisy Barbee became the first female attorney to win a case in the St. Louis Courts. The trial of a woman accused of larceny drew huge crowds. The jury returned with a verdict of "not guilty" after 45 minutes of deliberation.

1899 The National League was moving to expel the Browns for failing to pay \$1,000 the team owed to Chicago and another thousand in league dues. Frank Robison, owner of the Cleveland Spiders, was rumored to be interested in moving his team here.

1903 A St. Louis grand jury announced it had discovered that disreputable houses, allegedly operated under police protection, were also being used as centers of bogus voter registration by political bosses. A search of the voter roles found 259 men who had voted in the last election listed their residence as one of 15 such locations.

1912 Jefferson Barracks was the scene of the first parachute jump from an airplane. Albert Berry made the jump from a Benoist "pusher" bi-plane (the propellers faced the rear) piloted by Tony Jannus. Berry was the son of a balloonist and a professional parachute jumper. Berry admitted that he felt uneasy before the drop, but said the greatest danger was probably to the pilot of the plane.

1916 The present Missouri Athletic Club Building opened. The landmark at Fourth and Washington replaced a building that had burned in the deadliest fire in St. Louis history back in 1914.

1914 Harry Christopher Carabina was born in St. Louis. He grew up at 1909 LaSalle Street. Caray began broadcasting Cardinals and Browns away games in 1945, and became the Card's broadcaster in 1947. He was the lead voice of the Cardinals before being fired in 1969 amid rumors of a relationship with Susan Busch, wife of August Busch III.

1921 The city hosted a public hearing on a proposed bill regulating dance halls. The measure would provide for the creation of a city dance hall inspector. It would ban such "immoral" dances as the "Shimmy," and the "Bunny Hug."

1931 A Kirkwood auto dealer was arrested after prohibition agents found alcohol in his garage and coal bin. He told police he was forced to accept the booze as partial payment for cars sold to bootleggers.

1932 The infant son of Colonel and Mrs. Charles Lindbergh was kidnapped from the upstairs nursery of the Lindbergh home in Hopewell, New Jersey. The boy was found dead after a ransom had been delivered. Police eventually traced some of the ransom money to Bruno Richard Hauptman. He was found guilty and executed after what was then called "The trial of the century."

1949 A legal battle was brewing between the Cardinals and the Browns. The Browns, who owned Sportsmen's Park, were moving to evict the Cardinals. The Cardinals accused the Browns of breaking their lease. It was uncertain where the Cardinals would play in 1949.

1953 The ownership of the Browns denied rumors of an impending move to Milwaukee or Baltimore. Browns owner Bill Veeck noted that attendance had nearly doubled in 1952. He declared, "We aren't going anywhere."

1956 President Eisenhower asked Congress for a \$3 million appropriation to get the long delayed Jefferson National Expansion Memorial project moving again. The money was for the government share of the cost to move the elevated railroad tracks on the riverfront, which was the major obstacle.

1957 Chess records in Chicago released Chuck Berry's classic "School Day."

1963 President Kennedy told a delegation of civic leaders in Washington that he would accept the city's invitation to come here for the bicentennial celebration in February, 1964. Plans called for the president to dedicate the Arch and attend the bicentennial ball with the first lady.

1964 McDonnell Aircraft was celebrating after winning the biggest single contract in St. Louis aviation history. The Pentagon awarded Mac a \$662.8 million contract to build fighter jets for the Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps.

1966 KMOX announced a new service, "Operation Stadium Watch." The station's helicopter would broadcast traffic conditions before and after Cardinal Baseball and football games in the new stadium. For MU games, the copter would patrol the roads leading to Memorial Stadium in Columbia.

1971 The most drastic gasoline price war in recent years headed into its second month. The price for a gallon of regular was at 19.9, 21.9 cents for super. The average price before the war was 34.9 cents for regular and 38.9 for super.

1979 Oppenheimer Properties of New York bought the deteriorating Union Station. They hired the Rouse Company of Maryland to develop a plan for restoration.

2005 The US Supreme Court declared that it was unconstitutional to execute killers who were under 18 when the crime was committed. The ruling came in the case of Christopher Simmons, who was 17 when he robbed Shirley Cook of Fenton, tied her up, and tossed her from a bridge into the Meramec River in 1993.