

March 2

1803 President Jefferson authorized Robert Livingston and James Monroe to negotiate with France to purchase the Port of Orleans and western Florida. They were authorized to pay \$10 million. Livingstone and Monroe were stunned when the French offered to sell the entire Louisiana Territory. The negotiators agreed to a \$15 million deal for 828,000 square miles. That came out to about four cents per acre.

1821 The president approved the Second Missouri Compromise, clearing the way for Missouri to be admitted to the Union. The first Missouri Compromise allowed the territory to draft a constitution. But some northern lawmakers objected to a passage preventing free Negroes from settling in Missouri. The second compromise removed the offending language.

1829 Statesman, orator and journalist Carl Schurz was born in Germany. Like many of his countrymen, he fled to the U.S. following a failed revolt. He ended up in St. Louis in 1867, as editor of *The Westliche Post*, a very influential German-language newspaper. He advocated moderate views during Reconstruction, was elected Senator in 1869, and later became Secretary of the Interior.

1847 The First and Second Missouri Regiments defeated the Mexicans at the Battle of Sacramento and captured the city of Chihuahua. Colonel Alexander Doniphan and Colonel Sterling Price led the troops under the command of General Stephen Kearney. The Missourians returned home as national heroes.

1849 The St. Louis *Republican* said the city would soon be the starting point for a huge westward migration. Up to 20,000 people were expect to pass through St. Louis on the way to the gold fields of California in the spring. The paper said merchants were already raising prices on items needed for the trip.

1857 The Laclède Gas Light Company was created by a special act of the Missouri Legislature.

1899 An attempt at the league meetings to throw the Browns out of the league failed. The Browns record stood at 39 and 111. Owner Chris Von der Ahe would eventually be forced to sell the team for \$33,000. The Robison Brothers then bought the NL Browns, which became the Cardinals. The American League Milwaukee franchise was transferred here in 1902 and became the new Browns.

1920 Missouri voters okayed a \$60 million bond issue for the surfacing and grading of state roads. In 1921, Governor Arthur Hyde took the next step to "lift Missouri out of the mud," with the passage of the Centennial Road Law. The bill established the state highway system.

1921 Representative Champ Clark of Missouri died in Washington at the age of 71. He served as Speaker of the House for eight of his 26 years in Congress. His body was being

brought to St. Louis to lie in state before being returned to his hometown of Bowling Green.

1927 Charles Lindbergh was in San Diego, overseeing construction of the Ryan monoplane he planned to fly across the Atlantic. A few days earlier, he had formally filed for the \$25,000 Orteig Prize. Several flight plans had been filed, but Lindbergh was the only one who planned to make the trip solo.

1927 A \$400,000 destroyed the Odeon Theatre Building at 1042 North Grand. The Odeon was the home of the Symphony. 50 years of musical treasures and symphony records were wiped out.

1930 Harry Kuchins made the first indoor glider flight in the U.S. Several sources say the flight took place inside the terminal building at Lambert Field. That's quite an accomplishment, because the old terminal wasn't very big!

1932 Al Capone offered a \$10,000 reward for the capture of the Lindbergh baby kidnapers. Capone was in a Chicago jail cell, awaiting appeal of his eleven-year sentence for tax evasion. Scarface denied that he was involved. He said he could help find the real kidnapers if he wasn't in jail.

1962 Jackie Joyner-Kersey was born in East St. Louis. She has won three gold, one silver and one bronze Olympic medals. At 23 feet nine inches, she holds the American record for the long jump. With her score of 7,161, she was the first woman to earn more than 7,000 points in the heptathlon, and has held the heptathlon world record since 1986.

1966 Two planes left St. Louis. One carried the Gemini Nine Space Capsule, built at McDonnell- Douglas. The other carried the bodies of astronauts Charles Bassett and Elliott See. They were killed on February 28th, when their jet trainer crashed into a building at McDonnell. They crashed into the very building they were to visit to inspect their space capsule. They were to have been aboard Gemini Nine in May.

1966 The Congress of Racial Equality ended a boycott of Bi-State busses and the operation of its "Freedom Cars." The cars had been operating along the old Consolidated Bus Company routes since Bi-State bought the line out. Bi-State agreed to hire all Consolidated drivers that had not been hired already.

1968 The Blues had their very first home sell out. A crowd of 15,351 fans packed the Arena to see the Blues and the Blackhawks skate to a 2-2 tie.

1970 Paul Christman died at the age of 51. The quarterback who led Mizzou to their first bowl game, the 1939 Orange Bowl, also played for the Chicago Cardinals. "Pitchin' Paul had just accepted the color analyst job for ABC's new *Monday Night Football*. After Christman's death, the job would go to Don Meredith.

1978 Former Oklahoma coach Bud Wilkinson was named as the coach of the Big Red. Wilkinson lasted less than two seasons, compiling an abysmal nine and 20 record.

1982 A group of citizens and civic leaders unveiled a plan for the unfinished "Gateway Mall," along Market between Sixth and Tenth Streets. The Gateway Mall Redevelopment Corporation's plan called for all buildings to be razed and replaced with a one-half block wide mall. The other half would be occupied by new low rise buildings.

1995 The Cardinals opened their exhibition season with replacement players as the baseball strike drug on. The real big leaguers would not return until after the strike was settled on April 25th.