

March 9

1804 Upper Louisiana was transferred from Spain to France. The French flag flew over St. Louis for 24 hours before the American flag was raised and the United States took formal possession.

1804 The inhabitants of the village of St. Charles were ordered to assemble at the commandant's headquarters on Main Street. They watched as the Spanish flag was lowered, the French flag was raised and lowered, and then the American flag was raised.

1831 A petition was filed for a road running from St. Louis to Loverling's Ferry on the Meramec. One of the earliest state roads, it would be renamed Telegraph Road just prior to the Civil War.

1867 The State Legislature approved the creation of Tower Grove Park. Henry Shaw donated 276 acres of his Tower Grove Estate. Since it was outside the city limits at the time, the legislature had to okay it. At that time, Lafayette Park was the only large park in St. Louis.

1880 George L. Vaughn was born in Kentucky. The son of former slaves became a lawyer in St. Louis and organized a group to promote black candidates for office. He represented J.D. and Ethel Shelley in the landmark U.S. Supreme Court case that ended covenants prohibiting the sale of homes to blacks. The Vaughn Housing Project was named in his honor.

1896 Granite City, Illinois was incorporated. Industrialists FG and William Niedreinghaus laid out the town. The town's name came from their principal product, "Graniteware" kitchen products. By 1899, the Niedreinghaus plant was called NESCO, for National Enamel and Stamping Company. The plant and the immigrants it drew attracted other heavy industrial firms, including Granite City Steel.

1901 Cards pitcher Denton "Cy" Young became the latest Redbird to defect to the new American League. He signed with Boston. A Globe sportswriter said the 34-year-old pitcher was "becoming a candidate for the has-been stakes" and "wouldn't last in fast company for more than another season."

1904 The May Company announced it had installed a new invention in the store at Sixth and Washington. A spokesman for the company said the "Escalader" was a kind of moving staircase that would take shoppers from floor to floor.

1905 Three St. Louis women were under arrest for wearing trousers. They were accused of "expressing their contempt for conventional wisdom by appearing in the streets in habiliments which law and custom allow only for the stronger sex."

1914 The deadliest fire in St. Louis history killed 33 people staying in the Missouri Athletic Club Building at 4th and Washington. The director of Boatmen's Bank removed

\$100,000 from vaults on the main floor of the seven-story building the following morning. The building commissioner declared that the walls were safe. But six days later, a wall fell onto an adjacent building, killing six more people.

1926 Albert Bond Lambert made an unbelievably generous offer. Lambert said he would sell the Bridgeton flying field he had developed to the city for his original cost of \$60,000, a fraction of its value. He warned the city would be "left off the aviation map" as air routes were developed if it didn't have a municipal flying field.

1930 Four men were indicted for first degree murder and arson for the December 5, 1927 fire at the Buckingham Hotel Annex. The blaze killed seven people. Two of the hotel owners were charged with hiring the men to set the fire in order to collect insurance money.

1946 Archbishop John Joseph Glennon died in his native Ireland at the age of 83. He lapsed into a coma while on his way back to St. Louis from Rome. Just 19 days earlier, he had been elevated to the College of Cardinals. Cardinal Glennon had long worked to establish a hospital open to all children in need. Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital would open in 1956.

1951 The Browns asked for a \$600,000 loan in order to stay in St. Louis. The next day, owners Bill and Charlie DeWitt revealed plans to move the club to Milwaukee because of poor attendance. In July, Bill Veeck bought out the DeWitts. He pledged to keep the Browns here.

1961 Ground breaking ceremonies were held for the first construction in the newly-cleared 454-acre Mill Creek Valley in St. Louis. Construction began at Laclede and Leonard on the first section of "University Heights." Those would be the first of 1,700 units to rise on what had been the site of one of the worst slums in the city.

1966 Alfonso J. Cervantes won the Democratic mayoral primary. He defeated Raymond Tucker, who was seeking a nearly unprecedented third term. Cervantes' term was marked by the controversy over his alleged mob ties, as well as the ill-fated Santa Maria and Spanish Pavilion. He led a successful push to get the convention center built.

1971 City voters overwhelmingly rejected a \$20 million bond issue for a convention center. The measure called for a four-cent property tax hike. Mayor Cervantes planned to wait awhile before trying again.

1972 The first recipient of a heart transplant in St. Louis medical history went home from the hospital. 44-year-old Vincent C. Dobelman underwent the surgery at Firmin Desloge Hospital on February 8, 1972.

1972 The *Globe-Democrat* reported on a new gimmick in a price war among gas stations here. A Sinclair station on Olive was offering "mini-service." The attendant just pumped gas. No windshields were washed, no oil checked, but the motorist saved a couple of

cents per gallon. The article noted that some stations in Columbia were offering "Self-Serve" gasoline.

1980 Howard Bailey was born in St. Louis. He adopted the name Chingy (slang for money) and released some CDs with his group Without Warning. His big break came when Chingy signed with Ludacris' record label and teamed with the Trak Starz production team. He hit the top five in summer 2003 with "Right Thurr."

1982 The Blues fired coach Red Berenson. President and General Manager Emile Francis replaced him behind the bench. Berenson had led the Blues to their best regular season record in club history just one year earlier.

1982 Before a game against the New York Islanders at the Arena, the Blues retired the number eight worn by defenseman Barclay Plager. Along with his brother Bob, Plager was a part of three Blues teams that made it to the Stanley Cup finals. He also served as coach of the Blues. Plager would die of cancer in 1988.