

March 10

1804 Captain Amos Stoddard, the first American commandant of Upper Louisiana, raised the American flag over St. Louis for the first time. Just a day earlier, Stoddard had acted as a representative of the French government and accepted the Louisiana Territory from Spain. After straightening out the confusion over land titles and other problems resulting from the transfer of the territory, Stoddard went on to a distinguished military career. Stoddard County, Missouri is named in his honor..

1810 John Marshal Krum was born in Hillsdale, New York. He became the first Mayor of Alton in 1837. He served as the 13th Mayor of St. Louis in 1848-1849. During his term, the first school tax was created. He also led the push for a sewer system for the city.

1814 St. Clair County officials met to pick a more central site for the county seat. They voted to move it from Cahokia to the farm of George Blair. It was his idea to name the site "Belleville," French for "beautiful village."

1849 St. Charles was incorporated as a city and the first city charter was adopted. Louis Blanchette established a post at the site in April 1769. The village was originally known as "Les Petite Cotes" or "Little Hills." It was named San Carlos after the first church was established. That was anglicized to St. Charles when the Americans took over.

1849 William Barr and his partner Joseph Franklin opened Barr's Dry Goods at 3rd and Market. They foresaw that St. Louis would be a major jumping off point for the gold fields of California. David May purchased Barr's in 1912 and combined it with his "Famous" store.

1880 The owners of the Brown Stockings were expressing interest in joining a new Midwest League. A club official said games in the new league would not be "dictated by the gambling interests, as is most invariably the case" in the National League.

1900 Several city officials traveled to St. James, Missouri, to inspect water from the Meramec River. All agreed it "tasted like nectar," but the cost of getting it to St. Louis would be prohibitive. The city was anxious to find a source of water other than the muddy, polluted Mississippi in time for the fair.

1902 A citizen's group called for a filtration system to clean up the city's notoriously muddy water in time for the fair. One speaker said "we have reached the time of year when our water turns from the milky gray of winter to a warm chocolate color. In this, you are expected to bathe and be clean although your bath towel is stained deep ochre with every rub."

1914 Under heavy guard, \$100,000 was removed from the ruins of the Boatmen's Bank in the Missouri Athletic Club Building. The death toll was put at 33. Meanwhile, the

city fire chief said he had warned building management that the building was not safe for people to be sleeping in.

1916 Albert Bond Lambert offered the services of five St. Louis aviators to the War Department. The airmen would try to find the hiding place of Francisco “Pancho” Villa. Secretary of War Daniels came to St. Louis on President Wilson’s behalf to show his gratitude.

1928 James Earl Ray was born in Alton, Illinois. He started his life of crime as a teenager. In 1967, he robbed the bank of Alton. He used the \$30,000 take to flee the country after killing Martin Luther King.

1929 Federal prohibition agents raided the biggest bootlegger distribution point they had found so far here. They seized 1700 gallons of booze in a garage at 219 Cardinal. The agents were acting on a tip that Chicago bootleggers had set up here on a scale never before attempted.

1933 Bernard F. Dickmann won the Democratic nomination for mayor. The President of the Real Estate Exchange would face Walter Nuen, President of the Board of Aldermen, in the general election.

1948 The last paying guest moved out of the 116-year-old National Hotel at Third and Market. The doomed building was the oldest hotel in the city. Abraham Lincoln and Daniel Webster were among the dignitaries who stayed there. Today, KMOX radio and KMOV-TV occupy the Gateway Tower office building on the site.

1950 Frank Dalton, who claimed to be 102 years old, appeared in a Franklin County Court seeking to change his name to what he claimed was his true identity- Jesse James. The case drew nationwide attention. Rudy Turilli, manager of Meramec Caverns, brought Dalton to live in a cabin at the cave. The case attracted national attention, but was later proven to be a hoax.

1956 The new, ultramodern terminal building at Lambert Field was dedicated by Mayor Tucker. The St. Louis architectural firm of Hellmuth, Yamasaki and Linweber designed the terminal. It replaced a terminal built in 1933, which stood on the north end of the airport at Highway 66 (Lindbergh) and Bridgeton Station Road. The old terminal was torn down in 1978.

1958 The Missouri Botanical Garden moved its orchid collection back to St. Louis. The flowers were moved to the Arboretum at Gray Summit in 1926 because of the choking smoke in the city.

1959 The city presented a check to the National Park Service for \$880,000. The money represented the city's contribution to finance the first stage of construction on the Arch. The money came from a bond issue passed in an election that may have been rigged back in 1935.

1959 The world's first "Beatnik Musical" opened at the Crystal Palace in Gaslight Square. The "Nervous Set" was written by Crystal Palace owner Jay Landesman, and set to music by composer Tommy Wolf. Jay's wife, Fran, added the lyrics. The show would go on to a short run in New York.

1962 The National Park Service was considering doing away with plans for an elevator to the top of the Arch. Other cuts were being considered because the project was running \$4 million over budget. Bi-State would stun park services officials when it stepped in and offered to build and operate the transportation system to the top.

1963 The State Supreme Court struck down Missouri's 138-year-old law prohibiting retail sales on Sunday. The GEM discount stores in St. Louis County had been openly flouting the law, launching a legal battle. A GEM spokesperson said their stores would be open the following Sunday.

1970 The American Civil Liberties Union filed suit in federal court on behalf of a 16-year-old student at St. Charles High School. Stephen Bishop was suspended because he refused to cut his hair to conform to the school dress code.

1970 Workers began laying the Astroturf surface at Busch Stadium.

1972 Members of the Montreal Canadiens hockey team were hailed as heroes following a fire at the Airport Marriott. They grabbed ladders from firemen, smashed windows and saved several guests from the smoky fire. Firefighters were scrambling to explain why they gave them the ladders. Four players were slightly cut.

1974 The nudes were not all on the walls at the Art Museum. The national fad had reached St. Louis, and a streaker struck the museum. The Post reported that there were a few arrests here, including the streaker who dashed through the Royal Sandwich Shop in Baden. Police mostly just laughed along with everyone else. One cop said, "We're hoping to get a female."

1978 Civic leaders urged the state to speed up the \$30 million Vandeventer overpass project on Highway 40. Eastbound 40 was to be closed for up to six months starting in May. Westbound 40 would be closed for 18 months afterwards, so traffic could at least flow one way. Officials said the work couldn't be sped up without closing the highway.

1991 A prostitution sting at the Airport Marriott netted a surprise arrest. St. Louis Prosecuting Attorney George Peach had been leading a double life, cracking down on pornography while frequenting prostitutes. He spent thousands of dollars each year, renting the rooms under the alias "Larry Johnson." Some of the bills were charged to the taxpayers.