

March 13

1861 Captain Nathaniel Lyon took command of St. Louis Arsenal. Lyon schemed with radical Congressman Frank Blair to force the previous moderate commander out. Lyon dressed as an old woman to spy on the rebel militia at Camp Jackson on May 9th and his troops took the camp the next day. At least 28 people died when Lyon's untrained Home Guard fired on a hostile crowd as the prisoners were being marched back to the Arsenal. Lyon died at Wilson's Creek, the first Federal General killed in the Civil War.

1862 Confederate forces evacuated New Madrid after a pounding bombardment by Major General Pope's siege guns and a failed assault on the federals. The rebels still controlled the river, by holding Island Number 19. But Pope's troops built a six-mile-long canal in 19 days. It allowed gunboats to pass out of the range of Confederate guns. His troops then crossed the river and took the island on April 7th.

1867 The first mounted police force in St. Louis was established. The 20-man force proved to be effective in curtailing highway robberies and cleaning up dens of stolen goods far outside the city limits.

1886 Browns pitcher Bob Caruthers ended a well-publicized hold out via a transatlantic telegram from Paris. He settled for the astronomical sum of \$3,200. The contract dispute earned him the nickname "Parisian Bob." Caruthers had won 40 games in a season twice. Caruthers would be one of several players the Browns sold in 1887, because of their pool playing, card playing and general carousing.

1898 The steamboat *Grand Republic* burned to the waterline as it was undergoing repairs here. The Grand Republic was the biggest and most lavish of all the Mississippi riverboats. When it was built, it cost unheard of \$60,000.

1900 A group of 50 citizens appeared before the city council to protest the diversion of funds intended to replace the city hospital, destroyed by the tornado of 1896. The money was now going to be used to pay police department expenses. The group said visitors to the fair would be appalled at the makeshift medical facilities here.

1900 The Board of Control of the St. Louis School and Museum of Fine Art was granted permission to build a museum in Forest Park. It selected the highest point in the park, which would soon be known as "Art Hill."

1906 A group of black citizens was appealing to the Board of Education to abandon plans to renovate Sumner High School. They wanted a new building and a new location. The group said the disorderly houses and poolrooms in the neighborhood around Union Station surrounded "The only school of higher learning open to colored youth".

1914 Edward "Butch" O'Hare was born in St. Louis. During World War Two, he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for shooting down five Japanese bombers attacking the USS *Lexington*. O'Hare was shot down over Tarawa in 1943. Chicago's

Airport was named in his honor in 1946. His father, E.J. O'Hare was an attorney who became associated with Al Capone's gang in Chicago. Disenchanted, he turned informant. On November 8, 1939 Capone's men gunned him down.

1925 Victor J. Miller, former president of the St. Louis Police Board, won the Republican nomination for mayor. Former Congressman William Igoe won the Democratic nomination.

1947 The birthday of the St. Louis County Library. The voters had approved a tax creating the library district in April, 1946. On this date, the first book was checked out of a collection of 86,000.

1951 Actor Fred Berry was born in St. Louis. Berry starred wearing a red beret and suspenders as ReRun in the 1970's sitcom "What's Happening" from 1976-79. Berry blew his money on drugs, cars, homes and even an airplane. He suffered from diabetes and died on October 22, 2003 at the age of 52.

1953 Despite the recent repeated denials by Brown's owner Bill Veeck, St. Louisans learned the team might be moving. Baltimore Mayor Tom D'Alesandro said negotiations to move the Browns to Baltimore had been going on for some time now.

1958 The Missouri Highway Department announced plans to replace the "Death Lane" section of US Highway 66. The three-lane section between Sylvan Beach in St. Louis County and the "Twin Bridges" over the Bourbeuse River would be replaced with a four-lane highway.

1960 The NFL announced that the Chicago Cardinals were moving to St. Louis. The legendary George Halas of the Chicago Bears played a key role in the move. The Bears could not televise road games because the Cardinals would be at home. Halas helped broker the deal that moved the Cardinals. It also didn't hurt that the upstart AFC was interested in placing a franchise in St. Louis.

1962 St. Louis Representative Leonore K. Sullivan, architect of the federal food stamp program, called for the program to be tested in "distressed areas" on chronic unemployment in St. Louis.

1964 The Beatles made their first appearance in St. Louis, sort of. A film of their recent Washington DC concert was shown at the St. Louis Theatre on Grand as part of a "Closed-circuit big-screen TV" hookup in theaters from coast-to-coast. Footage of the Beach Boys and Leslie Gore, neither of whom were at the DC concert, was edited in.

1988 Brett Hull scored his first goal for the St. Louis Blues. It came in a game in Los Angeles against the Kings.