

March 21

1845 Artemus Bullard was sent to organize the First Presbyterian Church of St. Louis. Bullard named the church Rock Hill, and a community that sprang up around the church also took the name. Bullard was an ardent abolitionist. A tunnel led to his home, said to have been a stop on the "Underground Railroad." Edgewood Children's Home now occupies the home at 330 North Gore.

1847 The father of shoe manufacturing in St. Louis was born. Alanson Brown would found a shoe sales business. His brother George was born six years later to the day. He would leave his brother's company to found the Brown Shoe Company. Alanson joined him in 1883, and the plant was soon the largest in the world. St. Louis became known as "First in beer, first in shoes, and last in the American League."

1856 Saloonkeeper Chris Von Der Ahe applied for articles of incorporation for the St. Louis Sportsmen's Association. He had secured the Grand Avenue Baseball Park, laid out by Gus Solari. Von Der Ahe planned a cricket field, a cinder path, a handball court and bowling alleys. Von Der Ahe soon saw professional baseball as a way to boost beer sales and his St. Louis Browns took the field on May 2, 1882.

1900 City Health Commissioner, Doctor Max Starkloff, was predicting a terrible typhoid epidemic in St. Louis, because of a new canal that carried Chicago's sewage into the river. The city was fighting in court to close the canal. Chicago officials insisted it posed no health threat here.

1904 The new St. Louis water works was completed in a rush, just in time for the fair. The new system brought an end to the days when St. Louis water had "body." Nervous fair officials had installed their own water purification system in case the new water works was not on line in time to keep the fountains from being fouled with the muddy, brown water.

1916 Thomas Coleman Younger, the famous Missouri outlaw, died at the age of 72. He fought with the guerillas under Quantrill, Anderson and Shelby. After the war, he turned to crime and organized the famous gang with Frank James.

1922 Another outbreak of violence in the bloody gang war here. Charles Vance, a three-time ex-convict and an associate of the Hogan Gang, was shot to death by two "pals" after what they termed a "family quarrel."

1928 President Calvin Coolidge awarded Charles Lindbergh the Congressional Medal of Honor for his transatlantic flight. The citation read, "For displaying heroic courage and skill as a navigator, at the risk of his life" and said Lindbergh had achieved "The greatest individual triumph of any American citizen."

1948 A crowd of 15,000 turned out at Union Station to welcome the Billikens basketball team home from New York. They had won the NIT, which at that time was the premiere tournament in college basketball.

1960 The *Globe-Democrat* reported that KWIX FM expected to be on the air at 102.5 by April 1st. The station owners said it would broadcast "good music," in the pop, show tune and classic fields from the penthouse of the Hotel Ambassador. By 1969, 102.5 FM was the home of the "underground" public-supported KDNA.

1970 The Board of Aldermen passed a measure introduced by Doris Bass specifically to keep the musical *Hair* from coming to the American Theatre. Aldermen said they had been deluged with calls from patriotic and religious groups in support of the measure banning works with nudity. The play came to town anyway.

1972 A city ordinance changed Easton Avenue and part of Franklin to Doctor Martin Luther King Boulevard. Easton was named for Rufus Easton, the city's first postmaster and the founder of Alton.

1975 Redbird great Joe Medwick died of a heart attack at the age of 63. Medwick won the Triple Crown in 1937. He led the league in average and runs batted in and tied with Mel Ott for the lead in home runs. No NL player has done it since. But he is best remembered for being taken out of the last game of the 1934 World Series for his own safety. When he returned to his position after sliding hard into third, Detroit fans pelted him with debris. The game was delayed for over ½ hour.

1994 The Blues made a trade that didn't turn out so well. They swapped Jeff Brown, Brett Hedican and Nathan Lafayette to Vancouver in return for Craig Janney. The Blues made an early exit from the playoffs.