

March 23

1806 The Lewis and Clark Expedition left Fort Clatsop and began their return trip from the Pacific Coast to St. Louis. Clark wrote in his journal “at this place we had wintered and remained from the 7th of Decr. 1805 to this day and have lived as well as we had any right to expect, and we can say that we were never one day without 3 meals of some kind a day either pore Elk meat or roots.” They reached St. Louis on September 23, 1806.

1818 William Lindsay Long bought 408 acres along the Meramec River for about \$1,200. He laid out the town of Fenton and named it after his Welsh grandmother, Elizabeth Fenton Bennett. Local legend says she was a descendent of the Earl of Fenton.

1874 The *Globe-Democrat* reported on the development of Vandeventer Place. Julius Pitzman laid out the development to be "the garden spot of St. Louis." Pitzman was the city surveyor, who developed the idea of “places,” single streets with exclusive homes. Pitzman also laid out Portland and Westmoreland Places, and planned the Compton Heights subdivision and Flora Boulevard.

1875 The board of commissioners for the new Forest Park told the *St. Louis Republican* about their plans for the park. They intended the park to be for all classes. "Here a man may wander at will under the trees and his children sport as much as they please without the fear of a policeman hustling them off the grass."

1897 St. Louis took its first step towards the betterment of city schools, with the passage of the new school law. Superintendent Frank Louis Soldan was largely responsible for its passage. By 1908, 26 new schools had been built.

1903 Missouri Governor Alexander Dockery signed the first state legislation licensing automobiles. The first statewide speed limit in the nation was set at nine miles per hour. The measure also required motorists to sound a whistle or bell before passing a horse-drawn vehicle, to give the rider time to dismount in case the animal panicked. St. Louis had issued its first auto license in 1902. J.D.P Lewis, who built the first automobile here, received tag number one.

1904 St. Louisans were hailing the work of chemical engineer John Wixford. Wixford found a way to clean up the city's notoriously muddy water supply in time for the fair. He developed settling basins at Chain of Rocks and used chemicals to clear out the mud and bacteria. The plant had been working for two days, and every tap in the city was dispensing an unfamiliar clear liquid.

1904 The world's largest spotlight arrived from Germany. The founder of University City, Edward G. Lewis, would install it on top of his five-story octagonal *Woman's Magazine* Building. The six million candlepower beacon would be visible from 100 miles away. It still tops the building we now know as the city hall of University City.

1904 Ladue was incorporated by the St. Louis County Court. The community is named after wealthy landowner and farmer Peter Ladue. Of course he was wealthy. He lived in Ladue! John P. Litszinger, Isaac Price, John and William McKnight, John Warson and Joseph Conway all lived nearby. They all have roads named after them in Ladue today.

1906 Missouri Governor Joseph Folk toured several St. Louis factories, each of which employed several hundred children under 14. The reformist governor said he would introduce a bill to close a loophole in the child labor laws. Children under 14 were allowed to work if their labor was needed for their parent's support. Folk suspected widespread abuse of the law.

1916 The Former Mayor, Governor and President of the World's Fair Board of Directors left St. Louis to become Ambassador to Russia. David R. Francis served during the difficult times following the 1917 Revolution. He stood pistol in hand and faced a mob intent on destroying the embassy. He fled Petrograd just ahead of advancing German troops. The stress destroyed his health, and he never recovered.

1922 St. Louis University was granted a license to operate WEW. Brother George Rueppel, S-J, started the station on an experimental basis in 1912. WEW is acknowledged as the second radio station in the United States. KDKA in Pittsburgh was the first.

1938 Commissioner Kenesaw Mountain Landis found the Cardinals guilty of making "secret" arrangements with their minor league clubs. He freed 74 players from their contracts, including Pete Reiser. But prospects such as Enos Slaughter and Mort Cooper stayed with the organization. Landis disliked Branch Rickey and his development of a farm system. Landis thought the Cards were holding back some of the players.

1953 After 13 years, pro football was returning to St. Louis. The Central States League had granted St. Louis a franchise. President and General Manager Bob Reed had played with the old St. Louis Gunners, the NFL team that folded in 1940. He said the franchise could be a stepping stone to the NFL. In the meantime, fans could look forward to games against opponents such as Delavan, Waterloo, Waukegan, Rock Island and league champion Wausau, Wisconsin.

1959 The Cardinals picked up future National League President Bill White and third baseman Ray Jablonski in a trade with the Giants. The Birds sent pitcher "Sad" Sam Jones to San Francisco.

1962 The National Park Service was surprised by an offer from Bi-State to build and operate a transportation system to the top of the Arch. Park service officials had feared plans for an elevator to the top would have to be scrapped due to a lack of money.

1964 Doctor Martin Luther King Junior came to St. Louis. In a speech before the Metropolitan Church Foundation, he urged a nationwide boycott of industries that practiced segregation.

1970 Washington University Chancellor Thomas Eliot threatened to suspend or expell protesting students. He was reacting to back-to-back nights of demonstrations at the ROTC building. Eliot obtained a court order barring "rioting or disruption of any kind."

1975 The new St. Anthony's Medical Center on Highway 21 opened. The hospital dates back 1872. St. Anthony's at Grand and Chippewa was a landmark for decades. But it was in danger of closing before a group of laymen led by Robert Hyland of KMOX agreed to take over and spearhead the effort to build at the new location.

1982 The grandson of the late James Michaels Senior and the former St. George Police Chief were charged with the car bombing that maimed underworld enforcer Paul Leisure. The case was the second prosecution to stem from 2 1/2 years of underworld bombings. Investigators said the bombing was in retaliation for the bomb that killed Michaels Senior.

1994 After forecasting sunny weather for the next day, the top rated meteorologist in St. Louis climbed into his Piper Cherokee and took off from Spirit of St. Louis Airport. A few days earlier, the media reported that Bob Richards had an affair with a Farmington, Missouri woman. The woman had petitioned a judge for a restraining order. Morning radio personalities had a field day. The devastated Richards nosed his plane 440 feet to the runway below at over 80 miles per hour.

2000 The Cardinals traded pitcher Kent Bottenfield and infielder Adam Kennedy to Anaheim for outfielder Jim Edmonds. Edmonds would slug 42 home runs in 2000, a Cardinal record for an outfielder.

2000 Workers began taking down the Mercantile Bank signs and replacing them with the First Star logo. First Star bought out Mercantile in the summer of 1999. Mercantile had been a St. Louis institution since 1855.