

March 25

1820 The news reached St. Louis that a bill admitting Missouri to the union had been passed after the resolution of slavery issues. It took three weeks for the news to make it here. The first “extra” newspaper printed in Missouri brought the news. Missouri was officially admitted to the union on August 10, 1821.

1836 A city ordinance was passed creating Lafayette Park. It was the first park in the city. The land remained undeveloped until 1864, when the city hired landscaper Maximillian Kern. He introduced new ideas in park landscaping. He built a large lake, an ornamental pond, and planted trees. The park was devastated by the 1896 tornado, and never returned to its former glory.

1872 The Missouri Legislature authorized the purchase of one-thousand or more acres west of Kingshighway for use as a public park as proposed by developer Hiram Leffingwell. Property owners sued, and the Supreme Court threw out the bill. A new bill was introduced two years later that answered the concerns of the court.

1874 Governor Silas Woodson signed a bill establishing three more city parks, Carondelet, O'Fallon and Forest Park. The proposal for Forest Park had failed before. Critics of developer Hiram Leffingwell's proposal said it was too far away to be of any practical use. Residents concerned about the effect on property values had also sued.

1901 Famed saloon-smasher Carrie Nation took advantage of an hour between trains at Union Station to protest a saloon on Market that had been named after her. She took out her hatchet and swiped it across the bar. The owner of the Carrie Nation Bar pointed a pistol at her. Police hustled her away and put her on the train.

1904 A trainload of Filipino "wild people" and "Half-savage tribes" arrived to be put on exhibit at the fair. Nearly all of the Igorrotes and savage headhunters were suffering ill effects from the change in climate. The Igorrotes became a major attraction, due to their diet of dog meat on special occasions. Legend says that's how the Dogtown neighborhood got its name. But the area had been known as Dogtown since before the Civil War.

1914 Morton D. May was born in St. Louis. His father founded the May Department Company, and Morton took over in 1951. May was extremely generous in his support of St. Louis University, Washington University, the Jewish Community Center, the Symphony, the Art Museum and many other institutions. He fought tirelessly for completion of the Arch. The amphitheater in Kiener Plaza is named in his honor.

1920 Robert Hyland Junior was born in St. Louis. His father was a pioneer in sports medicine, and the team surgeon for the Cardinals and Browns. Robert Junior was offered a contract with the Cardinals, but his mother convinced him not to take it. He went on to turn KMOX into one of the most admired radio stations in the country. Hyland was also a powerful civic leader.

1927 The last piece of horse-drawn fire equipment in St. Louis was removed from service. Engine Company Number 25 made the final horse-drawn run, from the firehouse at 16th and Mullanphy.

1947 An explosion and fire at a coal mine near Centralia, Illinois killed 111 men. The *Post-Dispatch* found that the Director of the State Department of Mines had ignored warnings and over ruled an inspector who wanted the mine closed. Six days before the disaster, the department had "suggested" mine owners contribute to a Republican mayoral campaign in Chicago.

1950 The Browns announced that Doctor David Tracy, a New York hypnotist and psychologist, had been so successful in spring training that the club was hiring him for the season. The Browns had won seven and lost six that spring.

1957 One of the most notorious corporate move-outs in St. Louis history. The Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad moved to Texas. Employees arriving to work that day found a terse note informing them they could report the next day for a train to Texas if they wanted to keep their jobs.

1959 The Cardinals traded pitchers "Sad" Sam Jones and Don Choate to the Giants for outfielder and first baseman Bill White and third baseman Ray Jablonski.

1961 The Missouri Highway Department announced plans to extend the Daniel Boone Expressway past its dead-end at 20th street into downtown. A spokesman said if voters approved a two-cent hike in the gasoline tax, there was a chance the highway could be completed in time for the opening of the new stadium. (It actually wasn't finished until 1971)

1965 The Chrysler Corporation announced plans for a multi-million dollar truck assembly plant to be built next to the automobile plant on Highway 66 in Fenton. The company said it would bring up to two thousand jobs to the area.

1968 John J. Carberry was installed as the spiritual leader of the 500,000 Catholics in the St. Louis Diocese. May replaced the retiring John Cardinal Carberry. While serving as archbishop, he was named president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. On this date in 1980, he retired and was replaced by Archbishop John May.

1978 Demolition work began on the old terminal on the Northwest side of Lambert Field. The terminal on Lindbergh had served passengers from 1935 to 1956.

1978 The NCAA Final Four got underway at "The Checkerdome." Duke and Kentucky won their games to advance to the finals two days later.

1979 General Motors announced it as re-locating the Corvette Assembly Plant. 'Vettes had been built on Natural Bridge since 1954. G-M officials said they would meet with

Mayor Conway and state officials and try to find a site in St. Louis or at least in Missouri. But rumors said a decision had already been made to move Corvette production to Bowling Green, Kentucky.

1980 John L. May was installed as the seventh archbishop of St. Louis.

1989 Fire destroyed a recording studio on Chuck Berry's estate in Wentzville. Among the items lost was a tape containing 13 unreleased Chuck Berry songs.