

March 26

1776 Peter Lindell was born. He made a fortune as a merchant and bought up land that now makes up the Central West End, where Lindell Boulevard runs today. Spring Avenue was named for a spring on his land. His eastern land was the site of the 1861 encampment of the state militia known as "Camp Jackson." At least 28 people died in the violence after federal troops seized the camp.

1804 Congress divided the Louisiana Purchase into the Territory of Orleans and the District of Louisiana. Vincennes, Indiana became capitol of Louisiana, which included Missouri. General William Henry Harrison was named governor. St. Louis residents complained about being governed from so far away. In July of 1805, they convinced Congress to make Louisiana a territory, with a resident governor at St. Louis.

1870 Lemma Barkelow, graduate of the Washington University Law School, was admitted to the Missouri Bar. Barkelow was the first woman allowed to practice law in Missouri. But she never got a chance. She died a year later at age 22 of typhoid, which one writer said was brought on by "over-mental exertion." Her classmate, Pheobe Couzins, became the first woman to practice law in St. Louis.

1871 The Globe carried a report on the ill-effects encountered by workmen in the air chamber beneath the Eads Bridge construction site. The chief engineer mistakenly said he had reduced the danger by allowing men to work no longer than 45 minutes in the compressed air.

1874 Hiram Leffingwell hailed the passage by the legislature of a bill establishing Forest Park. Leffingwell had pushed for the legislation. He called it "one of the best things ever done to ensure the city's permanent prosperity." He just so happened to be a developer who owned a big chunk of real estate next to the park.

1890 The Merchant's Exchange pronounced the second bridge over the Mississippi at St. Louis complete. Work was underway to connect the Merchant's Bridge with all the major railroads in East St. Louis. The Merchant's Exchange built the bridge to beat the hated "bridge arbitrary," steep tolls charged on all freight by the owners of the Eads Bridge.

1908 Plans were unveiled for a "sunken garden" north of the proposed Central Library. The site had been left below street level when the remnants of the old Exposition Hall were razed. The park still occupies the block bounded by Olive, St. Charles, 13th and 14th Streets.

1911 Playwright Tennessee Williams was born in Columbus, Mississippi. He was seven when his family moved to St. Louis. Later in his life, the former International Shoe Company employee described St. Louisans as "cold, smug, complacent, intolerant, stupid and provincial." His *The Glass Menagerie* drew on his experiences in St. Louis and

Mississippi and became a Broadway hit in 1945. It was followed by classics such as *A Streetcar Named Desire* and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*.

1916 Susan Blow died in St. Louis at the age of 72. In 1873, she opened the first kindergarten in the United States at Des Peres School in Carondelet. She had studied German educator Frederich Froebel's ideas for teaching children through play. By 1879, there were 53 kindergarten rooms in the St. Louis school system.

1941 Blues great Barclay Plager was born in Ontario. The Rangers traded him to the Blues in 1967 along with Red Berenson. Teamed with brothers Bob and Billy, Number 8 was a crucial part of the Blues teams that reached the Stanley Cup Finals in the franchise's first three seasons. He coached the team in 1978-79 and 1982-83. His number was retired on March 9, 1982. Barclay died of brain cancer in 1988.

1943 The Municipal Auditorium was renamed "Kiel Auditorium" in honor of former mayor Henry Kiel. The site is now the Savvis Center.

1947 Futile rescue efforts continued at the scene of a mine explosion near Centralia. 111 men were dead. The US Senate voted to investigate the disaster. An inspection of the mine the previous November had found wholesale violations of safety rules.

1953 St. Louisan Sonny Liston became the Golden Gloves heavyweight champion of the world. Liston was a steelworker who had been in boxing for just eight months.

1963 Mayor Tucker and a group of city officials were flying to Burbank to meet with Walt Disney. Disney was proposing an entertainment area on the St. Louis riverfront. The deal fell through when St. Louis interests demanded that Walt allow beer to be sold. Walt refused and August A. Busch loudly insulted him.

1964 Chuck Berry recorded "No Particular Place to Go." It would be his first top ten hit in six years.

1973 The great Dick Sisler died in Richmond Heights at the age of 80. He played for the Browns from 1915 until 1928, batting .407 in 1920. He was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1939.

1973 UCLA's Bill Walton hit 21 of 22 shots and scored 44 points as the Bruins beat Memphis State in the NCAA Championship game at the Arena. Walton's performance is still considered one of the greatest individual performances ever in an NCAA Championship game.

1999 St. Louis University named Lorenzo Romar as the new head coach of the men's basketball team, replacing Charlie Spoonhour.