

March 27

1819 The town of Belleville was incorporated. In 1814, St. Clair County Commissioners were seeking to move the county seat from Cahokia. They chose a site on a farm owned by George Blair. He donated 25 acres, including one acre to be set aside as a public square. At that time, the area was known as Compton Hill. Blair said the town should be called "Belleville," which means "Beautiful City" in French. Belleville was incorporated as a city in 1850.

1824 Virginia Minor was born in Virginia. Virginia founded the Women's Suffrage Association of Missouri. In 1872, she sued after being turned away from a St. Louis polling place because she was a woman. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the states had the right to deny women the vote. Minor became a nationally prominent suffragist leader.

1861 The legislature established a board of police commissioners for St. Louis, appointed by the governor and independent of city government. Pro-southern governor Claiborne Jackson wanted to keep the police under control of the secessionists. James McDonough was named as our first police chief. St. Louis is the only major city in the country where such a system is still in place.

1871 The Board of Health ordered the inspection of all dairies in the city to halt the sale of contaminated milk. Physicians were in agreement that 1/2 of the 4,000 infant deaths in St. Louis each year were caused by contaminated milk.

1874 The *Globe-Democrat* reported that the biggest crowd ever to see a theatrical performance in St. Louis saw celebrated actor Edwin Booth in his latest performance. He was appearing in *Hamlet* at DeBar's Opera House.

1875 One thousand baseball fans turned out to see what was billed as the first game here to feature professionals. The St. Louis Regulars were made up of the area's top amateurs. They won 15-0. It was announced that season tickets for their games would be available for \$15. Regular organized professional ball would actually come to St. Louis in 1876.

1879 Miller James Huggins was born in Cincinnati. He is best remembered for managing the Yankees to six pennants in the 1920's. Back in 1913, he took over as Cardinals player-manager, replacing Roger Bresnahan. In 1917, he tried to buy the team. Frustrated when the deal fell through, he took the job in New York. Huggins was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1964.

1904 The *Globe* reported that the "Apotheosis of St. Louis," statue by Charles Niehaus would remain after the fair. Niehaus would demand \$90,000 to cast King Louis IX in bronze. Officials found a local firm to do it for \$37,500. Niehaus sued, then settled for \$3,000 under the condition that the pedestal be inscribed, "designed by C. H. Niehaus."

1906 Plans were unveiled for the new \$750,000 Coliseum at Jefferson and Washington. Woodrow Wilson was renominated for president there in 1916. The building was torn down in 1953. Jefferson Bank and Trust was built on the site.

1908 City officials unveiled plans for an eleven-story addition to the City Hospital on Lafayette. Doctors said patients would benefit from the better light and ventilation at the greater heights. They said the city was lucky to have a site where no smoke belching factories were located nearby.

1917 National Guardsmen began patrolling the Eads and Municipal Bridges. So many were enlisting that authorities predicted the guard would be up to regimental strength in two days.

1919 Suffragist leader Carrie Chapman Catt proposed the formation of a "league of women voters," at the 50th Anniversary Jubilee Convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association. The convention took place at the Statler Hotel. Less than two months later, the House ratified the 19th Amendment.

1925 One man lay dying in a Paris, Illinois hospital and three more were in custody following a gun battle between St. Louis and Chicago rum runners. It happened along the St. Louis to Chicago Highway known as "Bootlegger's Row." (Later US 66) Two of the jailed men were well known gangsters.

1933 Over 1,200 Jews, Protestants, and Catholics attended a meeting at Christ Church Cathedral to protest reports of outrages against Jews in Germany. Hundreds more were turned away. The group approved a message to the State Department denouncing the government of Adolf Hitler.

1935 A move by the Board of Aldermen to buy the bankrupt Arena failed. One alderman said he saw no reason why the city should buy "a dead horse."

1958 The McDonnell F-Four "Phantom Two" made its first flight. The Phantom Two revolutionized jet fighter tactics and help build McDonnell Aircraft into the world's top producer of military planes.

1968 The pilot of an Ozark DC-9 was credited with averting disaster at Lambert Field. He managed to bring his crippled plane in after a collision with a small plane directly over the Ford plant in Hazelwood. The Cessna struck the DC-9's wing and came down at Lindbergh and I-270. The two people on the small plane were killed.

1970 More violence at Washington University. A crowd of 200 protestors who had boarded up the ROTC building clashed with police. Seven officers were hurt. Nine people were arrested.

1978 The Kentucky Wildcats defeated Duke to win the NCAA Championship at the Checkerdome. The Wildcats won 94-88, led by Jack Givens with 41 points.

1981 Southwestern Bell announced plans for a 44-story, \$120 million corporate tower downtown. The project would once again give St. Louis the tallest building in Missouri. The 42-story Hyatt Regency in Kansas City had eclipsed the Mercantile Building in July 1980.

2002 After 96 years, the D'Arcy, Masius Benton and Bowles advertising agency announced it would close its doors by June. The firm created such advertising icons as the Coca-Cola Santa Claus, The Budweiser Frogs and Lizards and the Ralston-Purina dog food chuck wagon. The firm suffered a major blow, when it lost the Budweiser account in 1994. That was followed by the loss of TWA and Southwestern Bell.