

## March 29

**1818** The Reverend William DuBourg, Catholic Bishop of the Louisiana Territory, laid the cornerstone for a cathedral to replace the old log church built in 1770. The growth of the diocese quickly rendered the cathedral obsolete as well. Work began on the building we now know as the Old Cathedral in 1831. DuBourg's cathedral became a warehouse and burned to the ground in 1835.

**1838** The first public transportation system in St. Louis went into operation. The horse-drawn omnibus operated by J-C Melcher was a failure. The first successful transit line in the city would be opened by Erastus Wells in 1844. Wells lived on a country estate called Wellston.

**1863** John Sturdy became the first St. Louis Police officer to be killed in the line of duty. Friends of a man arrested by Sturdy shot him on Second Street near Cedar.

**1874** The *Globe-Democrat* predicted there would be "a great deal of fun" when the first suit filed by the first female lawyer in St. Louis came to trial. Phoebe Couzins had filed suit on behalf of a magazine editor against a man with whom the woman claimed to have formed a partnership.

**1875** The United States Supreme Court ruled against Virginia Minor of St. Louis. Minor's husband filed suit after registrar Reese Happersett refused to register her in an 1872 election. (Women were not given the right to sue in Missouri until 1889) Minor argued that the 14th amendment granted the vote to every citizen. The high court found that citizenship did not guarantee women the right to vote.

**1904** The *Globe-Democrat* reported that M.R. Healy, in charge of the "Irrogotes," would ask the city poundmaster to supply eight dogs daily. Dr. W.P. Wilson, chairman of the Philippine fair board, said the native custom of eating dog on special occasions was "no more barbarous than our custom of eating animal flesh of any kind.

**1905** Missouri Attorney General Herbert Hadley filed suit against Standard Oil. He charged that Standard was illegally conspiring to fix prices through subsidiary companies. The campaign attracted the attention of President Roosevelt, who also went after Standard.

**1906** Standard Oil announced plans to liquidate its subsidiary companies. Standard officials said they realized they had choice in the face of the apparent overwhelming victory by Missouri Attorney General Herbert Hadley in his suit to oust the company from Missouri.

**1912** The first lady of St. Louis television, Charlotte Peters, was born Charlotte Wiedmann. In the early days of television, she hosted *The Charlotte Peters Show* on Channel Five. She moved to KTVI in the 60's. She died in 1988. Pulitzer Prize winning

cartoonist Mike Peters is her son. His “Mother Goose and Grimm” is one of the most popular comic strips in the nation.

**1925** A dejected crowd gathered on the riverbank to watch as federal agents busted up 592 cases of beer. The beer had been seized at a rail yard. Federal agents moved in when they noticed suspicious activity around a boxcar.

**1931** KMOX asked the Federal Radio Commission for permission to open the first TV station in the area. There were about 20 experimental stations in the country. KMOX President Nelson Darragh said television was in its infancy, but had passed the experimental stage.

**1932** The search for the Lindbergh baby centered on St. Louis. Federal law enforcement officials received a tip that a St. Louis gangster could link Al Capone to the abduction. Capone was in a Chicago jail cell, awaiting appeal of his income tax evasion conviction.

**1937** Robert Frost was in St. Louis to receive the Mark Twain Medal. Frost surprised the crowd with the statement, “Nothing American in prose or verse is more lyric to my ears than Mark Twain’s “The Jumping Frog of Calaveras County.”

**1947** In the largest display of naval brass ever seen here, Fleet Admiral William Halsey and 14 other admirals arrived in St. Louis for the first convention of Naval Reserve officers.

**1957** A sell-out crowd of 10,819 along with 90 law enforcement personnel standing by saw Elvis Presley perform at Kiel Auditorium. A writer for the *Globe-Democrat* described Elvis as a “side-burned virus who infected 10,000 teenagers.” The writer said Elvis “sang groaned, shimmed and shook his way through 16 offerings,” wearing a gold suit. It marked the first sell-out at Kiel since Liberace.

**1963** McDonnell Aircraft was awarded a \$456 million contract to build 13 Gemini space capsules. McDonnell in St. Louis had also built the Mercury capsules that carried America’s first men into space.

**1964** The Motortown Revue returned to St. Louis for a show at Kiel Auditorium. The show featured Little Stevie Wonder, Marvin Gaye, Mary Wells, Martha and the Vandellas and the Marvelettes.

**1969** The ill-fated replica of the *Santa Maria* arrived at the St. Louis riverfront. The ship was part of the Spanish exhibit at the World's Fair in New York. Mayor AJ Cervantes acquired it as a tourist attraction. It sank in a storm in June 1969. Raised and repaired, the *Santa Maria* was sold and moved to California in 1973.

**1995** Terry Moore died at the age of 82. Moore captained the 1942 and 1946 World Champion Cardinal teams. On September 5, 1935, the rookie center fielder went six-for-six in a game against Boston. He entered the service at the peak of his career in 1942, and

was not the same when he returned. His skills were overshadowed by the other two Cardinal outfielders, Stan Musial and Enos Slaughter.