

May 2

1820 The Missouri Territory held elections for delegates to the constitutional convention. Benjamin Emmons of St. Charles was the only delegate to oppose slavery. Edward Bates of St. Louis was also there. He would become U.S. attorney general under Abraham Lincoln, the first cabinet officer from Missouri. The 41 delegates had just 32 days to prepare a state constitution.

1861 Pro-southern governor Claiborne Jackson ordered the state militia to assemble at Lindell's Grove, a site that would soon become famous as Camp Jackson. (The site is now part of St. Louis University) Jackson asked Jefferson Davis for a large shipment of rebel arms. They were taken to the camp. The Commander of the Union Arsenal, Nathaniel Lyon, marched on the camp on May 10th. The violence of the Civil War was about to come to St. Louis.

1879 Professor Lee Dowling announced plans for "a telephone concert," featuring some of the finest vocal and instrumental talent in the city. It represented the very first attempt to deliver music by electricity to a large audience in St. Louis. A telephone concert in 1877 had linked 41 phones.

1880 Eberhard Anheuser died at the age of 74. He was a successful soap and candle manufacturer who loaned money to George Schneider's foundering Bavarian Brewery in 1852. He took over when the brewery failed in 1860 and re-named it E. Anheuser and Company. A brewing supply salesman named Adolphus Busch married Anheuser's daughter Lily in 1861 and became a partner in the brewery in 1865.

1882 Professional baseball returned to St. Louis. A crowd of 2,000 saw the Browns beat Louisville 9-7 at Sportsmen's Park. Saloon owner Chris Von der Ahe had noticed beer sales increased on game days when the original Brown Stockings played in the NL in 1876-77. Von der Ahe knew nothing about baseball. He just wanted to sell more beer. He enlisted Al Spink of the *Sporting News* and other merchants to organize the Browns. They played in the American Association, which merged with the NL in 1892.

1889 The Browns nearly went on strike to support William "Yank" Robinson. Robinson was suspended and fined after a shouting match with owner Chris Von der Ahe. His teammates had refused to go to Kansas City for their next series. The players relented at the last minute, but they would drop three in a row to the Cowboys amid charges that they were losing on purpose.

1896 A group of prominent citizens petitioned the city to improve Kingshighway. They wanted it made into a first class boulevard between Tower Grove Park and Forest Park. Proponents said the improvements would pay for themselves as the beauty of St. Louis was advertised nationwide.

1901 The Louisiana Purchase Exposition Company elected former Missouri Governor David Francis as president. William H. Thompson was named treasurer and Walter B.

Stevens took over as secretary. Francis, Thompson and eight vice-presidents were appointed to a committee on organization.

1929 St. Louisans were surprised by 3.9 inches of snow. An all night rain changed to the white stuff as the temperature dropped 38 degrees in a few hours.

1942 Aldermen Gus Hartkopf and Louis Lange moved to re-name the Municipal Bridge in honor of Douglas MacArthur. The bridge long awaited "Free" bridge opened in January 1917. The MacArthur carried Route 66 traffic from 1929 to 1935 and "City Route 66" from 1936-55. It closed to vehicle traffic in 1981.

1953 The latest big snowfall recorded in St. Louis. About four inches piled up. In the years since the National Weather Service began keeping records here, there have been ten measurable snowfalls later than April 10th. That includes the one that hit on April 10, 1997.

1953 A fire destroyed three-fourths of the Westlake Amusement Park at the Rock Road and Natural Bridge. The amusement park stood near where Circuit City is today. It boasted one of the biggest roller coasters in the state, a Tom Thumb miniature steam railway and a ride called The Bug that raced around a circular track.

1953 The curtain came down for the last time at the American Theatre on Market Street. The final performance was "The Fourposter" starring Jessica Tandy and Hume Cronyn. The building was torn down to make room for a parking garage, but The American would live on at its new location on Grand Avenue in the former Shubert Theatre.

1954 Stan Musial slammed five home runs and drove in nine in a doubleheader against the Giants in St. Louis. The Cardinals won the first game 10-6, but lost the nitecap, 9-7. Musial also set a record with 21 total bases in the two games. He went 4-4 with a walk in game one and 2-4 with a walk in game two. Eight-year-old Nate Colbert was in attendance that day. In 1972, Colbert would become the only other player to hit five homers in a doubleheader.

1955 The last wooden streetcars in St. Louis made their final run from Baden to the Chain of Rocks water purification plant. The line was established in 1893 to carry workers to the plant and was popular with people using Chain of Rocks Park. The number of riders had fallen to as low as 18 per month.

1963 Ground was broken for the new campus of Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville.

1968 The St. Louis Hawks were sold to Atlanta interests led by the governor of Georgia. Owner Ben Kerner said efforts to find a St. Louis buyer failed because "They just don't want our product here." Fewer than 9,000 fans had turned out for three playoff games here last season when the Hawks were fighting San Francisco for the division title.

1976 "Big Cat Country" opened at the zoo. The old Lion House was demolished to make room for Big Cat Country. The Lion House dated back to 1914. The new exhibit gave the lions, tigers and other big cats a large area resembling their natural habitats.

2005 In the biggest ninth inning comeback in club history, the Cardinals scored seven runs to beat the Reds 10-9 in Cincinnati. John Mabry's two-run homer with two out capped a rally that also featured a three-run shot by Jim Edmonds.