

May 5

1775 Alexander McNair, was born in Pennsylvania. A former St. Louis trustee and county sheriff, he defeated territorial governor William Clark in the 1820 election to become the first Governor of Missouri.

1855 The St. Louis Agricultural and Mechanical Association was chartered. The association purchased land for the fairgrounds from Colonel John O'Fallon, and held its first fair in 1856. The fairs became a tradition, but interest ebbed after the world's fair. In 1909, the grounds were sold to the city and dedicated as Fairgrounds Park.

1865 Abraham Lincoln was laid to rest in Springfield, Illinois. The Mayor of St. Louis asked local livery stable operator Jesse Arnot to lend his four-horse hearse in the name of the people of the city. The hearse carried the body of the murdered president from the train station through Springfield to Oak Ridge Cemetery. The hearse was finished in gold, silver and crystal.

1875 A group of 68 delegates met to draft a new constitution for the state of Missouri. The "Drake" Constitution limited the powers of the legislature as never before. It also permitted the separation of St. Louis City and County.

1876 Washington Bradley of the Browns shut out the Chicago White Stockings, 1-0 at the Grand Avenue Baseball Grounds. It marked the first shutout in St. Louis. A crowd of about 2,000 saw the game. It was a makeup game for a rainout the day before.

1885 About 300 people attended an auction of 40 lots on the eastern boundary of Forest Park, at Laclede and Taylor. The lots were billed as "The future residence of the elite of the city." The lots sold for about \$30 a foot.

1893 In one of the most sensational cases in St. Louis County history, a jury acquitted Sheriff Emil Dosenbach of murder. Dosenbach fatally shot County Assessor Winfield Scott Smith at the county courthouse over a political dispute on July 13, 1892. The jury convicted him of fourth degree manslaughter and sentenced him to six months in prison.

1895 The St. Louis *Republic* reported that the opulent Vandeventer Place was now "hemmed in by street railroad and business houses, and in the course of a few years this is liable to prove quite a detriment." Vandeventer Place was home to 86 of the most powerful and wealthiest families in the city. Many of the homes were torn down in 1947, to make room for the Veteran's Hospital. No trace remains today.

1904 The Palace of Fine Arts at the World's Fair was opened to the public. Most of the great palaces at the fair were built of Plaster of Paris. But architect Cass Gilbert's \$1 million Art Palace designed as a permanent museum. It became the first major U. S. art museum to be municipally funded when residents passed the Art Museum Tax in 1907

1910 It was reported that President William Howard Taft concluded his stay in St. Louis without making "a radical remark on anything that might be construed to have a political meaning." Mindful of offending fans of either team, he attended parts of both Browns and Cardinals games while in St. Louis.

1917 Ernie Koob of the Browns threw a no-hitter against the White Sox. The very next day, teammate Bob Groom of Belleville also tossed a no-hitter against the Sox in the second game of a double-header. In 1917, Groom would lead the league in losses for the third season in a row.

1930 Civil rights activist Ivory Perry was born in Arkansas. Perry was involved in some of the most dramatic protests in St. Louis during the 1960's, including climbing 100 feet up the side of the Arch while it was under construction. In the 70's, he led the fight to ban lead based paint and fought to keep Homer G. Phillips Hospital open. In 1990, Visitation Park was re-named in his honor.

1931 Anheuser-Busch sent 200,000 pamphlets to state and local officials, influential citizens, and newspapers. The pamphlets decried prohibition and called for the return of "pure, wholesome four-percent beer." August A. Busch said the return of beer would ease unemployment and improve "the public health, its morals and welfare."

1955 The Cardinals beat the Dodgers in a game that marked the major league debut of Tommy Lasorda. He threw three wild pitches in one inning, tying a league record. Lasorda blamed his wildness on catcher Roy Campanella.

1956 Charles "Sonny" Liston was arrested for allegedly beating a St. Louis police officer and stealing his weapon. The officer said Liston and his cab driver friend attacked him after he threatened to ticket the cab. Liston turned pro after winning the 1953 St. Louis, Midwest, and National Golden Gloves crowns.

1961 Alan Shephard became the first American in space. His space capsule was built here at McDonnell Aircraft. Mac employees cheered as they watched Shephard splash down on television.

1968 In the first Stanley Cup finals game played at the Arena, the Blues lost 3-2 to Montreal. An overtime goal by Jacques Lemaire proved to be the winner. The Canadiens went on to sweep the Blues in four straight.

1970 Washington University students protesting the shootings at Kent State torched the ROTC Building. Howard Mechanic was accused of throwing a cherry bomb at firefighters and became the first person convicted under the 1968 Civil Disobedience Act. Mechanic jumped bail and disappeared in 1972. His past came to light in 2000 when he launched a bid for city council in Scottsdale, Arizona under the phony name Gary Treadway. President Clinton pardoned Mechanic.

1971 The St. Louis Metropolitan Airport Authority voted for construction of a \$350 million airport at Columbia-Waterloo, Illinois. Opponents said the battle wasn't over yet. There was strong support among Missouri politicians for a site at Cedar Hill or Foristell.

1988 The St. Louis Galleria unveiled a plan to add four department stores and 100 specialty stores. The plan would triple the mall's size. The plan ignited a controversy, because the expansion would wipe out the Clay North residential neighborhood.

1992 Kenneth Baumruk killed his wife and wounded two lawyers, a bailiff and a security officer before he was felled by police gunfire. He opened fire during his divorce proceeding at the St. Louis County Courthouse. Baumruk was convicted, but the Missouri Supreme Court ruled he did not receive a fair trial, because the case was heard in the same building where the shootings took place.

2003 Developer Donald Breckenridge and Clear Channel Entertainment announced an agreement to re-open the long-shuttered Kiel Opera House. They pledged to work together to bring Broadway shows to the Opera House by 2005. The Opera House had closed in 1991.