

May 7

1849 The first elections were held in the newly-incorporated city of St. Charles. Ludwell E. Powell was elected mayor. Colonel Powell was a respected judge who had organized volunteers from St. Charles County during the Mexican War. He also bought the land for the government that would become the site of Fort Kearney in Nebraska.

1900 John "Mugsy" McGraw arrived here, ending a lengthy hold out against the Cardinals. McGraw had been purchased from Baltimore, but said he would never play here. Despite his terribly nasty remarks about the city, a nice crowd was on hand to greet him at Union Station.

1910 St. Louis Public School teachers were demanding more money. The top end of the teacher's pay scale was \$928.52 per year.

1918 The civic group The Million Population Club kicked off a campaign to annex the municipalities of the county into the city. The group hoped the municipalities would support an annexation bill to be introduced during the next session of the state legislature.

1929 Earl Weaver was born in St. Louis. Weaver played in the Major Leagues for 13 years, but found his true calling as a manager. He skippered the 1967 Red Sox team that lost to the Cardinals in the World Series. Weaver also won pennants with the A's and the Pirates, making him the only manager to win pennants with three different teams.

1945 At 8:36 a.m. KSD radio flashed word of the German surrender. The city waited to celebrate until the following morning, when VE Day would be officially declared. The *Post* reported that 1,246 St. Louisans had lost their lives in the European theatre and 621 were listed as missing. The following day, vital war industries continued business as usual. The main gathering was an interfaith service at Memorial Plaza.

1947 The *Sporting News* listed some of Dizzy Dean's contributions to the English language during his broadcasts on WIL. The article mentioned gems such as "Slaughter slud safe into second," "Marion threwed Rieser out at first" and "the runners held their respectable bases." Diz got around the wartime ban on mentioning weather conditions by telling his audience "if you folks don't know what's holdin' up the game, just stick your heads outta the window."

1953 The Federal Communications Commission okayed the construction of an educational television station by the St. Louis Educational Television Commission. (That's what the "ETC" in the KETC call letters stands for)

1965 Petitions were being circulated both for and against incorporation of a large part of South St. Louis County. The proposal called for the creation of the third largest city in Missouri from the area between the Mississippi and the Meramec.

1968 The NBA approved the sale of the St. Louis Hawks. Owner Ben Kerner sold the team to Atlanta interests headed by the Governor of Georgia for \$3.5 million. The Hawks had moved here in 1955 from Milwaukee.

1968 Politics left plans for the dedication of the Arch up in the air. The National Park Service said it expected President Lyndon Johnson to be the speaker. But Mayor A.J. Cervantes had already invited Vice- President Hubert Humphrey to town for the dedication dinner. Cervantes was a leading supporter of Humphrey's presidential bid.

1968 A record crowd of 16,077 at the Arena saw the Blues lose Game Two of the Stanley Cup finals to the Montreal Canadiens. A shorthanded goal by Serge Savard clinched the win and spoiled a superb effort by Blues goalie Glenn Hall.

1970 The University Council of St. Louis University voted to recommend abolishing ROTC from campus. The highest advisory body for the school recommended that the Defense Department set up an area wide ROTC, independent of any university.

1971 The Blues named Sid Abel as coach, replacing Scotty Bowman. Bowman was the first coach of the Blues and had led the team to the Stanley Cup finals in their first two seasons. He was leaving to coach his hometown Montreal Canadiens. Bowman would go on to win Stanley Cups with Montreal in 1973, and 76-79. He won a cup with Pittsburgh in 1993 and with Detroit in 1997, 1998 and 2002.

1974 Nine-year-old Vonda Clark of Shipman, Illinois became the 5 millionth visitor to the Arch. Among her prizes: a case of wine and tickets to the Playboy Club.

1993 The final section of the new Clark Bridge was set in place. Construction on the \$118 million span began in June of 1990. The "cable stay" design uses 160 miles of cables to support the main span. It replaced a treacherous 65 year-old span connecting Alton with St. Charles County.

2000 Flooding triggered by more than a foot of rain in Franklin and Jefferson County killed two people and caused millions of dollars in damage. Three hundred homes were destroyed or severely damaged. Flash flooding destroyed a mobile home park along Flat Creek in Union.