

May 11

1824 Father Peter DeSmet established the first Catholic school for Native American boys, and the first to be subsidized by the government. The St. Regis School was located near Florissant at site occupied today by the Gateway College of Evangelism. The school was poorly financed and never had more than 30 students. It also proved to be too far from the Indian villages, and closed in June 1831.

1846 Conrad Ferdinand Walther asked the congregation of Trinity Lutheran Church for permission to form an alliance with other Lutheran Churches. In April 1847, The German Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio and other States would be formed to unite congregations for evangelical missions and publishing. Today, the Missouri Synod has 2.6 million members in 60 countries.

1853 The first railroad passengers arrived at the depot on the site of the present Kirkwood Station. The town was promoted by a group of businessmen as an alternative to the crowded city. Kirkwood was now just a 40-minute train ride from the city, compared to the long trip by wagon from remote locales like Manchester or Florissant.

1861 The day after the Camp Jackson affair had left over two dozen people dead, tensions were running very high in St. Louis. A column of new Union volunteers was marching down Walnut, between 5th and 6th streets, when shots rang out. The recruits fired wildly into the crowd, and nine more people were killed.

1865 A month after the war ended, Missouri guerilla leader Arch Clements demanded the surrender of the Union troops at Lexington. He threatened to storm the town, but changed his mind. In 1866, when all males were ordered to sign up for possible service in the militia, Clements returned with 26 heavily armed men. Told to leave town, he opened fire on soldiers sent to arrest him and was killed by citizens.

1875 Just 200 people sat through a windstorm in St. Louis to see the first shut out in a professional baseball game here. The Browns defeated the Chicago White Stockings 1-0. It was the lowest scoring game in baseball history to that date.

1877 The new Southern Hotel opened, replacing the building that had occupied the entire block where the Stadium East Garage stands today. The original hotel was the grandest in the west, and burned in one of the deadliest fires in St. Louis history.

1902 The Union Electric Power and Light Company was incorporated. When its first steam operating generating plant opened at the foot of Ashley Street, the company served about 2,000 customers.

1904 There was great disappointment when a group of Apache warriors arrived at the fair. The Apaches were prisoners at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. They were to have been accompanied by their great chief, Geronimo. But old warrior said he would not make an

appearance at the fair unless he was paid \$100 per month. Geronimo would later change his mind.

1906 A huge crowd watched as the great Ferris wheel from the world's fair was blown up. It took two explosions of 50 sticks of dynamite to do the job. Pittsburgh bridge builder George Washington Gale Ferris originally constructed the wheel for the Columbian Exposition of 1893 in Chicago. Ferris was inspired by the design of the merry-go-round. The wheel was 264-feet tall and could hold 2100 people. Its 45-foot axle was the largest single piece of forged steel in the world at the time.

1927 Charles Lindbergh and "The Spirit of St. Louis" arrived here from San Diego, shattering the record for the 16-hundred-mile solo flight. The following day, he took off for New York. On May 20th, he left for Paris.

1927 The contract was let for a bridge over the Mississippi at Alton and another one over the Missouri at Bellefontaine. The bridges were to be named for explorers Lewis and Clark.

1930 Novelist Stanley Elkin was born in the Bronx. He joined the Washington University faculty in 1960 and published his first novel four years later. Elkin wrote 17 books, many of which enjoyed great critical success. But he never had a best-seller. His "The Bailbondsman" was the basis for the 1976 film *Alex and the Gypsy*, starring Jack Lemmon.

1940 The Milles Fountain in front of Union Station was dedicated. The "Meeting of the Waters" caused quite a controversy with its nude figures, but it was better than what used to stand on the site. Prior to the 1920's, the area on Market in front of the station was lined with saloons and bawdy houses eager to serve the weary rail traveler.

1947 A citizens group announced it had picked a site at the eastern end of Forest Park for a proposed world's fair in 1953. Plans called for 1/3 of the buildings to be retained after the fair. They included a sports stadium, a planetarium and museums of science and natural history.

1948 The movie *Fighting Father Dunne* made its world premiere at the Fox Theatre. Pat O'Brien portrayed Father Peter Joseph Dunne, who devoted his life to helping disadvantaged newsboys and youths in St. Louis. Watch for Raymond Burr playing a small role as a prosecuting attorney in the movie. It was probably good preparation for his role as TV's *Perry Mason*.

1956 The Cardinals and the Phillies completed a big trade. The Cardinals sent pitchers Harvey Haddix, Stu Miller and Ben Flowers to the Phils for pitchers Herm Wehmeier and Murray Dickson as well as shortstop Bobby Morgan.

1956 A House and Senate conference committee cleared the way for prompt Congressional action on the \$2,640,000 appropriation for the first phase of the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial. The funds were now expected to win quick approval.

1962 Ira “The Shadow” Shoulders died of a heart attack. Lieutenant Shoulders and Elmer Dolan had arrested Greenlease kidnapper Carl Austin Hall on October 6, 1953. The officers would be convicted of perjury for testifying that they brought the \$600,000 ransom to the police station that night. Half of the money was never found. Shoulders had ties to mobster Joe Costello, which is probably where the money went. Shoulders’ son became a racketeer, and was killed by a car bomb on August 25, 1972.

1962 Cardinal outfielder Minnie Minoso fractured his skull and broke his wrist as he crashed into the wall trying to run down a drive off the bat of Duke Snider. The Cardinals lost to the Dodgers, 8-5.

1962 The National Park Service signed a contract with Bi-State Development for the Arch transportation system. The federal government had cut the system from the budget. Bi-State stepped in, and agreed to build and operate the trams.

1968 The Blues lost Game Four of the Stanley Cup finals to the Montreal Canadiens, 3-2. The Canadiens swept the Blues in four straight for the second year in a row.

1975 McDonnell Douglas workers voted to return to their jobs, ending a 13-week strike that had idled over 12,000 workers. They had walked out over pay issues.

1979 Rush hour traffic came to a halt when a man jumped off the McCutcheon overpass onto Highway 40. He bounced off a van, and landed in the eastbound lanes. Amazingly, he survived.