

May 14

1804 The Lewis and Clark expedition departed Camp DuBois, near present-day Wood River, Illinois. Clark noted in his journal that the journey began at 4 p.m. under “a gentle breeze.” On the first day the 41 men, a 55-foot keelboat, and two smaller boats known as “pirogues” made about six miles. The crews spent the two-day journey to St. Charles becoming accustomed to their boats and the Missouri currents. Lewis would remain in St. Louis until May 20th.

1886 Charles Comiskey of the Browns prevented a double play by running full tilt into Reds second baseman Bid McPhee. The play allowed the Browns to win 2-1. The Cincinnati fans were irate, but the umpire allowed the play. The Browns gradually made "breaking up the double play" an accepted part of the game.

1901 City planners noted the decline in construction of skyscrapers over 12 stories tall. It had been found that offices above the 12th floor were difficult to rent. One observer said, "Perhaps the rarified atmosphere at that level disagrees with the proper brain vigor necessary for conducting business." So what floor does your boss work on?

1904 Ceremonies marked the start of the 1904 Olympic Games at St. Louis. The first event was actually an interscholastic track meet. All sporting events under the auspices of the fair were billed as “Olympic.” The International competitions began in July. The track and field event, considered the true Olympics, began on August 29. The farcical games nearly killed the Olympic movement. The Olympic organization was forced to hold an interim games at Athens in 1906 to restore credibility.

1905 John Joseph Glennon was installed as the new Archbishop of St. Louis. In his sermon that day Archbishop John Ireland of St. Paul practically demanded that Glennon build a new cathedral for St. Louis. Ground was broken on May 1, 1907. The cathedral at Lindell and Newstead opened in 1914.

1908 The flamboyant founder of University City was acquitted on federal fraud charges in connection with the operation of his mail order bank. Edward G. Lewis built University City to be the home of his publishing empire. He spent his fortune in the three-year legal battle. Broke, he left U-City to found another planned community in Atascadero, California.

1916 Cardinals rookie Rogers Hornsby hit his first home run. It was a ball that hit behind third base and bounced into the stands at Robison Field in St. Louis. Such “skip” home runs were legal until 1931. Hornsby is regarded as the best right-handed hitter of all-time. His lifetime batting average of .358 is second only to Ty Cobb.

1923 The *Globe-Democrat* reported on the test of a new "sound amplifying device" to be used that summer at the Muny Opera. The reporter said the device brought the sound "all over the house and into the sylvan purlieu beyond."

1932 Gwen Giles was born in Atlanta. In St. Louis, she became active in politics, organizing William L. Clay's campaign for Congress. She worked to involve religious leaders in the civil rights movement and pushed for a city civil rights ordinance. In 1977, she became the first black woman to be elected to the Missouri Senate. Catalpa Park was renamed in her honor in 1986.

1937 The second-longest "sit down" strike in US labor history came to an end. Workers at Emerson Electric had seized the Washington Avenue plant 53 days earlier. During the strike, Emerson gained a reputation as one of the most anti-union corporations in the nation.

1947 The owners of the Centralia, Illinois mine where 111 men died in a coal dust explosion on March 25th were indicted by a grand jury. They were accused of "willful neglect" of Illinois mine safety laws.

1956 President Dwight Eisenhower signed a bill authorizing \$5 million to get the long delayed Arch project moving again. The money represented the government's share of the cost of relocating the elevated railroad tracks along the riverfront.

1969 The replica of the Santa Maria moored on the St. Louis riverfront was rechristened by Senor Christopher Columbus the 17th of Barcelona Spain. He was said to be the 17th linear descendant of the man who discovered the new world. The Santa Maria sank during a violent thunderstorm on April 26, 1969.

1971 Four people were killed in a fire at a residential hotel. The Ambassador Hotel on North Kingshighway claimed to be absolutely fireproof. Officials said the victims would be alive today if the law required sprinklers in all hotel rooms.

1971 US Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, George Romney, toured the Pruitt-Igoe housing project at the invitation of US Representative Leonore K. Sullivan. He said rehabilitation of the site should be considered before any decision was made on a \$22 million proposal to level the largely vacant projects.

1988 In the longest game by innings in Busch Stadium history, Jose Oquendo of the Cardinals became the first non-pitcher to get a decision in 20 years. The "Secret Weapon" was tagged with the loss after being brought in against the Braves in a 16-inning game. He did manage to hold them scoreless for three innings. Oquendo would become the first National Leaguer to play all nine positions in one season since Eugene Paulette of the Cardinals in 1918. The game took 5 hours, 40 minutes.

1998 The remains of a Vietnam veteran were exhumed from the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery. DNA testing proved that they were the remains of Michael Blassie of Florissant. Blassie had been shot down over Vietnam in 1972.

1998 A crowd of about 3,000 gathered downtown to watch the final episode of *Seinfeld*. The finale was projected on a huge screen on the wall of a building on Washington

Avenue. St. Louisans were torn between watching *Seinfeld* or the playoff game between the Blues and the Red Wings.