

May 16

1804 The Lewis and Clark expedition arrived at St. Charles. Clark described it in his journal as “one mile in length, situated on the North Side of the Missouri at the foot of a hill from which it takes its name, Peetiete Coete or the Little hill.” He described the 450 inhabitants as “pore, polite and harmonious.” While in St. Charles, two members of the expedition were court-martialed for being absent without leave. One of them received 50 lashes for behaving in an “unbecoming manner” at a ball.

1827 Norman Colman was born in New York. He came to St. Louis and established an agricultural journal, “Colman’s Rural World” before becoming active in politics. In 1885, President Grover Cleveland named him Commissioner of Agriculture. When the job officially became a cabinet post in 1889, Colman became the first Secretary of Agriculture.

1840 James Milton Turner was born into slavery in St. Louis County. He helped establish schools for blacks across the state, including Lincoln University in Jefferson City. In 1871, President Ulysses S. Grant appointed Turner U.S. minister and Consul General to Liberia. He was just the second African-American diplomat to serve the United States. There are three schools in the area named for Turner.

1890 "Whoop Whoop Whoop! East St. Louis is Booming" So read an ad by the Dexter Real Estate Company in the *Globe-Democrat* touting lots. A new streetcar line to the East Side was expected to cause land values to quadruple within 30 days.

1899 It was announced that the great Ferris wheel from the Chicago exposition of 1893 would probably do its next turn in St. Louis. Negotiations were underway to acquire it for the World’s Fair proposed for St. Louis in 1903.

1901 The city formally approved an ordinance offering land in Forest Park as the site of the World's Fair planned for 1903. The area of the park chosen was known as "The Wilderness."

1917 Twenty-two members of the ambulance service left St. Louis for France. They were the first St. Louisans to reach the front.

1925 St. Louis banker Harold Bixby announced that he had bought an airplane for use on business trips, the first company plane in St. Louis. Bixby said travel by air offered him several advantages. He cited no dirt crossings, unexpected delays or traffic cops. Bixby would later become one of the first backers for Charles Lindbergh’s flight.

1947 The heavyweight champion of the world came to St. Louis. Joe Louis was here to launch his new drink, Joe Louis Punch." He also helped launch a drive to build an addition for the Pine Street Y-M-C-A.

1963 Astronaut Gordon Cooper splashed down after the final Mercury flight. The capsules for the Mercury missions were built here at McDonnell Aircraft.

1968 Morton D. May died at the age of 68. The May Department Stores tycoon was an important leader in the rebirth of downtown. May was one of the founders of Downtown St. Louis Incorporated and a dedicated philanthropist. On May 13, 1988, Mayor Scheomehl dedicated the Morton D. May Memorial Amphitheatre and fountain at Kiener Plaza. It is now a favorite gathering spot.

1970 The gates were closed on the dam as Lake St. Louis was dedicated. Developer R-T Crowe intended the 600-acre lake to be the centerpiece of a 2,700-acre residential development.

1979 The Streckfuss Lines announced that the *Admiral's* summer cruise season would be cancelled for the first time since World War Two. The Coast Guard had discovered the hull of the ship had been weakened. The *Admiral* would leave for a New Orleans drydock in December 1979. By 1981, the ship appeared to be destined for the scrap heap.

1996 Steve Yzerman's goal at 1:15 of the second overtime period gave the Detroit Red Wings a victory in Game Seven of the Western Conference semifinals against the Blues. The Blues had taken the heavily favored Red Wings to the limit.

1998 Mark McGwire launched a 545-foot home run off Livian Hernandez of the Florida Marlins. The 545-foot shot was the longest in Busch Stadium history. The ball shattered the *Post-Dispatch* sign in center field and the *Post* put up a three-foot long Band-Aid to cover the hole. Just two days earlier, McGwire had set a new Busch record with a 527-foot blast.