

## **May 19**

**1874** General William Sherman, commander of the Army, was proposing moving the Army headquarters from Washington, D.C. to St. Louis. He said the bulk of the Army was stationed west of the Mississippi and could be commanded more efficiently from St. Louis in the event of a major Indian war. Sherman won approval to move his command here. He retired from the Army in 1883.

**1876** The city attorney urged police officials to enforce gambling laws to clean up the "gambling hells, the standing disgrace in our city." He wanted the joints cleaned out before the National Democratic Convention got underway in St. Louis the following month. He said the city should be "put forth as a moral city--a city beyond reproach."

**1903** A corporation was formed to build a grand 400-room hotel downtown in time for the World's Fair. The Hotel Jefferson opened on May 1, 1904. It ended its life as a hotel in 1975 and was converted into an apartment complex for seniors.

**1918** Judge Wilson Taylor of St. Louis was in the midst of a campaign against the "flivver." The judge said the automobile was responsible for an increase in the divorce rate. He said husbands were too busy tinkering with their cars to pay attention to their wives. Taylor's lectures were so effective that the Auto Club of St. Louis found it necessary to launch a counter-campaign.

**1923** St. Louisans gathered on the streets to witness the first skywriter ever seen here. A British aviator spelled out "Lucky Strikes" in the sky. Skywriting was declared to be the advertising medium of the future.

**1926** Ground was broken for the new \$4.5 million courthouse downtown. The courthouse was to occupy the block bounded by Market, Chestnut, Eleventh and Twelfth Streets.

**1927** Charles Lindbergh had been frustrated by fog and rain for several days since arriving in New York with the "Spirit of St. Louis." While on the way to a Broadway show, he received word that the weather might clear enough for a good pilot. Returning to his hotel, Lindbergh was unable to sleep. The next morning, the "Spirit of St. Louis" lifted off from a muddy Long Island runway.

**1945** Mayor Aloys Kaufman was calling on President Truman to investigate charges by local meat packers. They claimed 90% of the meat consigned to the area ended up on the black market. The mayor said this vital war production center was threatened by a serious meat famine.

**1961** The Board of Aldermen passed a measure outlawing racial and religious discrimination in places of public accommodation. The board had been regularly turning down such bills since 1954.

**1962** Stan Musial set a new National League record with his 3,431<sup>st</sup> hit. The hit that broke Honus Wagner's old record came in the 9th inning off Ron Perranoski of the Dodgers. By the time he retired in 1963, Stan had set or tied 29 National League records, 17 Major League records and Nine All-Star records, including most home runs.

**1968** Missouri Governor Warren Hearnes called out the militia to quell violence at Lincoln University in Jefferson City. After weeks of student protests over conditions at the school, things had turned ugly. Snipers were hindering firefighters efforts to reach burning buildings on campus. Officials blamed the violence on black militants.

**1970** Curt Flood's anti-trust lawsuit against baseball went before a US District Court in New York. Flood refused to report to the Phillies when the Cardinals traded him at the end of the 1969 season. The case would go all the way to the Supreme Court, which ruled against Flood. But the case paved the way for today's unrestricted free agency.

**1983** The National Hockey League rejected a bid by Ralston-Purina to sell the Blues to Canadian interests who wanted to move the team to Saskatoon. Within a week, Ralston filed a \$60 million anti-trust suit against the league.

**1986** The National League announced that if the Cubs made it to the playoffs, they would play their home games at Busch. Chicago fans were convinced the plan was a plot to force the neighborhood to approve lights at Wrigley Field. There wasn't much chance of the Cubbies making postseason anyway. Their record stood at 14-21 at that time.

**1990** Twenty-two people were hurt when the *Spirit of St. Charles* riverboat smashed into the old 115 bridge. The bridge was not damaged.

**1998** Mark McGwire belted three home runs in Philadelphia. He became the 12th player in history to hit three home runs in a game twice in the same season. McGwire tied Mickey Mantle's record for reaching 20 home runs in the fewest games at 41.