

## May 22

**1804** A day after leaving St. Charles, the Lewis and Clark expedition camped opposite the mouth of Bonhomme Creek, in what is now Chesterfield. They made their first trade with the Kickapoo Indians. The next day, Lewis nearly fell to his death from a bluff near present-day St. Albans.

**1849** Just five days after the great fire, property owners met and agreed to widen the downtown streets. They also agreed to expand the levee by the debris from the fire atop the burned out hulks of the steamboats. A new business district of brick buildings trimmed with cast iron would rise from the ashes.

**1919** French immigrant and New York hotel owner Raymond Orteig offered a prize of \$25,000 to the first aviator to cross the Atlantic. The first aviators who made the attempt were killed. Captain Charles Lindbergh, then of the 110th Observation Squadron of the Missouri National Guard and chief pilot for the Robertson Aircraft Corporation, entered the competition in 1927.

**1926** It was Rogers Hornsby Day at Sportsmen's Park. The Cardinals player-manager was presented with the Most Valuable Player Award for 1925, \$1,000 in gold and a medal. In 1925, Hornsby had become the only player manager to win the Triple Crown, batting .400 for the third time in four seasons. He led the league with 39 home runs and 143 RBI's.

**1927** The *Globe-Democrat* reported that Mayor Victor Miller was spending the weekend in Bourbon, Missouri when word reached him of Lindbergh's epic flight. He told reporters he would begin work on plans for a huge welcome for Lindbergh as soon as he returned the next day. Lindbergh's backers here said they were hopeful he would return to St. Louis in about two weeks.

**1929** According to the *Globe*, "the odor of sour mash hung over the exclusive suburb of University City." Agents had seized one of the largest stills ever found here. Three people were arrested, 1200 gallons of booze was seized. The fire department was called in to pump 28,000 gallons of mash out of the basement.

**1931** The St. Louis Director of Streets advised the Police Department that no more permits would be issued for advertising via loudspeakers mounted on the top of automobiles. He said it added to the confusion on the downtown streets and was "really small town stuff."

**1937** Construction began on the landmark fountain in the Belleville public square. It was dedicated in honor of war veterans on October 10, 1937. The fountain stands on land donated by George Blair for the county seat in 1814. It has hosted a pen for stray cattle; two trees used for whipping posts, and was the site of a lynching in 1903.

**1939** Kansas City "boss" Tom Pendergrast pleaded guilty to income tax evasion. He controlled Missouri politics during the 1930's, right up to the governor's office and the state supreme court. But Governor Lloyd Stark, who was elected with Pendergrast's support, led the fight against him. Pendergrast was sentenced to 15 months and the Democratic machine was finished.

**1955** The *Globe-Democrat* reported that the latest men's fashions caused a fight in St. Louis. A young man wearing a pair of Bermuda shorts was walking with a friend downtown. They ended up in a fight with three men who insulted their attire. All were arrested for peace disturbance.

**1958** What to name the new four-lane highway bridge at St. Charles was a hot topic. There was considerable support for naming it after Harry Truman. The County Court had approved naming it after the first Governor of Missouri, Alexander McNair. The St. Charles Historical Society wanted it named after Benjamin Emmons, who helped write the first state constitution and was a member of the first state legislature.

**1963** The FAA approved the allocation of \$1,037,000 to the Bi-State Development Agency. The money was for the purchase of Parks Airport in Cahokia. Bi-State planned to lease it to the city for use as a secondary airport.

**1981** Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville announced the cancellation of the SIUE River Festival for the coming summer. Held on a campus hillside since 1969, the festival featured such performers as Bob Dylan, Janis Joplin and the Who. The festival was cancelled because the site was inadequate.

**1984** Fredbird tackled Enos Cabell during the pre-game warmup. Cabell aggravated a knee injury. Heated words were exchanged between the two clubs but Houston got revenge on the bird in the twelfth when Mark Bailey triples off Bruce Sutter to key a 4-3 victory.

**1998** Mark McGwire blasted a home run into "Big Mac Land" at Busch Stadium for the first time. All 47,549 fans were entitled to a free "Big Mac" the next day at McDonalds.