

## May 25

**1793** Johann Adam Lemp was born in Gruningen, Germany. He came to St. Louis in 1838, and began brewing the first lager beer in St. Louis about 1840. Lager comes from the German term "lagern," meaning to stock or to store. Lager beers also use yeast that ferments on the bottom. Lemp aged his beer in caves below the city. Adam's son William built the brewery into the largest in St. Louis by the 1870's.

**1802** James S. Thomas was born in Maryland. He served as the 23<sup>rd</sup> Mayor of St. Louis, from 1864 to 1869. Thomas approved the present house numbering system in 1865. Compton Hill and Compton Avenue are named in honor of his wife.

**1803** Edward Hall was born in Monroe County, Virginia. Hall was a riverboat captain who was wounded the night his friend Elijah Lovejoy was killed by a pro-slavery mob in Alton. His ferry across the Missouri River near Florissant was a stop on the Underground Railroad. Hall smuggled slaves across at night. A road first laid out in 1815 was connected to "Hall's Ferry" in 1836.

**1804** The Lewis and Clark Expedition reached the settlement of La Charette, near what is now Marthasville. No trace of the settlement remains. At that time, it was the last outpost of western civilization.

**1858** The St. Louis and Iron Mountain Railroad opened, the first railroad in Southeastern Missouri.

**1897** The owners of the Cleveland Spiders were offering to buy the hapless St. Louis Browns. They planned to send the Browns players to Cleveland and bring the Spiders here. Browns owner Chris von Der Ahe said the team was not for sale. But creditors would force Von der Ahe to sell the team for \$35,000 in 1898. The new owners sent the hapless Brownie players to Cleveland and brought the Spiders to St. Louis.

**1901** The Glen Echo Country Club opened. It is said to be the first west of the Mississippi. The Olympic golf tournament was held there in 1904. George F. Flynn of Toronto became the first, and only, Olympic golf gold medalist. Golf was dropped after the 1904 Olympics because of the lack of good courses outside of the US and UK.

**1902** The *Post* reported on the new "Loop-the-Loop" ride at the Forest Park Highlands. Some doctors warned that the forerunner of today's roller coasters would stop weak hearts. Riders were pushed to the top of a 50-foot trestle and sped down a 45-degree angle into a 35-foot in diameter loop. The ride was a failure because only four people could ride at one time.

**1927** Mayor Victor Miller declared that when Charles Lindbergh returned to St. Louis, it would be a public holiday. City offices were to be closed. Businesses would be asked to give employees the day off. If school was still in session, the Mayor said he would ask the School Board to give the kids the day off.

**1930** The largest bank robbery in St. Louis history to that date was discovered. The Grand National Bank, at 505 North Grand, had been preparing to move into new headquarters in the brand new Continental Building around the corner. The vault door had already been removed, making it easy for the thieves to make off with nearly one million dollars in cash, jewelry and securities once they got the keys. The crime was never solved.

**1948** The Secretary of the Interior agreed with a federal commission's recommendation, and approved Eero Saarinen's design for the riverfront memorial. Saarinen's plan called for a 630-foot-tall arch of steel.

**1955** Race car driver Kenny Schrader was born in St. Louis. When Schrader was a young boy, his father attached a cable to a go-kart and Kenny would race in circles until the cart ran out of gas. He began his real racing career on dirt tracks such as the I-55 Speedway in Pevely. Kenny joined the Winston Cup Circuit in 1985.

**1956** Representative Morgan Moulder of Missouri announced that the House UnAmerican Activities subcommittee would begin hearings next month on Communist infiltration of defense plants in the St. Louis area. The inquiry would focus on "The extent, character and object of Communist efforts to infiltrate large organizations."

**1964** General Manager Bing Devine, manager Johnny Keane and several other Cardinals players watched as ground was broken for the new Busch Stadium. Home plate for the new ballpark would be located on the site occupied by the Comfort Printing and Stationary Company, 200 South 7<sup>th</sup> Street. Charles Farris, director of the Land Clearance Authority proposed a downtown stadium in December 1958 as a way to bring people downtown.

**1966** Curt Flood of the Cardinals hit the first grand slam in the new Busch Stadium.

**1968** Vice-President Hubert Humphrey and U.S. Secretary of the Interior Morris Udall presided over a rain-soaked ceremony marking formal dedication of the Gateway Arch. Officials moved the ceremony indoors under the Arch. Water poured down the entryways and across the floor. The public was not admitted. Phillip Russell of ACTION, a civil rights group, briefly interrupted Udall's remarks. Russell loudly accused Mayor Cervantes of racism.

**1973** The Executive Director of the St. Louis Housing Authority Board of Commissioners proposed closing the deteriorating Pruitt-Igoe Housing Complex. Just 2,000 tenants occupied the 33 eleven-story buildings in the complex.

**1983** Traffic jams and lines around the block greeted moviegoers at the Esquire Theatre. The theatre hosted the St. Louis premiere of *Return of the Jedi*, the third film in the first *Star Wars* trilogy. Some fans sat through all six showings.

**1998** Mark McGwire became the first player to hit 25 home runs before the first of June. He also set a record for the most home runs at Busch Stadium in a single season with 17.

**1999** St. Louis Browns fans gave up after 45 years. The St. Louis Browns Historical Society held its last meeting. The "Great Brownie Roundup" drew about 150 fans. Local historian and author Bill Borst had founded the group 30 years after the team left for Baltimore.