

May 26

1780 Residents of St. Louis and a handful of Spanish troops turned back 1,000 British soldiers and Indians in the only battle of the American Revolution fought west of the Mississippi. The British attacked Fort San Carlos, which stood at what is now Fourth and Walnut. At least 21 settlers were killed, most of them massacred when caught outside the protection of the fort. If the British had won, it is possible that the Louisiana Purchase would never have occurred.

1857 Dred Scott and his family were freed. After the infamous Supreme Court ruling in 1857, ownership of Scott, his wife Harriet and daughters Eliza and Lillie was transferred to Taylor Blow. Blow was an anti-slavery civic leader who supported the Scotts during the 11-year legal battle. Blow quickly freed them. Blow's daughter, Susan, would found the first kindergarten in 1873. Scott worked as a porter at Barnum's Hotel before dying of tuberculosis on September 17, 1858.

1908 The City Council of newly-incorporated Maplewood met for the first time. The council voted to license organ grinders, wagons and boarding houses. They agreed that autos passing from other cities would need a Maplewood license to pass through town. James C. Sutton owned much of the land in the area. His land was turned into a subdivision named Maplewood in 1890.

1926 A fan who had his nose broken by a home run ball off the bat of the Cardinals Sunny Jim Bottomley was awarded \$3500 dollars by a jury. Bottomley was forced to admit in court that he "intentionally hit the ball to create a situation known as a home run." The Cardinals planned to appeal.

1926 Miles Davis was born in Alton. He moved to East St. Louis, and took up the trumpet at age 13. He played in the jazz band and toured locally with Billy Eckstine while attending Lincoln High School. He moved to New York in 1944 to play with his idol, Charlie Parker. He later formed his own bop group and invented a style known as "cool jazz." In 1970, his "Bitch's Brew" album combined rock with jazz, and became the biggest selling jazz album of all time.

1928 St. Louis industrialist Benjamin J. Brinkman announced plans for a complex of buildings on Oakland Avenue, west of the Forest Park Highlands Amusement Park. His plan was to make the complex the permanent home of the National Dairy Show. The central building was to be called "The Arena."

1948 The St. Louis Anti-Slum Commission recommended a \$16 million bond issue to clear a huge area in midtown. It called for leveling the area between 14th and Grand, Olive and Market. Nearly 10,000 people, most of them African Americans, would be displaced.

1953 The Cardinals signed Leonard Tucker, the first black player ever signed by the organization. Despite some brilliant numbers in the minors, he never made it to the big

leagues. First baseman Tom Alston would become the Cardinals first black player on April 13, 1954.

1955 A day that changed the face of the city forever. St. Louis voters approved 23 propositions for over \$110 million in projects. Among the work authorized was the construction of three expressways; The Daniel Boone (US 40), the Mark Twain (I-70) and the Ozark, (US 66, later I-44) Voters also approved money for the Planetarium, the Children's Zoo and the art museum.

1960 Developer A.R. Dodds was offering homes complete with fall out shelters in the Richford Gardens Subdivision off Valcour in Affton. The shelters beneath the garage were ten-by-ten and 1/2 feet and made of reinforced concrete. They came complete with a water heater, a toilet, and a portable stove.

1968 The *Globe-Democrat* declared that Gaslight Square was a thing of the past. Only 12 clubs remained open, many of them only on nights and weekends. A fire that destroyed the Bella Rosa Restaurant and Mister D's at Boyle and Olive dashed the hopes of the few that hoped the area could rebound.

1978 "Silent George" became a Cardinal. The Redbirds swapped pitcher Eric Rasmussen to the Padres for outfielder George Hendrick. Hendrick would play a key role on the 1982 World Championship team, while seldom talking to the press. In 1984, the Cardinals traded him to Pittsburgh for John Tudor.

1986 With the Cardinals dropping six games in a row, fans at Busch Stadium notice that the player's batting average is no longer posted on the scoreboard when they come up to the plate. But the Cards pounded out ten hits against the Reds that day, and the averages went back up.

1992 Another milestone for "The Wizard." Ozzie Smith hit a triple for career hit 2,000.

1997 More than 200 firefighters battled an eight-alarm blaze in a tractor trailer filled with magnesium in a North St. Louis neighborhood. Up to 30 explosions rocked the area as the magnesium reacted with water poured on the blaze. The first firefighters to arrive didn't know the trailer contained magnesium.