

May 29

1866 The first observance of Memorial Day took place in Carbondale, Illinois. Over 200 members of the Grand Army of the Republic marched through town and dedicated Union graves at Woodlawn Cemetery. About a dozen US towns also claim to be the birthplace of the holiday. General John Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic officially proclaimed Memorial Day on May 5, 1868.

1875 The City Council voted to name Colonel James Britton as mayor. The city had been in an uproar ever since a special election chose Britton over Henry Overstolz. Overstolz supporters claimed the election was rigged, and threatened to march on City Hall. The council declared St. Louis had become a national laughingstock. In February of 1876, Overstolz was declared the winner.

1885 St. Louis police gained national acclaim for tracking down the man who murdered Arthur Preller at the Southern Hotel. He was arrested in New Zealand after police telegraphed a description to every department in the nation. San Francisco authorities saw him board a ship. The St. Louis police department raised 500 dollars for a cablegram to alert New Zealand authorities.

1886 The Athletics tried to slow the Browns down by loading the base paths with sand. St. Louis captain Comiskey refused to play and helped the grounds crew remove the sand. The Browns would win the 2 games with a total of 14 stolen bases.

1896 Two days after the great tornado had killed 306 people, rescuers on the east side of the river found the last person to be rescued. A woman named Mary Mock had been buried in the rubble. Demolition and repair work was underway in the devastated area.

1900 More violence was reported in the streetcar strike. Eleven people were hurt in a brawl between strikebreakers and a hostile crowd. The Police Board President ordered the Sheriff to assemble 1,200 men to keep order.

1901 The Executive Committee of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition Company began inspecting proposed sites for the proposed 1903 World's Fair. Among the sites under consideration were Carondelet, O'Fallon and Forest Parks.

1904 Attempting to imitate the Indians he had seen at the fair, 13-year-old Martin Fink shot and killed his younger brother John inside their home at 1815 Goode Avenue. Martin had painted his face, decorated his clothing and adorned himself with chicken feathers. The boy found the gun in a dresser.

1920 President Wilson pardoned St. Louis socialist activist and reformer Kate Richards O'Hare. She had been sentenced to five years in prison for violating the espionage act during World War One. In a South Dakota speech, she compared mothers who allowed their sons to become soldiers to "brood sows." O'Hare and her husband published the *National Ripsaw*, a weekly socialist paper.

1922 St. Louis police officers with riot guns were stationed on the the Free Bridge, the McKinley and the Eads. Following an unprecedented wave of bank robberies, they were under orders to stop and search all suspicious vehicles.

1937 Shaw Park in Clayton was dedicated. The land was formerly part of the huge Davis estate. The park itself is named for Charles Shaw. Shaw was a banker and real estate developer who served as mayor from 1933 to 1940. He obtained WPA projects that widened streets, built the library and created the park.

1961 Following the death of his wife, Dave Garroway announced he was leaving the *Today Show* after nine years. His last show would be in July. The University City High School and Washington University graduate closed the program with his familiar single-word sign-off, "Peace." Lionel Hampton's version of "Sentimental Journey," Garroway's theme song, played in the background. Garroway shot himself in 1982.

1963 The Reverend Martin Luther King Junior spoke at a freedom rally at the Washington Tabernacle Baptist Church. He praised progress on school integration here and commended the city for opening public accommodations to people of all races.

1964 The St. Louis County Council passed a bill barring discrimination based on race, religion, color or national origin in places of public accommodation.

1964 Ground was broken for the largest residential and commercial development in the nation at that time. Mayor Tucker said the \$45 million Mansion House development signaled the return of residents to the riverfront for the first time in a century.

1973 Mayor Poelker announced his support for closing the troubled Pruitt-Igoe public housing complex. All but six of the buildings had been closed because of vacancy and vandalism.

1974 Four teenaged girls, freshmen at JFK High School, were killed by lightning. Just 1/2 hour earlier, a lightning strike had killed a golfer on a North County course.

1977 Bob Gassoff was killed in a motorcycle accident on Route M near Garry Unger's farm, where the team had gathered for a post-season party. Number three may have been the roughest player in St. Louis Blues history. He only played four seasons, but still ranks fifth on the Blues all-time penalty minutes list. His number was retired on October 1, 1997.

1978 An auto accident in St. Louis County left 17-year-old Christine Busalacchi in a vegetative state. Her father fought a battle with the state all the way to the Missouri Supreme Court in an effort to have her feeding tube removed. Newly-elected Attorney General Jay Nixon filed a motion to dismiss the case in January, 1993. The tube was removed and Christine died on March 7, 1993.

