

May 31

1841 Archbishop John Kain was born. He came to St. Louis as coadjutor to the ailing Archbishop Kenrick in 1893. But Kenrick refused to work with him. Kain was installed as Archbishop in 1895 and served until his death in October 1903. Kain is best remembered for being the first to propose a “new” cathedral.

1878 The St. Louis Police Board ordered all officers to carry the same type of revolver, a Colt .36 calibre. It was reported that officers currently carried whatever kind of weapon they desired, and some of them resembled small cannons.

1881 St. Louis brewery workers were preparing to walk off the job, demanding a \$5 per month raise and a shorter workday. They currently made between \$50 and \$75 per month for working from 3 a.m until 6 p.m. But brewery officials pointed out that they got two lunch breaks, at 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., and were entitled to up to 20 glasses of beer per day.

1883 Residents of the area around Grand and Bissell were upset over plans to build a water tower. One said the tower on Grand Avenue had become "a rendezvous for improper purposes." Bad characters rode the streetcars there and spent the evenings in "raucous revelry."

1892 Prominent black Missourians declared a day of "humiliation, fasting and prayer." They said it was designed to enlighten white citizens to the black plight, including recent lynchings and beatings.

1925 The St. Louis *Star-Times* was launching a unique subscription promotion. With a new subscription, readers would receive a 20-by-100 foot lot near the Meramec River. The promotion marked the birth of the ill-fated community of Times Beach.

1927 King George met Charles Lindbergh at Buckingham Palace and awarded him the Royal Flying Cross. Lindbergh said he was anxious to return home. He wanted to head directly to St. Louis after he arrived in New York, probably about June 14th. The RAF was crating up the "Spirit of St. Louis" for return to the states aboard the liner *George Washington*. The next day, President Coolidge offered the use of the cruiser *Memphis* instead.

1945 Jacob Babler died at the age of 75. Babler was a powerful state and national GOP leader, and one of the leading philanthropists in Missouri. He donated 864 acres to the state in memory of his brother, Doctor Edmund Babler, chief of surgery at Deaconess Hospital. Jacob's will set up a \$1 million trust fund for development and maintenance of the park.

1948 The World War Two Court of Honor in Memorial Plaza was dedicated by General Jonathan Wainwright, the hero of Corregidor. The names of 2,500 St. Louisans who lost their lives in WWII were inscribed on 16 granite tablets.

1961 Chuck Berry opened "Berry Park," an outside amusement park in Wentzville. The 30-acre complex included a swimming pool, Ferris wheel, rides and a children's zoo.

1967 Scruggs, Vandervoort and Barney announced it was closing its landmark downtown store and the newer one in Clayton. The block square, seven-story building downtown had been a landmark for shoppers for 117 years.

1971 The *Globe-Democrat* reported that a \$350 million plan for a second terminal at Lambert Field would be scrapped. The President of the Board of Public Service said the project was dead because of sagging airline revenue and plans to replace Lambert Field with a new airport at Columbia-Waterloo, Illinois.

1980 Ronald Reagan spoke before the Missouri Republican convention at the Checkerdome. The presumed GOP nominee for president pledged that if he was elected there would be "no more Taiwans, no more Vietnams and no more betrayals of friends and allies by the United States Government."

1985 August Busch the Fourth was arrested after leading undercover detectives on a chase through the Central West End. He was eventually acquitted of assaulting the officers, but was arrested for speeding in St. Louis County while awaiting trial. In 1983, Busch was behind the wheel during an accident that killed an Arizona woman.

1995 Writer Stanley Elkin died in St. Louis at the age of 65. "The Magic Kingdom" is among his best known works.