November 5

1828 The Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent DePaul arrived in St. Louis to establish the first hospital west of the Mississippi. "The St. Louis Mullanphy Hospital" was established at the home of philanthropist John Mullanphy on Spruce Street, between 3rd and 4th. It grew into DePaul Hospital, which was formerly located at 2415 North Kingshighway. DePaul moved to Bridgeton in 1977.

1855 It was a day of prayer and fasting in St. Louis. Mayor Washington King ordered the day set aside to honor the victims of the Gasconade River train disaster. 34 people died when a train carrying dignitaries celebrating the completion of the line to Jefferson City plunged into the river. King was hurt, and the president of the city council was killed.

1901 Ban Johnson and Charles Comiskey leased Sportsman's Park for five years to house an American League team. The Milwaukee franchise was officially transferred two weeks later. Seven Cardinal players, including the three top hitters, Jesse Burkett, Emmet Heidrick and Bobby Wallace., along with half the pitching staff, had already jumped to the new St. Louis AL team.

1904 The Globe reported that the tribe of pygmies living in the International Village at the fair wanted to buy an airship. After seeing one at the fair, they were convinced an airship would make them great elephant hunters. They asked the official in charge of the village to negotiate for them, promising him the first three elephant tusks they would bag from the air.

1904 Mayor Rolla Wells hosted an open house to celebrate completion of city hall. No bond issue was passed for construction, so it took 14 years to finish. The building was occupied in 1898, but the rotunda, the Tucker vestibule and grand staircase were not finished until 1904.

1905 Theodore McNeal was born in Helena, Arkansas. In St. Louis, he helped organize railroad porters and became a civil rights activist. During World War Two, he organized rallies against job discrimination and the first lunch counter sit-ins. In 1960, he became the first African-American elected to the Missouri Senate. McNeal would also serve as the first black president of the Board of Police Commissioners.

1917 A decision by the U-S Supreme Court in a Louisville case effectively killed a St. Louis segregation ordinance. In February 1916, voters had approved a measure requiring the segregation of blacks and whites.

1927 Captain Hawthorne C. Gray, an army balloonist at Scott Field, lost his life while apparently breaking a world altitude record. His last entry in his log said he was at 40 thousand feet. But he evidently ran out of oxygen before he could return to a safe altitude.

1931 Ike Turner was born in Clarksdale, Mississippi. He moved to St. Louis in 1954 and formed his "Kings of Rhythm." An 18-year-old singer named Anna Mae Bullock joined the group in 1959. Ike and Tina were married in a quickie ceremony in Tijuana, which turned out to be illegal because Ike didn't bother to divorce his first wife. Ike was an abusive drug addict and Tina walked out on him in 1975. But together they scored hits such as "Fool in Love" and of course, "Proud Mary."

1934 Ed Butler and Charles Walsh announced that the St. Louis Gunners of the National Professional Football League would begin play on November 11th against Pittsburgh at Sportsmen's Park. Butler and Walsh had bought the Cincinnati franchise and transferred it to St. Louis.

1955 The St. Louis Hawks made their NBA regular season debut. The Hawks defeated the Minneapolis Lakers 101-89 before a crowd of over seven thousand. Frank Selvy and Bob Petit scored 21 points each.

1967 St. Louis comedian and civil rights activist Dick Gregory announced he was mounting an independent write-in campaign for president. His platform called for an immediate withdrawal from Vietnam. Gregory said he would fast from Thanksgiving until Christmas in sympathy with those who opposed the war.

1968 As Richard M. Nixon was elected president, returns in St. Louis showed William L. Clay had become the first black man elected to Congress from Missouri. Governor Warren Hearnes became Missouri's first four-term governor. Lieutenant Governor Thomas Eagleton won his senate race against Thomas B. Curtis.

1971 Former Cardinal third baseman and outfielder Mike Shannon was named as Jack Buck's partner on the Redbird broadcasts. Nephritis, a rare and life-threatening kidney ailment, ended Shannon's playing career prematurely in 1970. Jack Buck insisted that the regular rotation of announcers continue during the 1998 home run chase, so Shannon was on the air when Mark McGwire hit number 62, 69 and 70.

1971 Federal highway officials were stunned by an offer from residents of the Hill neighborhood in South St. Louis. The citizens were offering to pay for an overpass across the new I-44 to keep their community from being cut in two. They had raised $50,000 during the Hill Day festivities. (They eventually got the overpass)

1981 Federal authorities said that millions in securities were missing from the Stix and Company Brokerage firm. The firm was declared insolvent in the largest bankruptcy case in area history. Vice President Thomas Brimberry would be sentenced to a pair of 10-year prison terms for a phony stock scam that looted $16.5 million from the firm. His wife would be convicted of evading taxes on jewelry she bought with the stolen money.

1999 An explosion and fire at the Pyro Products Fireworks Plant in Jefferson County took the life of Amy Meyers of Cedar Hill. Another employee, Lori Rhodes was

seriously burned. Doctors successfully delivered her baby by emergency C-section after the blast. An explosion at the same plant would kill another worker in September 2000.