

November 11

1780 The founder of Chesterfield was born in Morris County, New Jersey. Justus Post bought land in Bonhomme, along the Missouri River in 1816. Post was also a founder of the Bank of St. Louis, a Missouri State Senator and a judge of the St. Louis County Court. His original town site was along Wild Horse Creek Road between Baxter and Wilson. Modern Chesterfield actually covers six former communities.

1799 Charles Bent was born. In the mid 1820's the St. Louisan was one of the founders of a fur trading company, and became the leading trader on the Santa Fe Trail. He established three forts, including the largest in the Southwest, and became the first American governor of New Mexico. He was killed in a revolt in 1847.

1918 Factory whistles here blew at 2:30 a.m. upon the news from Europe that World War One was over. The streets were filled with people celebrating. Mayor Henry Kiel declared it a public holiday. Most business had been suspended anyway, in an effort to halt the flu epidemic. A total of 1,057 St. Louisans died in World War One.

1921 St. Louisans learned of plans for a magnificent new \$500,000 theatre at Grand and Washington. The "Fox" Theatre would seat 4,000 people. The promoters promised a top admission price of 50 cents, and said the theatre would present the top vaudeville acts as well as the latest movies.

1924 An armed guard was posted at every door and window at the federal building as Ray Renard was brought in to testify for the government against his old gang. His testimony put Egan's Rats leader "Dinty" Colbeck behind bars for a \$2.4 million mail truck robbery downtown in 1923 and a post office robbery in Staunton. Eight other Rats were convicted, along with three members of the Cuckoo Gang.

1925 The Board of Curators at Mizzou announced that "whether they liked it or not," University of Missouri students would be required to have two years of military training. The board denounced a student campaign to make the service voluntary as "communist inspired."

1926 The federal government designated Manchester Road to carry the new U.S. routes 66 and 50 west of St. Louis. They had no choice, since Manchester was the only improved road west. It carried Route 66 traffic until January 1, 1933, when the new Watson Road was completed. Manchester carried the U.S. 50 designation until 1955, when 50 was also shifted to Watson Road.

1930 The Chief of Police had ordered dispatchers not to broadcast the nature of police calls. Ambulance chasing lawyers had been showing up at accident scenes. The chief said lawyers were losing interest since the order went into effect. They were apparently tired of showing up for non-profitable calls such as domestic disputes.

1932 The cornerstone was laid for the new Municipal Auditorium. It was dedicated in April 1934, and later named for former Mayor Henry Kiel. His construction firm built the auditorium. The convention hall was torn down in 1992 to make room for the new Kiel Center.

1934 The St. Louis Gunners of the National Professional Football League played their first game. A crowd of 13,768 saw the Gunners defeat the Pittsburgh Pirates 6-0 at Sportsmen's Park. The NFL had disbanded the Cincinnati Reds franchise, and brought in the Gunners to play out the Reds schedule. The Gunners disbanded in May 1935.

1934 The Jefferson National Expansion Memorial Association was formed. The non-profit corporation grew out of a committee formed by Mayor Bernard Dickmann to work for the establishment of a memorial on the riverfront.

1943 The film *Meet Me in St. Louis* went into production. Judy Garland and Margaret O'Brien starred in the story of the Smith Family, who lived at 5135 Kensington on the eve of the World's Fair. Newcomer Vincente Minnelli directed the film. Minelli and Garland clashed at first, but they were engaged by the time the movie was finished. On June 15, 1945, Minnelli married Judy Garland. They were divorced in 1952.

1946 A crowd of 2,279 fans at Kiel Auditorium saw the first big professional basketball game in St. Louis. A group of local St. Louis players called the "Bombers" lost to the Fort Wayne Zollners by one point.

1957 The Mark C. Steinberg skating rink in Forest Park opened for the first time. About 2,000 skaters came out on opening day. Steinberg was an investment broker who died in 1951. His widow founded a charitable trust and decided that a skating rink would be a good memorial to her husband, who loved sports and children.

1957 For the first time, the "Old Newsboys" took to the streets to hawk special editions of the *Globe-Democrat* and raise money for charity. The first Old Newsboys Day raised \$34,313.

1968 St. Louis was one of five major cities named by the FAA as needing new airports within the next five years. On November 5th, voters had approved \$200 million in bonds for improvements at Lambert and for initial development of a second airport.

1988 The Admiral Riverboat closed down. It had been turned into a \$36 million entertainment complex, just 1 and ½ years earlier. A combination of high cost and overhead was blamed. The boat is now the President Casino.

1989 The Blues hung a banner featuring a shamrock from the north end of the Arena to honor Dan Kelly. The legendary Blues broadcaster died of cancer of February 10, 1989 at the age of 52.