

November 12

1851 The Board of Aldermen passed an ordinance creating Lafayette Park. The park is in part of the old common fields, and is thus said to be the oldest public recreation area west of the Mississippi.

1852 For the first time, a locomotive made a trip west of the Mississippi. Charles Williams, the Chief Machinist for the new Pacific Railroad made a four-mile run from the shop to the Old Manchester Road. Williams would make the first cargo run in December. The Pacific Railroad would not reach Jefferson City until 1855 and Kansas City until 1865.

1878 The School Board fired a teacher at Central High School who had filed for divorce. The board said the students "were liable to receive harm by discussion of the scandal incidental to a divorce suit."

1882 The *Globe-Democrat* reported that there "is probably no city in the country in which careless and reckless driving is so universally indulged in as St. Louis." That was according to a citizens group pushing for strict enforcement of speeding laws.

1901 Reformed outlaw Frank James announced that he was taking up acting. He told the touring company that hired him that he would not appear in any production that idealized crime or made a hero of the lawbreaker.

1904 The War Department authorized eight companies of infantry to assist with protection of property as the World's Fair drew to a close. Fair President David R. Francis said he asked for the troops because "It has been the experience in all great exhibitions, that as they draw to a close, the destructive tendency on the part of visitors has resulted in great loss to government foreign and domestic exhibitors."

1907 Thousands of shoppers flocked to the grand opening of a store destined to become a St. Louis landmark. The eight-story Scruggs, Vandervoort and Barney store took up the entire block on Tenth, between Locust and Olive. It closed in 1967.

1909 A bill introduced by Councilman Schneiderhahn would require all moving picture film to pass the censorship of the Chief of Police. A film would have to receive a certificate of approval before it could be shown in St. Louis.

1928 *Ripley's Believe it or Not* says the first aerial bombing on US soil took place in Southern Illinois. Members of the Shelton gang dropped bombs from an old Curtiss Jenny over the Shady Rest hideout of the Charley Birger Gang. The hideout was along old Route 13, between Harrisburg and Marion.

1929 St. Louis stockbroker John F. Betts killed himself by taking poison, three weeks after the stock market crash. Betts was depressed after having to force many of his

clients to liquidate. Many of those clients had helped him through bankruptcy eight years earlier.

1933 A good portion of real estate from drought stricken Oklahoma, Kansas and Nebraska arrived in St. Louis. Winds blowing at 50 miles-per-hour created the worse dust storm in city history. Lambert Field was closed, and the dust caused misery for motorists, pedestrians and housewives.

1936 A syndicate headed by Donald Barnes and William DeWitt bought the St. Louis Browns. They planned to install lights at Sportsman's Park. As a young boy, DeWitt had sold peanuts and soda with his brother at Sportsmen's Park. The DeWitts would become sole owners of the Browns in 1949. Bill DeWitt Junior is one of the owner's of the Cardinals today.

1945 Former St. Louisan James Doolittle was here as part of the Armistice Day festivities. He led a parade downtown, cheered by a crowd of 300,000. The pilot who led the first American raid on Tokyo used to fly for Shell Oil in St. Louis.

1946 Albert Bond Lambert died at the age of 70. The aviation pioneer was the son of the man who invented Listerine. He developed a flying field near Bridgeton at his own expense, and offered it to the city at his cost. One of the financial backers of Charles Lindbergh's flight, Bond was also the first Olympic athlete from St. Louis. He took part in both of golf's only Olympic outings, in 1900 and here in 1904.

1947 The city of Crestwood was incorporated by a county court. The residents wanted to avoid annexation by the adjacent town of Oakland.

1955 The Cardinals fired manager Harry "the Hat" Walker. Fred Hutchinson replaced him. Walker had occasionally served as a pinch hitter. His firing would mean that there would be no player managers in the National League in 1956, the first time ever.

1991 Missouri State Treasurer Wendell Bailey tried to board an airplane with a pistol in his carry-on bag. It was later determined that the gun did not have the proper serial numbers. Bailey said he forgot the gun was in the bag.

1995 The Trans World Dome made its debut. A crowd of 65,598 watched as the Rams beat the Carolina Panthers 28-17. Some painting and electrical work remained to be done on the \$280 million facility. Fans said the sound system needed some work too.

2001 Albert Pujols of the Cardinals was chosen unanimously as the National League Rookie of the Year. Pujols had broken the National League records for RBI's and extra base hits. Albert tied the Cardinal record for hits by a rookie, set by Emmet "Snags" Heidrick in 1899.