

## **November 13**

**1833** On "The Night the Stars Fell," one of the largest meteor showers on record filled the skies over eastern Missouri. Many thought the shooting stars were a sign that judgement day had arrived. The Mormons camped out on the banks of the Missouri as they were being driven out of Jackson County considered them a good omen.

**1875** The Chief of the Customs Service here was convicted for his part in the "Whiskey Ring" scandal. Over 230 people, including 86 government officials, would be indicted in the scheme to defraud the government out of millions in tax revenue and funnel the funds to political campaigns. Among those indicted was President Ulysses S. Grant's private secretary, Gen. Orville E. Babcock

**1900** The United States Supreme Court was hearing a lawsuit by the City of St. Louis. The city sued to stop Chicago from dumping sewage into a canal that emptied into the Illinois River, and eventually into the Mississippi. City Counselor Benjamin Schumacher said there had been more typhoid cases reported here since the canal was built than at any time in city history.

**1921** St. Charles Rock Road was opened as a modern concrete highway from Wellston to the Highway Bridge at St. Charles. It was the first complete concrete highway in St. Louis County. (The Busch's had paved part of Gravois as it led to their property back in 1914)

**1934** The first penalty shot ever scored in the National Hockey League occurred at the Arena. Ralph Bowman of the St. Louis Eagles scored on his shot against Montreal Maroons goaltender Alex Connell. It was the second penalty shot attempted. The first one had failed three days earlier. In those days, penalty shots were taken from a 10-foot circle, 38 feet in front of the goal.

**1950** Mayor Darst announced plans to add fluoride to the water supply if tests showed it was feasible and would not be too expensive. No city had yet begun the controversial fluoridation of its water supply.

**1957** The Missouri, Kansas and Texas, (KATY) Railroad asked the Missouri Public Service Commission for approval to drop its last two passenger trains across Missouri. Railroad officials said the runs between St. Louis and Nevada, Missouri were losing 120-thousand dollars each year.

**1962** The landmark brick water tower at Blair Avenue and Bissell escaped the wrecking ball. The city had found it would cost \$38,000 to tear it down, and \$38,000 to restore it. The tower was designed by William S. Eames, and built in 1885-1886.

**1964** Bob Petit, the great St. Louis Hawks forward, became the first player in basketball history to score 20,000 points in his career. By the time he retired, he had racked up 20,880 points in his 11 seasons.

**1967** Dwight D. Eisenhower became the only President or ex-President to ride to the top of the Arch. Eisenhower authorized construction of the memorial on May 17, 1954. The Secret Service has never allowed a president to ride to the top, because of security concerns over the limited space.

**1968** Bob Gibson edged out Pete Rose to be named the National League Most Valuable Player, capping an unprecedented sweep of the MVP and Cy Young Awards. In "the year of the pitcher," Detroit's Denny McClain also took the MVP and Cy Young Awards in the American League.

**1969** The Pardue Brothers, James and John Junior, placed a bomb at the courthouse in Union, Missouri as a diversion while they robbed the United Bank of \$18,000. The brothers robbed five banks of about \$250,000 dollars, and killed their father and grandfather before they were captured in 1970.

**1979** Keith Hernandez of the Cardinals was named co-Most-Valuable Player in the National League. Hernandez had become the first infielder ever to win a batting title and a Gold Glove in the same season. He shared the MVP award with Willie Stargell of the Pirates. It marked the first time in Major League history that two players were named MVP of the same league.

**1983** Police found the body of Michele Frederick near a wrecked Corvette on an Arizona Road. The sports car belonged to August Busch the Fourth. Busch was found dazed and bloodied in his Tucson apartment. Witnesses said Busch and Frederick had been drinking at a bar before the crash, but key evidence in the case was lost. Busch was never charged with a crime.

**1986** Calgary Flames rookie Brett Hull scored his first National Hockey League goal. Hull was the Blues top star from 1987 until 1998. The Dallas Stars signed him in July 1998.

**1997** After 93 years, the old Route 115 bridge in St. Charles was history. Explosive charges sent the fourth and final span of the bridge crashing into the Missouri River.

**2003** The St. Louis Mills Shopping Center in Hazelwood opened. The \$250 million development was the first new shopping mall to open in the area in 16 years. It includes a skating rink, where the St. Louis Blues practice as well as the NASCAR Speed Park and 181 retailers. Officials said they expected it to become a top area tourist attraction.