

November 16

1795 Antoine Pierre Soulard married Julia Cerre, the daughter of St. Louis merchant Gabriel Cerre. Cerre gave his son-in-law 64 acres of land south of the city. The land was the subject of a legal battle after the Louisiana Purchase. Julia finally won the title in 1836, eleven years after her husband's death. The city annexed the Soulard farm in 1841. When Julia died in 1845, her will left two acres to the city, on the condition that the land would be used for a market.

1804 Spanish Lieutenant Governor Charles Delassus and his staff left St. Louis, ending 36 years of Spanish rule. The transfer of Upper Louisiana to France and then to the United States had been completed in March of 1804. But the Spaniards had to wait while Auguste Chouteau and his men built boats strong enough to carry the soldiers and their artillery.

1818 The birthday of St. Louis University. Bishop William DuBourg founded the forerunner of SLU, St. Louis Academy, on this date in a private home. Tuition was free. DuBourg had served as president of Georgetown University. The college failed in 1827, but was revived as St. Louis College under Jesuit administration in 1829. Father Peter Verhaegen served as the first Jesuit President. The school received its charter from the state in 1832, making SLU the oldest university west of the Mississippi.

1873 William Christopher Handy was born in a log cabin at Florence, Alabama. His father and grandfather were Methodist preachers, and the young Handy was inspired by the music of the church. After traveling to Chicago to play at the 1893 Exposition, he tried to make a living as a musician in St. Louis. Handy ended up penniless. While wandering the levee, he met a troubled woman who told him "Ma man's got a heart like a rock cast in de sea." The song "St. Louis Blues" was born.

1877 St. Louis saloon-keeper and boxer Tom Allen won the bare-knuckle boxing championship of the world. At the time, each knockdown signified the end of a round. Allen defeated Gilbert Tompkins in London in seven rounds.

1887 St. Louisans were called upon to vote on ending the teaching of German in the public grade schools. The *Globe-Democrat* said, "The language of Goethe, Schiller and Hegel can be served up afterward at the high school level. The language of Milton, Bacon, Scott, Byron, McCaulay and Dickens ought to be sufficient for the regular bill of fare."

1896 A group of 50 women from the World Christian Temperance Union, meeting in St. Louis, toured the opium dens and "immoral houses," pleading for the inhabitants to be "saved." Afterwards, several of the women said they would not have believed the tales of big city depravity if they had not seen it for themselves.

1904 World's Fair President David R. Francis proudly announced that the final installment had been paid in the government's \$4.6 million loan for the fair. Francis pointed out the loan had been repaid well before the close of the fair. That same day, the Liberty Bell left St. Louis after a five-month visit to the fair.

1905 The *Globe-Democrat* reported on the first hold-up here in which an auto was used. Five men pulled a gun on a bartender after buying drinks for the house. They made off with \$40 as the bartender blazed away with a gun of his own. The bandits left two cohorts behind in the excitement. They were quickly captured.

1914 The Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis opened. It was one of 12 established by the Federal Reserve Act of 1913.

1921 The federal government announced plans to make Scott Air Field the largest air base in the nation. Over 250 men and 30 planes were already in place. A huge dirigible hangar was nearing completion.

1964 The first unit of the stadium project opened. "Parking Garage B" at 500 Pine, could hold 1,040 cars.

1965 Voters approved a \$47 million junior college district bond issue. It called for the construction of permanent buildings at three campuses throughout the area. The measure failed to win a majority in the city. But the county voted for it by a margin of four to one.

1965 The strut placed between the legs of the Arch to stabilize it during construction was removed and the memorial stood on its own. Only the creeper cranes still marred the lines of the Arch. The cranes stayed up until March 1966.

1970 The Big Red were in first place in the NFC East after defeating the Dallas Cowboys, 38-0 in their first appearance on Monday Night Football. The Cardinals were seven and two, one game ahead of the Giants and two games ahead of the Cowboys. But the Gridbirds would only win one more game. Dallas went to the Super Bowl.

1970 The city ordered the St. Louis Housing Authority to demolish, repair or secure 12 vacant buildings in the Pruitt-Igoe complex. On December 8th, the body of eight-year-old Kim Gaines would be found in one of the unsecured buildings.

1975 With 20 seconds left in the game at Busch Stadium, Mel Gray of the Big Red made the famous "phantom catch." One ref signaled no catch, the other two signaled a touchdown and the score stood. The Cardinals went on to beat the Redskins in overtime, 20-17. The win put the Cardinals in first place. To this day, Washington fans insist he never made the catch.

1996 The Defense Department announced that Boeing was one of the finalists to build the Joint Strike Fighter. The announcement was a serious set back for McDonnell-Douglas. Less than a month later, Boeing announced the merger with Mac.

1999 The Cardinals obtained pitchers Darryl Kile, Dave Veres and Luther Hackman from the Rockies in exchange for pitchers Jose Jimenez, Manny Aybar and Rick Croushore, along with infielder Brent Butler.