

November 18

1824 The "retreating general," was born in Germany. Franz Sigel became a leader of the German community in St. Louis. When the war broke out, he organized a regiment to protect the arsenal here, and helped take the rebels at Camp Jackson. Sigel retreated at Carthage, Wilson's Creek and Pea Ridge. Each time he retreated, he was promoted.

1852 Today is the feast day of St. Rose Phillipine Duchesne. Mother Duchesne died at the convent she founded at St. Charles on this date in 1852. She came here with four other nuns in 1818 to establish a seminary and school for girls, the first in the United States founded by the Society of the Sacred Heart. The brick convent school building, erected in 1835, still stands today. The pioneer educator was canonized in 1988.

1877 The new German Protestant Orphan's Home on the St. Charles Rock Road was dedicated. It offered plenty of room for 150 boys, and replaced the home that had burned down the previous January. It still stands today, as the Missouri Baptist Children's Home.

1880 The *Republican* reported that Chicago was "in a ferment of delight" to learn that their city had overtaken St. Louis. The population of Chicago was now over 500,000. The population of St. Louis was about 350,000. Chicago probably passed St. Louis back in 1870, but politicians and the founder of the *Globe* "adjusted" the census results.

1925 Thousands turned out for a parade honoring Secretary of War Dwight Davis back home in St. Louis for the first time since his appointment. Davis was the former St. Louis parks commissioner. But he is better remembered as a great tennis player who founded an international tennis competition in 1900. He donated the "Davis Cup" for presentation to the winning team.

1949 Vice President Alben Barkley married a St. Louis widow, the former Mrs. Carlton Hadley, at St. John's Methodist Church. The vice-president's many trips to St. Louis had made headlines before the engagement was announced in October. The wedding marked the first time a vice-president had married while in office. Barkley was the first to refer his office as "Veep."

1953 Four St. Louisans had the dubious distinction of being the first speeders here to be nabbed by radar. The radar unit weighed 40 pounds and was packed in the trunk of a police car on the side of the road. The drivers pleaded guilty to exceeding the 40 miles-per-hour limit on the Express Highway (40) and paid a total of \$150 in fines.

1955 A bill to eliminate unnecessary stop signs was being debated in the Board of Aldermen. 45% all city intersections had stop signs at that time. The board asked Traffic Commissioner Charles Gontner to decide which ones would come down.

1963 Walt Disney agreed to consider working as a consultant on an attraction for the St. Louis riverfront. The plans for the "Riverfront Square" area fell through over financing, and the city's refusal of Walt's request to keep the attraction alcohol free.

1965 Over 17,000 machinists at McDonnell Aircraft walked off the job, Work on the Gemini missions here and at Cape Canaveral was halted. The strike threatened to postpone the first rendezvous in space.

1971 The church bells rang out at St. Ambrose on "The Hill" in celebration. The State Highway Department announced that the residents had won their long battle to keep their neighborhood from being cut in two by the new I-44. The Highway Department agreed to build an overpass at Edwards Avenue.

1971 The Missouri Highway Department approved a second bridge at St. Charles. It hoped to complete the 30 to 40 million-dollar project by 1979. Plans called for each of the two bridges to carry one-way traffic. The first four-lane bridge quickly became choked with traffic when it opened in 1958.

1978 The McDonnell-Douglas F-18 "Hornet" made its first flight.

1982 Workers began demolishing the old Kresge Building on the block bounded by Washington, St. Charles, Broadway and Sixth Streets. It was to be replaced by the new \$43 million headquarters of Edison Brothers.

1985 Willie McGee was named the National League MVP for 1985. He led the league with a .385 average. Willie also had the most hits, with 216.

1993 Nine-year-old Angie Houseman disappeared from her bus stop in St. Ann. Nine days later, her body was found in St. Charles County. The crime has never been solved.