

November 19

1904 A huge fire destroyed one of the finest buildings at the World's Fair, two weeks before it was to close. The Missouri Building burned quickly, but most of the treasures inside were saved. U.S. Marines rushed in to save the bell that Missourians had bought with their donations for the battleship *Missouri*.

1908 The balloon "Yankee" landed in Northeastern Georgia, 450 miles from its take off point in St. Louis. Albert Bond Lambert, the President of the St. Louis Aero Club, and pilot AE Honeywell came up short by 25 miles in their attempt to set a new distance record.

1920 Hundreds of St. Louisans ran for cover as a high-speed gun battle between police and a couple of robbery suspects careened through the heart of downtown. The cops spotted the suspects fleeing from a hold up, commandeered a car, and gave chase. The suspects were finally stopped after several bullets riddled their car.

1953 A Kansas City jury sentenced Carl Austin Hall and Bonnie Brown Heady to death for the kidnapping and murder of six-year-old Bobby Greenlease. They were sent to the gas chamber side-by-side on December 18, 1953, just 81 days after the murder! Before his execution, Hall gave a statement that he had the ransom money with him when he was arrested. Half of the \$600,000 ransom had disappeared.

1959 The eastbound lanes of the new Mark Twain Expressway were opened between Palm and O'Fallon Park. The highway was now complete from Palm and Branch to Locust Street downtown.

1962 A new 1.5 mile stretch of Lindbergh at Page was opened to traffic. The new road eliminated the worst part of what had become known as "The Deadman's Stretch."

1965 Cardinals General Manager Bob Howsam announced that the first game would be played in the new Busch Memorial Stadium on May 12, 1966. Just in case, duplicate tickets would be printed for the old ballpark on Grand. The new facility was originally to be ready by opening day, but a steel strike delayed construction.

1968 The first black man to hold the city-wide license collector's office, Benjamin Goins, took over. Governor Warren Hearnes appointed him to fill out the unexpired term of the late license collector, Joseph T. Hayden. Goins would be elected in his own right in 1970. He would fight a memorable battle for power with Representative William Clay and the machine of the Steamfitters Local 562.

1973 The Municipal Airport Commission approved a \$21.3 million plan to expand Lambert Field. The approval came despite the fact that the Department of Transportation had not decided whether to approve construction of the new airport at Columbia-Waterloo, Illinois.

1973 The U.S. Supreme Court threw out Missouri's restrictive anti-abortion laws. Attorney General John Danforth argued the case for the state. He said the court dodged the question of "whether an unborn child is a human life" when it ruled that abortion was legal.

1979 Chuck Berry was released from prison after serving 120 days for tax evasion. He served a term in the Alcoa Reformatory in 1944 and served three years in a federal prison for bringing a minor across a state line in 1961.

1981 The Rolling Stones came to the Checkerdome in support of their new album, "Tattoo You." Over 17,000 fans saw the first concert here by the Stones since 1973. Back then; they had played at Kiel Opera House. Which seated 3,500.

1988 The voice of the Blues broadcast his final game on KMOX. Dan Kelly came to St. Louis in 1968, bringing his signature call originated by the great Foster Hewitt, "He shoots, he scores!" He died of cancer on February 10, 1989. A shamrock hangs from the ceiling at the Savvis Center in his honor. His son John is a broadcaster for the Colorado Avalanche and Dan Junior is an announcer for the Columbus Blue Jackets.

1996 A collision between a private plane and a commuter aircraft at the airport in Quincy, Illinois left 14 people dead. The pilot of the small plane was from St. Louis.

1998 Mark McGwire finished second behind Sammy Sosa in the National League MVP balloting. Big Mac finished the season with a record 70 home runs, while Sammy had hit 66. But Sosa won the MVP balloting 438-272. That same day, the Cardinals traded Ron Gant and Jeff Brantley to Philadelphia for Eric Davis and relievers Scott Radinsky and Ricky Bottalico.