

November 20

1826 The Missouri Legislature met for the first time in Jefferson City. Prior to that time, the capitol had been located at St. Charles.

1861 The Pony Express made its final run. William Russell, Alexander Majors, and William Waddell founded the Central Overland California and Pike's Peak Express Company as a private enterprise. The first run from St. Joseph was made on April 3, 1860. The riders made the 2,000-mile trip to Sacramento in 10 and ½ days, cutting the delivery time in half. The operation never made money, and the completion of the telegraph on October 24, 1861 doomed the Pony Express.

1885 Kate Brewington Bennett died suddenly at the age of 37. She was the toast of society and considered the most beautiful woman in St. Louis. Other women envied her lily-white complexion. It turned out she had been taking small doses of arsenic in order to keep her pale complexion; not knowing arsenic is a poison that accumulates in the bloodstream. She is buried in Bellefontaine Cemetery.

1901 Police here were dismissing reports that the notorious "Hole in the Wall" gang was about to begin operations in St. Louis. A train robber arrested here was a former member of the gang. But police said Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, the leaders of the gang, had fled the country.

1908 The *Globe Democrat* reported that automobilists were upset at the way Clayton Road had been oiled in the county. The road was oiled in both directions to keep dust down. Usually, only one side at a time would be oiled. Drivers were convinced it was a scheme to keep them from speeding.

1919 The Womens Christian Temperance Union requested the public library to remove books and pamphlets on the home production of alcohol for drinks. Librarian A.E. Bostwick said they would be preserved for historical value, but would not be made available to the general public.

1920 Lester Benson broadcast the Harding-Cox election returns over his experimental radio station at the Benwood Radio Company here. Benson was the first man to broadcast from a moving car. He would put the station that became WIL on the air in April 1922.

1925 The \$2 million Missouri Theatre at Grand and Morgan was dedicated. It was described as the most beautiful in America. The lobby was a replica of the chapel at Versailles.

1955 Someone in St. Louis County was taking no chances on the passage of an upcoming bond issue for road improvements. They blew up a bridge on Old Baumgartner at Mattese Creek. Engineers said the explosives had been placed perfectly to inflict maximum damage on the 80-year-old one lane bridge.

1959 Alfred Corradi of Overland, 18 years old, killed three members of his close friend's family in Troy, Missouri. He said he was depressed because he couldn't go steady with his girlfriend.

1967 Lynn Patrick resigned as coach of the Blues. His assistant, Scotty Bowman, was named the new coach. Bowman would lead the Blues to the Stanley Cup finals in their first three seasons.

1975 J.D. Drew was born in Hahira, Georgia. The highly touted rookie turned down an \$11 million deal from the Philadelphia Phillies in 1997 and returned to the minors before being drafted by the Cardinals the next season. He made his debut on September 8, 1998. That event was over-shadowed by Mark McGwire's 62nd home run.

1978 Pressmen at the plant that printed the Globe and Post walked off the job, shutting the papers down. The strike would spread to other unions and drag on for 54 days.

1981 The Cardinals traded pitcher Silvio Martinez and Larry Sorenson to the Indians for Lonnie Smith. Just hours earlier, the Phillies had swapped Smith with the Indians for Bo Diaz.

2005 Rusty Wallace of St. Louis ended his 22-year NASCAR career with a 13th place finish in the Ford 400 at Homestead-Miami.