

November 21

1795 William Beaumont was born in Connecticut. Doctor Beaumont was the post surgeon at Fort Mackinac in Michigan when he treated trapper Alexis St. Martin for a gunshot wound in the chest. The wound healed in such a way as to leave a hole, through which Beaumont studied the digestive system. Beaumont became a renowned frontier doctor in St. Louis. Beaumont Street and high school are named in his honor.

1821 St. Ferdinand Church in Florissant was dedicated by Father de la Croix. The church was completed in 1832. Bishop Rosati consecrated it on September 2, 1832.

1831 The County Court appointed a group of commissioners to view and mark out a road from St. Louis to Fenton. Gravois road would become a state road in 1832. In 1914, it became the first concrete road in the county. August Busch footed half the bill for the road to be paved from the St. Louis city limits to the Busch estate at Grant's Farm.

1876 Notorious Missouri outlaws, the Younger Brothers, inexplicably pled guilty at their trial in Minnesota. They were sentenced to life at hard labor for their part in the disastrous raid on the bank at Northfield. Jesse James was nearly killed in the holdup, but escaped.

1877 A federal grand jury here indicted three contractors and a customs official on charges of conspiracy, fraud and stealing government property at the construction site of the "new" post office. One of the contractors was charged with using cement and broken stones when the contract called for solid rock piers.

1891 Ten representatives from small local unions representing 286 people met at Stolley's Dance Hall on Biddle Street. They formed the National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Union, now the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

1895 The conductor of the Washington University Glee Club was forced to resign after the faculty criticized a song he had written. The song ended with the words, "If you want a kiss, why take it." The university felt it unseemly to sing of "human passion."

1920 Stanley Frank Musial was born in Donora, Pennsylvania. Brooklyn Dodger fans gave him his nickname. Musial consistently teed off on Dodger pitching, and fans at Ebbetts Field were heard to murmur "Here comes that man again" as he came to bat. Writer Bob Broeg was soon referring to him as "Stan the Man." Stan played for the Cardinals for a record 22 years. After he retired in 1963, he served as GM and senior vice president of the team. He is still the Cardinals number one ambassador.

1930 Lester Barth and Dewey Goebbel were gunned down by men in a speeding car in front of Oldani's Grocery on the Hill. They were the latest victims in the bloody war between two Italian gangs. The papers said the gangsters were "riddled with a volume of fire perhaps never equaled in St. Louis."

1952 Jacob Katz tried to rob an armored car in front of the Mound City Trust Company on Natural Bridge. He used an ammonia bomb that sent a stream of blinding gas into the face of the guard, Thomas Doerflinger. Doerflinger managed to get off a shot, killing Katz. But he died a few days later of complications caused by the ammonia.

1961 The first train passed over the relocated railroad tracks on the riverfront. A battle over who would pay to put the elevated tracks beneath the Arch was one of the chief roadblocks to construction for 26 years. Work finally began in June 1959.

1963 "Gussie" threw a major roadblock in front of plans for Walt Disney to build a family oriented attraction in St. Louis. Disney would not allow liquor to be sold at the proposed "Riverfront Square." At a meeting attended by Disney, August Busch Junior loudly said "Any man who thinks he can design an attraction that is going to be a success in this city and not serve beer or liquor ought to have his head examined." Within a few months, the deeply offended Disney began buying up land in Florida.

1967 St. Louis County voters approved a proposal for a new 20-million-dollar government center in Clayton. The Courthouse, built in 1948, would be retained.

1981 Nearly 80 percent of the TV's in St. Louis were tuned in to *Dallas* on Channel Four. Everyone wanted to know "Who Shot J.R.?" Restaurants reported a very sharp drop in business and the episode was broadcast during the races at Fairmount Park. The most famous TV cliffhanger ever revealed that the shooter was Kristin, J.R.'s scorned sister-in-law and jilted lover.

1999 Alvin Cash died at the age of 60. Alvin began performing with his brother as The Step Brothers on the *St. Louis Hop* TV show in the late 50's. In 1965, Alvin Cash and the Crawlers scored a top 15 hit with "Twine Time." The instrumental is now considered a precursor to hip-hop and rap. His follow up records included "The Funky Washing Machine," "The Ali Shuffle" and "The Philly Freeze."

2003 The Cardinals traded Tino Martinez to the Tampa Bay Devil Rays in exchange for relief pitcher Evan Rust and a player to be named later. The Cardinals ended up paying almost \$7 million of Tino's salary for 2004. The Redbirds signed Martinez as a free agent in 2002, but he was a disappointment in St. Louis.