

November 22

1719 A letter from Charles Claude du Tisne constituted the first written record of an overland expedition to explore what is now Missouri. Du Tisne, a Canadian officer, was commissioned to meet the Paduoca, Pawnee and Osage Indians. He traveled from Kaskaskia through what are now Washington, Crawford, Phelps, Miller, Benton, St. Clair and Bates Counties.

1729 Pierre Laclede Liguist was born in Bedous, near the French Pyrenees. He would come to New Orleans and form a company to trade with the savages of the Mississippi. In 1763, he led an expedition up river to choose a site for a trading post. The following year, he sent young August Chouteau to oversee construction on the site that would become the city of St. Louis.

1877 What may have been the first ever broadcast concert took place in St. Louis. The concert was transmitted over the newfangled telephone, which had been installed in a few homes in the city by George Durant. One owner thought a concert from the home of William Sherman to all points on the phone system would be a good way to introduce people to the telephone.

1907 Both houses of the Municipal Assembly passed a bill authorizing the long awaited "Free Bridge" at Chouteau. They did so over a veto by Mayor Rolla Wells. Wells said the city could not afford to maintain the bridge. He also objected to the location.

1944 The motion picture *Meet Me in St. Louis* made its world premiere here. Judy Garland starred in the story of the Smith family, who lived at 5135 Kensington Avenue on the eve of the 1904 World's Fair. The movie includes classic songs such as "The Trolley Song" and "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas." It was nominated for four Academy Awards, including best song for "The Trolley Song."

1955 St. Louis County voters approved a \$39.7 million-dollar bond issue. The vote provided funds to make sure the proposed Mark Twain and Ozark Expressways extended past the city limits. It also included money for the proposed Innerbelt Expressway and the extension of the Daniel Boone past its current dead end at Brentwood Blvd and Eager Road.

1961 The Union Pacific won permission to discontinue commuter service from St. Louis to Pacific. The city of Kirkwood, loyal commuters, and railroad employees opposed the move.

1963 *Cleopatra* was playing at the Fox. Phyliss Diller was appearing at the Crystal Palace in Gaslight Square. The big news that morning was a train collision in North St. Louis the day before that left several persons injured. Seven civil rights demonstrators had been arrested during a protest that tied up downtown traffic. Famous-Barr announced it had selected a site at Lindbergh and the Rock Road for a \$10 million

shopping center. An item on page four of the *Globe-Democrat* mentioned that President Kennedy was in Dallas.

1963 On KMOX, Rex Davis was conducting an interview about a mass polio immunization set for that weekend when newsman John Sabin rushed in with the bulletin from Dallas. A banner proclaiming "Beat Kennedy" was taken down from the lobby of the Sheraton-Jefferson Hotel, where a GOP leadership conference was underway. Classes were cancelled at Webster, Maryville and Fontbonne. Hundreds of St. Louis University students gathered at St. Francis Xavier Church. KFUP broadcast Brahms' "Requiem" and other radio and TV stations suspended regular programming. Southwestern Bell reported call volume was two times the normal level.

1963 The news cast a pall over the city's night spots. Phyllis Diller cancelled her performance at Gaslight Square. The Chase Club at Chase-Park Plaza Hotel was closed. Most of the other establishments remained open, but the crowds were subdued.

1967 Scotty Bowman took over as coach of the Blues, replacing Lynn Patrick. He coached the Blues until 1970, and returned for another stint behind the bench in 1971.

1980 Kenneth M. Swyers of Overland slid down the north leg of the Arch to his death. He had parachuted to the top of the Arch as a publicity stunt. But the wind caught his chute, and sent him down the side.

1983 A federal grand jury indicted Seventh Ward Alderman Sorkis Webbe Junior on charges of harboring a fugitive. He was charged with helping hide David Liesure. Liesure was charged in connection with the murders of organized crime figures James Michaels Senior and George Faheen.

1994 The pilot of TWA Flight 427 out of Lambert Field narrowly averted disaster. At the last second, he spotted a Cessna on the same runway as the TWA plane. He swerved to the left, but struck the Cessna, killing the pilot and a passenger. The crash ripped open the airliner's fuel tank. But the pilot managed to bring the plane to a halt. No one on board the TWA plane was seriously hurt.

2000 Ben Kerner died at the age of 87. He helped shape the sports landscape of the city in the 1950's and 60's. Kerner brought the NBA Hawks here in 1955. The Hawks won five consecutive division titles beginning in 1957 and won the 1957-58 championships. Kerner sold the Hawks after attendance dipped in 1968, and the team moved to Atlanta. He would later be part of the group that brought the Steamers here in 1980.