

November 23

1817 The Reverend Salmon Giddings founded the first regularly organized Presbyterian church in St. Louis. The congregation had nine members. By 1827, it had grown to 90 and was on its way to becoming the leading Protestant church in the area. Giddings died in January, 1828 after falling off a horse. The presbytery of eastern Missouri and western Illinois is named in honor of Giddings and Elijah Lovejoy.

1893 The present Sacred Heart Church building in Florissant was dedicated, replacing one built in 1866. The spire can be seen for miles around.

1900 City officials compiled a lengthy list of improvements needed before the world's fair. Among the beautification, park improvements and sewer projects was a proposal to tame the pesky River Des Peres. The plan would enclose it as a sewer through the park. Officials agreed it would be costly, but said it would be an insult to visitors if it were not done.

1922 A group of prominent St. Louis physicians announced they were opposed to the Volstead Act. They said prohibition was "provocative of disrespect for the law." They blamed consumption of "deliterious concoctions and beverages" for causing injury and death.

1926 It was reported that the bloody bootleggers war here appeared to have come to an end. So far, 15 had been killed and 20 wounded in the war between the Italian and "Cuckoo" gangs. Informants said Italian gangsters from New York had come in and forced rival gang members to agree to stay out of each other's territory.

1926 A corporation representing several civic and business interests was granted a license to operate a radio station by the Commerce Department. The "Voice of St. Louis" group applied for the call letters KMO. But those call letters were already assigned, so they tacked an X onto the end.

1930 Browns outfielder Red Badgro snagged his third touchdown pass of the season. He was playing football for the New York Giants at the time. He had hit .284 for the Browns in 1929 and .239 in 1930. A three-time All Pro, Badgro would be elected to the Football Hall of Fame in 1981.

1934 Dizzy Dean demanded \$25,000 to pitch for the Cardinals in 1935. Owner Sam Breadon was offering \$15,000 to Dizzy and \$7500 to brother Paul. In 1934, Dizzy won 30 games. Paul won 19.

1954 Glenn Brummer was born in Olney, Illinois. He secured his place in Cardinal history by stealing home with two out in the 12th inning of a critical game against the Giants on August 22, 1982. Manager Whitey Herzog was just as surprised as the 50,000 plus fans at Busch Stadium. The Giants claimed the pitch to David Green was strike three, but the umpire never actually called it.

1962 The St. Louis County Junior College Board of Trustees announced it was considering the site of the Forest Park Highlands Amusement Park next to the Arena as a possible site for a new junior college.

1963 A day after President Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, the dedication of the newly-widened Manchester Road in Ellisville was postponed. Also cancelled were two St. Louis Symphony Programs featuring Captain Kangaroo. The Washington University game with Washington and Lee was postponed. Authorities said a planned mass polio immunization would go on as scheduled, since the vaccine was perishable.

1965 Inmates at Menard Prison in Southern Illinois rioted. Three guards were killed and six were wounded. KMOX obtained a helicopter and flew Jack Buck to the scene, where he interviewed the ringleaders from solitary.

1970 Former St. Louis Mayor Raymond Tucker died. One of the city's most dynamic Mayors, he was elected to three terms from 1953 to 1965. His administration oversaw a massive program of slum clearance, including the clearing of 454 acres in the Mill Creek Valley. He also worked for the completion of the Arch and Busch Stadium, fair employment legislation and an ordinance forbidding discrimination in public accommodations.

1971 The city of St. Louis asked the federal government for \$250,000 to experiment with a partial demolition at the troubled Pruitt-Igoe housing complex. A task force appointed by Mayor Cervantes recommended reducing some of the empty buildings from eleven stories to four or five.

1971 Governor Warren Hearnes dedicated the new County Government Center in Clayton.

1999 Sherman George became the first African-American fire chief in the 142-year history of the St. Louis Fire Department. He replaced Neil Svetanics, who was retiring after 13 years as chief. George had served as assistant chief under Svetanics since 1990. He pledged to work to bring racial harmony to the department.