

## October 2

**1820** The legislature elected David Barton and Thomas Hart Benton as the first two Missouri Senators. Lawmakers met at the first Missouri capitol at St. Charles. Barton served until 1830, but Benton was a major force in American and Missouri history well into the 1850's. Benton once shot it out with Andrew Jackson and killed the son of his leading opponent in a duel on "Bloody Island."

**1864** After turning away from St. Louis, rebels under Sterling Price rode into Pacific. They burned the bridges, the depot, and even the restaurants. The following day, the rebels reached Hermann. But Union General William Rosecrans had rushed reinforcements to ring Jefferson City, so Price again was forced to turn away from his objective.

**1865** The first regularly-scheduled trains began service between St. Louis and Kansas City. The trip took about 18 hours. The rails had been laid westward from St. Louis starting in 1852, and reached Sedalia in 1861. But the civil war delayed construction to Kansas City.

**1893** Erastus Wells died. Wells was a Missouri Congressman and founder of the St. Louis streetcar system. He built the first streetcar railway west of the Mississippi here, and promoted his narrow gauge railway that linked St. Louis and Florissant. The railway ran past his country estate, "Wellston."

**1900** A huge crowd gathered at the St. Louis Exposition to witness the attempt by H-C Esslytyn of Connecticut to break his own speed record of a mile in 1 minute 6 seconds in his famous electric car. The best he could do that day was 1:32.

**1907** President Theodore Roosevelt stopped off in St. Louis. He was on his way to Memphis by steamboat to attend a meeting of river interests. In a speech at the Jai-Alai Building, Roosevelt pledged administration support for improvements on the Mississippi.

**1909** As part of the celebration marking the centennial of the incorporation of St. Louis, every boat, train, and factory whistle in the city sounded a welcome for a fleet of four navy torpedo boats.

**1926** The Cardinals played their first World Series game in franchise history. The birds dropped game one of the 1926 World Series to the Yankees, 2-1. Lou Gehrig drove in Babe Ruth with the winning run before a Yankee Stadium crowd of 61,658.

**1958** A resolution to create the "Municipal County of St. Louis" was presented to the Board of Freeholders by chairman Charles Vatterot. The proposed governmental unit would replace the myriad of municipalities if the plan were approved.

**1960** The Democratic nominee for president, John F. Kennedy, was in St. Louis for a

fund-raiser at the Chase. The next day, he took a motorcade to Alton, and addressed thousands of people at the site of the final Lincoln-Douglas debate in 1858.

**1960** The Giants beat the football Cardinals 35-14 in the Big Red's debut at old Busch Stadium. A crowd of 26,089 paid to see the game. It marked the first NFL game played in St. Louis in 26 years.

**1961** George Vierheller announced he was retiring. Known as "Mister Zoo," Vierheller oversaw the zoo's development from a ramshackle collection to one of the finest zoos in the world. He had served as director for 37 years.

**1964** The Cardinals were in first place, just 1/2 game ahead of Cincinnati, after losing a game to the Mets. Al Jackson out dueled Bob Gibson, 1-0.

**1965** St. Louisan Fontella Bass entered the Billboard chart with "Rescue Me." The record went to number four pop, and number one on the R and B chart.

**1965** The 66 By-pass from Edwardsville over what is now Dunn Road and Lindbergh through Hazelwood and Kirkwood was eliminated. The new I-270 and I-244 replaced it.

**1968** In the opening game of the 1968 World Series, Bob Gibson struck out a record 17 Detroit Tigers. The Cardinals won got to Detroit ace Denny McLain and won the game 4-0. Both McLain and Gibson would be named as their league's Most Valuable Players in "The Year of the Pitcher."

**1969** Fairview Heights was incorporated as a city. The area was known as Prairie Ridge until about 1900, when the Fairbrother Realty Company began promoting lots in "Fairview." In the mid-1960's voters were asked to choose between Fairview Heights, Lincoln Heights or Prairie Ridge as the name of their community.

**1977** Bob Gassoff's number three became the first number to be retired by the Blues. Gassoff spent just four seasons as the team enforcer before a motorcycle accident near Garry Unger's farm cut his life short on Memorial Day, 1977. The Blues collapsed after the tragedy and failed to reach the playoffs the next two seasons.

**1978** The US Air Force agreed not to hold aerial maneuvers over Busch Stadium during events. On September 10, five Air Force choppers flew over the stadium, prompting fan complaints to the FAA. A charter helicopter service also agreed to end flights over the stadium during games.

**1991** Lee Smith of the Cardinals set a National League record with his 47<sup>th</sup> save of the season, sealing a 6-4 win over Montreal at Busch Stadium. Bruce Sutter had set the previous mark at 45 in 1984. In 2004, Jason Isringhausen would match Smith's mark, which was still a team record.

**2005** In the final regular season game at Busch Stadium, the Cardinals came from

behind to beat the Cincinnati Reds 7-5. Before the game, Cards fans cheered a parade of Cardinal greats. Jason Isringhausen struck out to end the game at 4:29 p.m.