

October 7

1794 The town of Bridgeton was laid out as "Villa a Robert" by the Spanish commander, Francois Dunegant of San Fernando. (Florissant) The French called the settlement already in place "Marais des Liard." (It means "cottonwood swamp," or perhaps "under the runway.")

1817 The *Constitution*, the second steamboat to make it to St. Louis, became the first in a long line of excursion steamers here. It took a party of St. Louisans up the river to Fort Bellefontaine.

1819 The Reverend John Ward held the first Episcopal services in St. Louis. The services were held in the Baptist Church. After that first service, Thomas Riddick began organizing a parish.

1851 Chris Von der Ahe was born in Hille, Prussia. Von der Ahe was a saloon owner who knew nothing about baseball. He saw it as a way to boost business. He purchased the decrepit Grand Avenue Baseball Grounds and revived the Browns in 1881. "Der Boss President" would prove to be a 19th century version of George Steinbrenner, selling top stars and using 18 managers in seven years. He ran an amusement park at the stadium and was the first owner to allow Sunday games and beer sales at the ballpark.

1864 Having turned away from St. Louis, the rebels under Sterling Price massed outside Jefferson City. After a couple of skirmishes, Price decided not to attack. His spies told him he was outnumbered, and he turned towards Leavenworth, Kansas.

1878 Tony Faust's Restaurant became the first building in St. Louis to be lit by electricity. The machinery was purchased in Paris, where it was reported many buildings--and even some streets, were lit by electricity.

1885 Vice President Thomas Hendricks was astonished to see a huge parade from his room at the Southern Hotel. Surprised at what he thought was a warm welcome, Hendricks began delivering a speech to the estimated 25,000 gathered below his balcony. That's when he found out the parade was not for him. It was for the St. Louis Browns, who were about to play Chicago for the championship.

1905 The first automobile factory in St. Louis opened. Officers of the Dorris Motor Car Company leased a plant at 1219 North Vandeventer. They expected to begin production within a month. At one time, St. Louis was the second-largest producer of automobiles in the nation.

1909 Glenn Curtis made the first airplane flight in St. Louis. Albert Bond Lambert offered Curtiss \$6,000 to bring his "Golden Flyer" for an aviation meet during the Centennial Week Celebrations. A crowd of over 300,000 waited for hours to see Curtiss

fly about 60 yards in four seconds. Curtiss made seven flights during the meet, the longest lasting about one and ½ minutes.

1918 Mayor Henry Kiel declared a state of emergency as the toll from the Spanish Flu continued to rise. The order gave City Health Commissioner Max Starkloff power to close the schools, theaters and other public places. The order helped lower the death rate in St. Louis. There was no such order in Belleville, and the town suffered one of the highest death rates in the state.

1926 A running gun battle between a carload of detectives and a car filled with gangsters ended with one gangster dead, and a detective and gangster wounded. The special squad formed to investigate the deadly war between the Italian and Cuckoo gangs had tried to stop the vehicle to question the occupants.

1927 The list of buildings condemned because of the tornado stood at 729. The number of seriously damaged buildings was placed at 1,350. St. Louisans had raised \$725,000 for relief. Red Cross officials said no other city had ever raised so much money in such a short time.

1946 Over 500 thousand people lined the streets for the first post-war Veiled Prophet parade. The last parade had been in 1942, when the prophet led a War Bond march.

1948 The migration of the big department stores to the suburbs began, as the Famous-Barr store at Forsyth and Jackson in Clayton opened. Samuel Marx of Chicago, the uncle of Morton “Buster” May, designed the ultra-modern \$2.75 million dollar store. The Clayton store closed in July 1991, just a few weeks before the new Famous opened in the Galleria.

1951 Rogers Hornsby returned to the major leagues after a 14-year absence. He signed a deal to manage the Browns. Hornsby had led the Cardinals to their first world championship in 1926, and skippered the Brownies from 1933 to 1937.

1953 Police in St. Joseph found the body of Bobby Greenlease buried in the backyard of Bonnie Heady’s Home. Carl Hall said a man named Thomas Marsh had killed the child. Heady admitted her role in the kidnapping, but denied any knowledge of the murder. On October 13, they admitted the truth.

1954 It was announced that there would be no pro-football in St. Louis this year. The St. Louis Knights of the Central States League folded due to poor attendance and the guarantees paid to opposing teams. The Knights had won the championship in their first season.

1956 Brian Sutter was born in Viking, Alberta. One of six brothers to play in the NHL, number 11 spent 12 seasons with the Blues. Sutter was the heart and soul of the team, known for always giving 100%. He was coach of the Blues from 1988 until 1992. His number was retired on December 30, 1988.

1959 Illinois Governor William Stratton announced Illinois would join Missouri to build a new free bridge linking downtown with East St. Louis. Tentative plans called for the bridge to be built at Poplar Street. It would carry U.S. 40 and 66 over the river, and be a link in the new federal interstate highway system.

1960 The Board of Aldermen passed a bill to untangle one of the city's biggest traffic problems. The measure called for the widening of "The Express Highway" to eight lanes from Tamm to Boyle. A cloverleaf would be built at the interchange for Kingshighway, relocated to the southeast corner of Forest Park.

1964 The Cardinals beat the Yankees 9-4 in the first World Series game played in St. Louis since 1946. Ray Sadecki and Barney Schultz combined for the win. Hometown hero Mike Shannon slugged a homer in the four-run Cardinal sixth inning.

1967 For the first time, a post season game took place at Busch Stadium. In Game Three of the 1967 World Series at Busch, Nelson Briles swung the series towards the Cards. Briles hurled a seven hitter as the Cardinals won 5-2. Mike Shannon chipped in a home run, the first post season homer at Busch. The crowd of 54,575 was the first crowd of more than 50,000 at the stadium.

1968 Jose Feliciano interpreted the national anthem in a modern style before Game Five of the World Series between the Tigers and the Cards in Detroit. He was roundly booed. His controversial rendition would later be released as a single.

1969 The Cardinals traded Curt Flood, Joe Hoerner, and Byron Browne to the Phillies for Richie Allen, Cookie Rojas and Jerry Johnson. Flood refused to report to the Phillies, beginning a legal battle. Flood lost, but his fight cleared the way for the end of the "reserve clause." Because Flood refused to report, the Cardinals sent Willie Montanez and a minor leaguer to the Phils to complete the deal.

2003 Members of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 655 walked off the job at Shop n' Save. Schnucks and Dierbergs locked out their UFCW employees. The first major grocery strike in St. Louis history was settled 24 days later.