

## October 12

**1861** James Buchanan Eads launched the first iron-clad gunboat at Carondelet. The *St. Louis* would become the first ironclad ever to see battle. In August 1861 Eads signed a contract calling for seven gunboats to be completed in just 64 days. It actually took 100 days, still an amazing feat. The ships were vital in the Union's first major victories, at Fort Donelson and Fort Henry in Tennessee. A little known general named Ulysses S. Grant led those campaigns.

**1870** Robert E. Lee died in Virginia at the age of 63. St. Louis owes a great debt to Lee. As a young Colonel in the Corps of Engineers at Jefferson Barracks, he oversaw construction of a series of dikes. His system kept the Mississippi channel from moving to the east side of Bloody Island and leaving St. Louis landlocked. The dikes eliminated the island, which is now part of the East St. Louis riverfront.

**1877** Ralph Clayton deeded 102 ½ acres of his land to St. Louis County, newly separated from the city. The land was to be used for a new courthouse, provided the county named the county seat after Clayton.

**1885** The first long-distance call across Missouri was made. Kansas City Mayor Jimmie Jones called from St. Louis to the offices of the Pacific Mutual Phone Company in Kansas City.

**1905** A St. Louis County Court was hearing the first lawsuit here stemming from a fatal automobile accident. The jury would award \$3,000 to the widow of a man killed when an automobile hit his wagon.

**1929** C.L. Grigg of St. Louis was introducing his new soft drink. Grigg had formed the Howdy Soft Drink Company to market his orange drink in 1920. His new product was called "Bib-Label Lithiated Lemon-Lime Soda." It sold well, despite the name and the fact that the new drink was more expensive than most of the 600 lemon lime sodas already on the market. In 1931, Grigg changed the name to "7-Up."

**1935** Dick Gregory was born in St. Louis. The African-American comedian and civil rights activist arrived on the national scene after a stint at the Playboy Club in Chicago in 1961. He was the first black comedian to address poverty, racism and segregation before white audiences. In the late 60's he began drawing attention to the anti-war movement and other causes through a series of well-publicized fasts.

**1950** President Truman was here to see his sister, Mary Jane Truman, installed as the top state leader of the Eastern Star Order. From St. Louis, Truman was headed to Wake Island, where he planned to meet for the first time with his outspoken far eastern commander, General Douglas MacArthur.

**1955** The Cardinals made their second managerial change of 1955, replacing Harry Walker with Fred Hutchinson.

**1964** The Cardinals took a three-games-to-two lead in the World Series. Tim McCarver's home run off Pete Mikkelson of the Yankees gave the Redbirds a 5-2 win in Game Five.

**1964** Martin Luther King made his final appearance in St. Louis. Speaking Kiel Auditorium and at the Jefferson Hotel, King said religious bodies must take the lead in booting out racial prejudice in their own congregations and institutions. The following Day, King was named as the recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. Less than four years later, he was dead.

**1965** The Symphony Orchestra's 87th season was saved, thanks to Mayor Cervantes and the football Cardinals. The mayor intervened in a wage dispute and the symphony signed a three-year deal. The pact called for part of the musicians pay to come from an annual exhibition game played by the Big Red.

**1967** The Cardinals defeated the Boston Red Sox 7-2 in Game Seven of the 1967 World Series. That morning, a Boston newspaper was confident the Sox would win, because ace Jim Lonborg would be on the mound. The headline read "Lonborg and Champagne." The headline angered and inspired the Cardinals. They chanted "Lonborg and Champagne" in the locker room after the win. In 27 innings pitched during the series, Bob Gibson allowed just three runs and 14 hits. Lou Brock collected 12 hits for a .414 average and a Series-record seven stolen bases. He also tied a Series mark with eight runs.

**1972** Mercantile Trust Company announced plans for a \$150 million redevelopment project downtown. The heart of the six-block project was to be a 35-story office tower. At that time, it would be the tallest building in St. Louis.

**1982** Game One of the 1982 World Series at Busch turned into a rout. The Milwaukee Brewers blasted the Cardinals 10-0. Paul Molitor led the Brew Crew attack, as he went five-for-six at the plate.

**2001** The Pulitzer Foundation for the Arts Building opened at Washington and Spring in Grand Center. The design by Tadao Ando was praised around the world. The facility holds the collection of Joseph Pulitzer Junior, including works by Picasso, Monet, Rodin and Andy Warhol. It shares a courtyard with the new Contemporary Art Museum.