

## **October 25**

**1811** Carl Ferdinand Wilhelm Walther was born in Germany. He came to St. Louis in 1839, in search of religious freedom. He is largely responsible for founding the largest Lutheran Synod in America, the Missouri Synod. He established a seminary in Perry County, which was moved here and became Concordia Seminary.

**1874** The first horse-drawn, double-decker streetcar appeared on the streets of St. Louis. The Northwestern St. Louis Railway, which introduced the new cars, was also trying steam-powered streetcars.

**1904** Roy Knabenshue made the first controlled flight in St. Louis. At the World's Fair, he took the controls of Thomas Baldwin's motorized dirigible, the "California Arrow." After a few minutes, the engine died. The dirigible barely cleared an exposition building and missed the Ferris Wheel by inches as it drifted east. Knabenshue landed about 15 miles away, near East St. Louis.

**1909** President William Howard Taft was in St. Louis, promoting his ambitious plans for developing the Mississippi River. Taft spoke before a crowd of 15,000 at the Coliseum on Jefferson. The president's entourage of cabinet members, senators and governors traveled aboard a fleet of 15 steamboats.

**1918** A city ordinance changed the name of Berlin Street to Pershing. With anti-German sentiment running high, the names of several other streets would also be changed. Kaiser became Gresham, Brunswick became January, Wiesenhan was changed to Bonita, Hasburger to Cecil and Helvetia to Stolle. Von Versen was re-named in honor of Jack Enright, one of the first Americans to die in the war.

**1930** TWA established the first all-air coast-to-coast passenger service. The flights between New York and Los Angeles were made during the day, with an overnight stop in Kansas City. The overall travel time was 36 hours.

**1947** Business was halted for one minute in St. Louis, as the first flag-draped coffin bearing the body of one of 2,000 St. Louisans killed in World War Two arrived at Union Station.

**1960** The St. Louis Restaurant Association passed a measure asking its members to serve all persons, regardless of race, color or religion. The president of the association denied the move was in reaction to a series of sit-ins at Pope's Cafeteria downtown.

**1967** Tornadoes struck throughout the St. Louis area, damaging hundreds of homes in St. Charles County and North St. Louis County. The Arnold area and the East Side was also hit. At least 14 people were injured, but no one was killed.

**1982** A St. Louis family of four died in the crash of a single engine plane in dense fog about a mile north of the St. Charles Municipal Airport. Killed were Richard and Laurie Krietner, and their daughters, Amanda and Krista.

**1987** The Cardinals injury-riddled offense was no match for the Minnesota Twins. The Cards dropped Game Seven of the 1987 world series in the MetroDome. The final was 4-2. In the series, the Cardinals won every game played at Busch, but the Twins won the games in the dome.

**1988** Federal officials signed a contract guaranteeing \$288 million to build the Metro-Link light rail system from Lambert Field to East St. Louis. East St. Louis Mayor Carl Officer vowed to fight the project unless 1/2 of the jobs went to minority workers.

**1993** Actor Vincent Price died at the age of 82. The Country Day graduate originally planned to become an art historian before he turned to the theatre. His first movie appearance came in *Service Deluxe* in 1938. He played many great historical figures but is best remembered for his roles in Roger Corman's adaptations of Edgar Allan Poe horror tales. He not only provided the "rap" on Michael Jackson's "Thriller" but also appeared in videos with Alice Cooper and Ringo Starr.

**1995** Anheuser Busch announced it was selling the St. Louis Cardinals. The brewery had bought the team back in 1953. Fred Hanser formed a group to buy the club with his old Country Day School classmates, Bill DeWitt and Drew Bauer. Bill DeWitt's father owned the Browns from 1949 to 1951. Tiny Eddie Gaedel wore Bill's batboy uniform when he made his pinch hitting appearance in the most famous stunt in baseball history on August 19, 1951.

**1997** One of St. Louis' most off-beat attractions opened its doors. The City Museum was the brainchild of Gail and Bob Cassilly, who brought an eclectic mix of hands-on exhibits and artwork for the young and old to the former International Shoe Building at 15th and Lucas.

**1999** As a group of protesters looked on, the first home was demolished to make room for the controversial W-One-W plan to expand Lambert Field. The plan called for the demolition of 2,000 homes and businesses in Bridgeton.

**1999** The controversy over the failed nomination of African American Missouri Supreme Court Justice Ronnie White to a seat on the federal bench continued. Republicans were stung by allegations of racism against Senator John Ashcroft for leading the fight against the nomination. The GOP released a photo of Missouri Governor Mel Carnahan performing in black face at a 1960 Kiwanis Club fundraiser.

**2004** The Gateway Arch was bathed in pink light, to promote Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Senator Jim Talent introduced special legislation to allow the display. Since 2001, floodlights had illuminated the Arch at night. It was lit for a short time in a rainbow of colors back in 1995 to promote an ice show at Kiel Center.