

October 26

1762 Amos Stoddard was born in Woodbury, Connecticut. As the first American civil commandant of St. Louis, he represented two countries in the formal transfer of Louisiana. On March 9, 1804, he received Upper Louisiana from Spain as a commissioner of the French Republic. The next day, he took possession in the name of the United States government.

1792 Samuel Hawken was born in Hagerstown, Maryland. With his brother Jacob, he designed and built the famous Hawken rifle in St. Louis beginning in 1822. "The Gun That Opened the West" was the weapon of choice for trappers and traders. Western figures such as Daniel Boone, Davey Crockett and Kit Carson, John Fremont and Jim Bridger carried Hawken rifle.

1834 The "new" St. Louis cathedral was consecrated. The night before, someone jammed some cannons that were to have been used in the ceremony. Some enraged Frenchmen thought it was the work of the Presbyterians. They wanted to turn the cannons on the Presbyterian Church, but cooler heads prevailed. Three companies of militia and a military band from Jefferson Barracks took part in the eight hour-long ceremonies. An African American man from Alton, William Johnson was the only one brave enough to climb the scaffold to put the final stone in place. Bishop Rosati awarded him a \$5 gold piece for his effort.

1867 The town now known as Millstadt was incorporated as Centerville. The inhabitants thought the name was appropriate, since the town was seven miles from Belleville, seven miles from Columbia, and seven miles from Lake Pittsburgh. The name was changed in 1880.

1903 Calls were increasing for improvements in the city transit system before the world's fair. A balmy Sunday afternoon had brought hordes of sightseers to the fairgrounds, and the streetcar system had been overloaded.

1905 A bill to establish a zoological garden in Forest Park was introduced in the city council. The measure called for the zoo to be located in the western part of the park. It provided for the hiring of a superintendent at \$1500 dollars-per-year.

1924 The cornerstone was laid for the new Concordia Seminary in the "DeMun Tract" west of Forest Park. The dignitaries pledged that the seminary would teach "strictly orthodox" Lutheran views.

1925 Almost the entire town of Fenton and a big crowd from St. Louis County turned out for the dedication of a new highway bridge over the Meramec. The bottle of pre-prohibition champagne put aside for the christening turned up missing before the ceremony.

1926 Voters overwhelmingly rejected a Board of Freeholders plan for the county and its municipalities to be absorbed by the city. Several thousand people celebrated on the lawn at the county courthouse.

1946 The world's first two-engine helicopter, the McDonnell XHJD One "Whirlaway" made its first flight at Lambert Field.

1947 Thousands turned out at Lambert Field to meet 26 of the biggest names in Hollywood. They were on the way to Washington D.C. to protest the house investigation of alleged communist infiltration of Hollywood. Among the stars were Humphrey Bogart, Lauren Bacall, Gene Kelly and Danny Kaye.

1949 Denying rumors of romance, Vice-President Alben Barkley returned to Washington D.C. after a five-day visit here. It was the latest in a series of visits to a St. Louis widow, Mrs. Carleton S. Hadley. A few days later, they announced their engagement.

1957 The 1953 hold up of Southwest Bank on Kingshighway was re-enacted for the movie *The Great St. Louis Bank Robbery*, starring Steve McQueen. Police interrupted the daring daylight robbery on April 24, 1953. The gang of robbers were all arrested or killed in a shootout. Many of the officers who were on the scene that day also took part in the re-enactment.

1959 The State Highway Department announced that the Express Highway would be widened to eight lanes and a cloverleaf constructed at Kingshighway. The plan would take away 29 acres of Forest Park.

1965 Just two days before the last section of the Arch was to be raised into place, a work stoppage threatened the festivities. Ironworkers had been ordered off the job by their unions, who were demanding assurances that the site was safe. Some were convinced it was all a ploy to delay the topping out ceremonies until the weekend.

1973 The motion picture *The Exorcist* opened. The story is based on an incident that occurred here in 1949. It involved a young boy from Maryland, and the exorcism took place at the old Alexian Brothers Hospital. The child spit at the priests, cursed and vomited as his bed shook. One of the priests involved reportedly lost 40 pounds due to the horror of the exorcism.

1985 Don Denkinger became public enemy Number One in St. Louis. With the Cardinals leading Game Six of the World Series 1-0 in the ninth, Denkinger called Jorge Orta safe at first. Replays showed he was clearly out. The Royals went on to win the game. Fans still blame Denkinger for the loss, even though Darell Porter and Jack Clark misplayed a pop up, and Porter allowed a passed ball that put the runners in scoring position for Dane Iorg. And there was a Game Seven.

1986 The familiar green and white planes of Ozark Airlines began disappearing, as TWA acquired the airline. Ozark was merged into TWA's operations.

1993 The National Football League announced it was awarding an expansion franchise to Charlotte, and holding off on announcing a second one until November. The day before, Jerry Clinton had stepped down as head of the partnership trying to bring a team here. Columbia businessman Stan Kroenke had stepped forward to head up a new group. But on November 30th, the second franchise was awarded to Jacksonville.

2006 David Eckstein's four hits led the Cardinals from a 3-0 deficit to take Game Four of the World Series 5-4. The game was also highlighted by Tiger throwing errors, and center fielder Curtis Granderson slipping, allowing a fly ball by Eckstein to fall for a key double.