

October 29

1864 Six Confederate prisoners held at the Gratiot Street prison were executed near Lafayette Square. The executions were in retaliation for the murder of Union Major James Wilkinson and six of his men by Confederate guerillas. A crowd of three thousand watched the executions.

1869 Joseph Folk was born in Brownsville, Tennessee. Elected circuit attorney with the help of Boss Ed Butler's Democratic machine, Folk showed his gratitude by vigorously prosecuting crooked politicians and businessmen who ran the city. The elite in St. Louis derided him as "Holy Joe," but he was elected as the state's youngest governor in 1904. His "Missouri Idea" of ending corruption in government became known nationwide and contributed to the progressive movement.

1877 Among the bills introduced by Missouri delegates at a special session of Congress was one calling for the removal of the national capitol to St. Louis.

1911 The founder of the *Post-Dispatch*, Joseph Pulitzer, died in Charleston, South Carolina. Virtually penniless when he arrived in St. Louis from Hungary, he became respected lawmaker as well as a legend in the newspaper business.

1929 The stock market collapsed, falling eleven-point-six percent after a 13 percent drop the day before. Within a year, unemployment in St. Louis hit 9.8%. By 1931, the rate was 24%. It peaked at 30% in 1933. Over 100,000 people here were out of work.

1934 Commissioner Keenesaw Mountain Landis announced the world champion Cardinals would each receive \$5,389.76 as their share for winning the series. The losing Tigers would each get \$3,054.68.

1936 Cardinal Eugene Pacelli visited St. Louis. He would later become Pope Pius the 12th, making him the first future pope to come to St. Louis. The future Pope John Paul the Second would visit St. Louis in 1969. At that time, he was still the Archbishop of Krakow, Poland.

1949 Kiel Auditorium was packed for the first concert featuring the president's daughter, Margaret Truman. She performed with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra. A reviewer said the 15-year-old Truman was "a sincere young artist with distinct promise."

1952 About 800 people packed a meeting at St. Englebert's School to protest plans for the Mark Twain Expressway through North St. Louis. Speakers predicted that 2500 homes would be demolished. One speaker pointed out that the highway would cut the Hyde Park neighborhood in half.

1952 Educational television in St. Louis took a step closer toward reality, with the announcement of a substantial grant from the Ford Foundation. Raymond Witcoff,

Chairman of Mayor Darst's Commission on Educational Television, said he expected it to be the next TV station on the air in St. Louis.

1959 McDonnell Aircraft unveiled a new wind tunnel capable of measuring airflow speeds six times the speed of sound. The \$5 million dollar tunnel and lab was part of a \$46 million expansion program. When it was in operation, the noise could be heard for miles.

1976 For the first time ever, two presidential candidates came to St. Louis on the same day. President Ford held a noontime campaign rally at Luther Ely Smith Park downtown. That evening, Democratic nominee Jimmy Carter spoke to a rally at Northwest Plaza.

1977 The first issue of *The Riverfront Times* was published. The alternative news weekly did not become a serious journalistic force until about 1980. It has remained an important voice in the community, particularly since the demise of the *Globe-Democrat*. Then there's the other side – the racy personals and phone-sex line advertisements.

1980 The area was shocked by the murder of an elderly St. Louis County couple. Charles and Lottie Williams were found dead in their farmhouse in rural Glencoe. The house had been set on fire to cover up the robbery. George C. Gilmore would be convicted of the murders.

1981 Curtis Sliwa, the founder of the New York based anti-crime group "The Guardian Angels" arrived in St. Louis. Sliwa promised his red beret-wearing Angels would "clean-up crime in the city" and would be patrolling the Vaughn projects within four months. City police said they would be "eaten alive" in Vaughn. Sliwa's arrival attracted massive media attention, but he later admitting faking some reports of the group's success.

1985 The National League announced that Joaquin Andujar would be suspended for the first ten games of the 1986 season because of his tantrum in Game Seven of the world series. He did what many of us would have liked to do. "One Tough Dominican" bumped into umpire Don Denkinger.

1986 St. Louis became a one-newspaper town, as the financially troubled *Globe Democrat* published its final issue. The *Globe's* fate was sealed when a court refused to hear a friendly suit that would have cleared the way for bonds to be issued to keep the paper going.

2006 A crowd estimated at 500,000 lined the streets for a parade celebrating the Cardinals win in the World Series. On a beautiful day with temperatures in the 70's, a crowd also filled Busch Stadium for a celebration.