

September 5

1861 Major General John C. Fremont issued an order here creating the Western Sanitary Commission. The commission played an important role protecting the well being of thousands of Civil War soldiers. It established a 500-bed hospital here and started a home for orphans.

1874 Plans were announced for ceremonies marking the laying of the cornerstone for the new Post Office and Customs House. The ceremonies were set for Fair Week in October. It was announced that President Grant himself planned to take part. Over 575 men were already at work on the foundation.

1896 City police were launching a crackdown on bicycle "scorching" and "reckless wheeling" on the streets of St. Louis. A minister said bicycle riding, as he had seen it in Forest Park, endangered both health and morals. Police said they would charge any rider who injured a pedestrian with "felonious wounding."

1906 Bradbury Robinson of St. Louis University threw the first legal forward pass in football. 1906 was the first season in which the forward pass was legal. Because the Bills were the first to use the pass effectively, they finished with a perfect record and outscored their opponents 402-11. The first pass in a practice game against Carroll College was incomplete and the Bills lost the ball. The next time, Robinson completed a 20-yarder for the first aerial touchdown.

1928 The dance marathon craze ended with a whimper here. City Health Commissioner Max Stoloff was preparing an order shutting down a marathon that had been running for four days, when the promoter shut it down. The three couples still standing split \$750 of the \$1,000 prize that had been offered. The promoters said they lost \$2,000.

1929 Workers began clearing the area that would become the Lake of the Ozarks. About 30,000 acres of timber were cleared. The entire town of Linn Creek, county seat of Camden County, was demolished. The lake flooded an area of 61,000 acres, with a shoreline of 1,300 miles.

1935 The Taxpayers Defense Association was circulating flyers against a proposed project in St. Louis. They warned, "Watch your step! ... Stop this spending. Do something!" The group said that the project would become a "glorified parking lot for 10,000 cars" and a "37-block mudhole." They were fighting against plans to build the Gateway Arch.

1936 John Claggett Danforth was born in St. Louis. The heir to the Ralston-Purina fortune became a lawyer and an Episcopal Minister before becoming Attorney General of Missouri in 1969. Danforth served 18 years in the US Senate beginning in 1976. He made national headlines in 1999 when he was appointed as an independent investigator into the 1993 siege and fire at the Branch Davidian Compound in Waco, Texas.

1946 It was Joe Garagiola day at Sportsmen's Park. Mayor Kaufmann presented the rookie Cards catcher with a new car. The Cardinals then went out and beat the Cubs 10-1, to stay in first, two games ahead of Brooklyn.

1958 All lanes of the new I-70 bridge over the Missouri at St. Charles opened to traffic. The bridge had been dedicated back on August 16th. It was already obsolete, and soon clogged with traffic. Plans were soon underway to build another bridge, which was completed in 1979. (The westbound bridge is the old one)

1971 Three weeks after she disappeared while shopping at West County Center, the body of Town and Country housewife Mrs. Sally Lucas was found in West county. Anthony P. Damico was charged with the shocking murder.

1979 The St. Louis Symphony Orchestra went on strike. Orchestra members set up a picket line at Powell Hall. Several early concerts and a west coast tour had to be cancelled before the strike was settled in October.

1998 Mark McGwire hit his 60th home run of the season. It came against Cincinnati left Dennis Reyes at Busch Stadium. McGwire reached 60 home runs in 12 fewer games than Babe Ruth and 17 less than Roger Maris.

2000 George Musso died at the age of 90. The Collinsville native played football for Milliken College. "Moose" played against Ronald Reagan and Gerald Ford before joining the "The Monsters of the Midway" for \$90 per game. He played for the Bears from 1933 to 1944. After his playing days, Musso became Madison County Sheriff and operated a restaurant in Edwardsville. He was named to the Football Hall of Fame in 1982.

2002 It was "Cedric the Entertainer Day" in St. Louis. Cedric appeared at the St. Louis premiere of his movie *Barbershop* at the Esquire Theatre. Cedric Kyles is a former claims adjuster for State Farm Insurance and a 1983 graduate of Berkeley High School. Steve Harvey gave Cedric his big break, booking him in his comedy own comedy club in Dallas and then on "The Steve Harvey Show." Cedric made his film debut in 2000's "Big Momma's House". That same year was featured in "The Original Kings of Comedy." In *Barbershop*, The character of Eddie joked about Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks, causing some African-American leaders to urge a boycott. The movie was a hit anyway.