

September 10

1815 One of the early pioneers of South St. Louis County died. John Sappington was a Revolutionary War veteran, who came here in the early 1800's. He fathered 18 children. With his son Thomas, Sappington built the home, which still stands. Legend has it he bought his land for a gallon of whiskey an acre--and ended up with 1900 acres.

1835 William Torrey Harris was born. He led the "St. Louis Movement" in philosophy and education during the latter part of the 19th century. Harris served as St. Louis school superintendent from 1866 to 1880 and as the U.S. Commissioner of Education from 1889 to 1906. He was instrumental in establishing the first kindergarten. Harris Teacher's College, which became Harris-Stowe Teacher's College, is named in his honor.

1892 Arthur Holly Compton was born. He was head of the physics department at Washington University, and won a Nobel Prize for his work with X-Rays. He directed the research that led to the development of the atom bomb. After the war, he returned to Washington University as chancellor.

1910 Captain Thomas S. Baldwin made the first airplane flight over the Mississippi. On his return trip, Captain Baldwin stunned the crowd lining the riverfront when he flew under the McKinley and the Eads Bridge at the breathtaking speed of 50 miles-per-hour in his plane, "The Red Devil."

1911 Colonel Edward Butler died. Butler was the "boss" of St. Louis politics in the late 19th century. His dealings gave the city a black eye when Lincoln Steffens exposed them in his book, *Shame of the Cities*. City Attorney Joseph Folk indicted Butler for bribery. But Folk lost one trial and the State Supreme Court reversed the verdict in the other. Butler's funeral was the fourth largest ever in St. Louis to that time.

1915 Rogers Hornsby made his major league debut for the Cardinals. Hornsby went hitless in a game against Cincinnati. He would go on to win six National League batting titles in a row. Hornsby hit over .400 three times, and set a modern record of .424 in 1924. His .358 lifetime average is second only to Ty Cobb.

1931 The Cardinals clinched their fourth National League pennant in six years. They were preparing to meet the Philadelphia Athletics, who had defeated the Birds in the 1930 World Series. The A's had won three American League pennants in a row.

1934 Roger Maris was born. He set the single-season home run record in 1961, slugging 61 for the Yankees. Maris came to the Cardinals in 1967, and often said that his years in St. Louis were the happiest of his career. His family watched as Mark McGwire broke the record in 1998.

1935 A landmark day in St. Louis. Voters approved a \$7.5 million bond issue for a river front memorial. There were rumors that the election was fixed, and an investigation by

the *Post-Dispatch* agreed. But the city refused to turn the ballots over to a grand jury. So, no one knows if the Arch was built on a foundation of stuffed ballot boxes!

1937 The Rams played their first NFL regular season game. The Cleveland Rams lost to the Detroit Lions 28-0 at Municipal Stadium in Cleveland.

1941 Phil the Gorilla arrived at the Ape House. Phil was named for the man who brought him to St. Louis, animal collector Phil Carroll. The Guinness Book of World Records estimated Phil's weight at 615 pounds, one of the largest gorillas on record. Phil was one of the zoo's top attractions. Schwarz Studios stuffed Phil after his death in December 1958. He stands today in the Safari Shop near the Zoo's South Gate.

1949 Cards owner Fred Saigh said he was interested in a proposed Jefferson National Expansion Memorial Stadium downtown, with the Cardinals as chief tenants. The Browns, owners of Sportsmen's Park, had sued to evict the Redbirds. Seeking to expand the football program and play big schools like Michigan and Notre Dame, Washington University athletic director and coach Jimmy Conzelman had brought up the idea back in October 1935. Mayor Bernard Dickmann proposed a downtown stadium as part of the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial in August 1938, but World War Two interrupted those plans. Charles Ferris of the Land Clearance for Redevelopment Authority put forward the first substantial plan in December 1958.

1959 The Chamber of Commerce voted to go ahead with an \$89 million downtown redevelopment plan, centered around a 50,000-seat stadium as originally proposed by Charles Ferris. The late architect of the Arch, Eero Saarinen, had been opposed to any plans for a stadium. He feared a stadium would "disbalance" the St. Louis skyline to the detriment of his Arch.

1961 Lou Brock made his major league debut with the Chicago Cubs. In that first game, the great base burglar came in to replace an outfielder named Al Heist! Lou made two errors, and the Cubs lost to the Phillies 14-6. He would be traded to the Cardinals for Ernie Broglio, Bobby Shantz and Doug Clemens on June 15, 1964.

1970 Elvis Presley played Kiel Auditorium, one of three appearances The King made here in the 1970's. It was his first appearance here since December 1957, and the second stop on his 1970 tour.

1974 Lou Brock swiped his 104th and 105th bases of the season, breaking the single-season Major League steals record held by Maury Wills. The 105th of the year came in the seventh inning with Dick Ruthven on the mound at Busch Stadium. It also gave Lou 740 career steals, breaking the National League record held by Max Carey. The Cardinals lost the game 8-2.

1991 The first riverboat casino in the St. Louis area opened. The *Alton Belle* was moored on the riverfront at Alton. It's hard to believe today, but "The Belle" charged \$19.95 admission per person on nights and weekends.

1995 Pro football returned to Busch Stadium, as the Rams beat the Saints 17-13. The Rams played their first four games at Busch, because the Trans World Dome was not ready. The last Rams game at Busch was a 44-10 win over San Francisco on October 22, giving them a 3-1 record at the stadium.

2003 A 10-2 Redbirds win over Colorado at Busch Stadium marked the 2,000th win of Tony LaRussa's managerial career. In August 2005, LaRussa would move to third on the all time list, passing Sparky Anderson with 2,194 wins.