

## September 14

**1804** Elected representatives all over the district of Louisiana met in St. Louis to petition Congress for territorial status. St. Louisans resented being made part of the Indiana Territory, with the seat of government at Vincennes. The meeting was the first representative assembly in Missouri.

**1812** The birthday of Madison County, Illinois. Territorial Governor Ninian Edwards ordered the county carved out of St. Clair County and named after President James Madison. Thomas Kirkpatrick's log cabin served as the county seat, named "Edwardsville," after the governor.

**1818** Mother Rose Philippine Duchesne and The Sisters of the Society of the Sacred Heart opened a school for girls in St. Charles. In addition to teaching paying students, the school gave free instruction to the children of the poor. The school was unsuccessful at first, and moved to Florissant in 1819. The school moved back to St. Charles in 1828 and the convent still exists today.

**1825** The man credited with laying out the town of Florissant died. No one knows exactly when the town was founded, but Francois Dunegant planned the area we know as old town. He was commandant of the village under Spanish rule.

**1857** The St. Louis Fire Department was established with H. Clay Sexton serving as the first chief. The paid department replaced the old volunteer companies, which had become a nuisance. They raced each other to fires, and often fought over fireplugs. The volunteers did not go quietly. For a time they plagued the paid department by answering alarms and even resorting to violence.

**1878** A huge crowd turned out in Lindell Park for a balloon flight by William Scholts, who had announced he would take a horse and a reporter up with him. The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals threatened to have him arrested, and the horse was left on the ground. No one complained about the reporter, who seemed more scared than the horse.

**1889** Harland Bartholomew was born. As the chief city planner for 35 years, he became the most prominent urban planner in the nation. It was his idea to put open space where the Gateway Mall is now. Memorial Drive was also his vision. Highway 40 is a descendent of his plan for an east-west expressway.

**1898** The *Post-Dispatch* became the first St. Louis newspaper to publish photographs of news events. The first photo showed Signora Della Rocca, a violinist who earned praise from other musicians at the Columbia Theater.

**1925** The operators of the Eagle Park Resort were shot to death after they balked at buying their liquor from the Green Ones Gang. The Cuckoo Gang retaliated by shooting

up a Green Ones bootlegging operation. It marked the opening shots in another gang war that would take about 30 lives over two years.

**1926** Cards owner Sam Breadon announced that if the Redbirds won the pennant, the capacity of Sportsmen's Park would be increased from 32,500 to 39,600 in time for the World Series.

**1931** The law creating the Missouri State Highway Patrol went into effect. On that first day, the patrol had 49 troopers, with a fleet of 36 new Ford Model A roadsters, a Ford and a Plymouth sedan, a Buick, three Chevys and a dozen Harleys.

**1932** Construction began on Homer G. Phillips Hospital. When it was completed in 1937, it was the largest and best health care facility for African-Americans in the world. Homer G. was closed amid much controversy in 1979.

**1951** In a game at Fenway Park in Boston, Browns rookie Bob Nieman became the first rookie to hit home runs in his first two major league at bats. Nieman would play for six teams in his 12-season career, including the Cardinals.

**1962** The first land was acquired for Busch Stadium. The Land Clearance for Redevelopment Authority closed on the purchase of the Meyer Brothers Drug Facility at 217 South Fourth Street.

**1968** The Cardinals clinched their second-straight pennant with a 7-4 win over the Astros in Houston. Roger Maris hit his 275th, and last, regular season home run in that game.

**1971** The St. Louis Regional Commerce and Growth Association was founded. The RCGA combined the efforts of three groups to promote the St. Louis area.

**1972** The birthdate of the city of Arnold. Arnold was created by the incorporation of what had been several small towns: Wickes, Flamm City, Tenbrook, Maxwell, Beck and Old Town Arnold.

**1989** Only 1,519 fans showed up for a game between the Cardinals and the Pirates at Busch. The game had been halted with no score after five innings the night before, and a day game was scheduled with virtually no notice. A fire at a Cupples Station warehouse filled the park with smoke. Whitey Herzog said "It was like a graveyard with lights." It was the smallest crowd in Busch Stadium history.

**1992** John C. Vincent, a diver and construction worker from New Orleans, used suction cups to climb to the top of the Arch and parachute to the ground. He was arrested as soon as he landed, and told reporters he did it "for the hell of it." Vincent was charged with two misdemeanors, even though the U.S. Attorney admitted, "it was clearly a great stunt."

**1994** Explosives brought down the main span of the old Clark Bridge at Alton. The bridge, built in 1928, was considered one of the most treacherous on a major U-S highway. It was replaced by a magnificent \$118 million suspension bridge.