

## September 17

**1858** Dred Scott died of tuberculosis. After Scott lost his famous case, his ownership was transferred to abolitionist Taylor Blow. Blow freed Scott and his family on May 27, 1857. Scott lived the rest of his days as a porter at Barnum's Hotel here. He is buried in Calvary Cemetery.

**1873** Workmen joined the first of the three arches that make up the Eads Bridge. A \$500,000 loan depended on the arch being joined by the 19th. Workmen packed the steel in 60 tons of ice to try and make it fit. Eventually, special connectors did the trick.

**1890** Emerson Electric was founded. Judge Wesley Emerson put up the money to help Alexander and Charles Meston open an electrical shop at 904 Olive. In 1892, the firm manufactured the first electric fans in America. Today, Emerson's 60 divisions employ 128,000 people in more than 150 countries.

**1899** A preliminary organization meeting took place in Chicago regarding a proposed new American Association. Among the delegates were Adrian Anson of Chicago, Chris Von der Ahe and Al Spink of St. Louis, and representatives from Milwaukee, New York, Philadelphia, and Washington.

**1900** The St. Louis Police Department announced plans to buy an automobile patrol wagon. The police chief said it would be more economical than horse drawn wagons. Autos were no longer a novelty here. Several businesses owned trucks, and even a few individuals were driving cars.

**1900** The first female professional team made its debut here. A crowd of about 1,000 paid 50 cents each and was shocked to see the girls playing ball in trousers. They also found the team from Cincinnati could not play very well. The *Globe-Democrat* called it "The most gigantic fraud and disgraceful exhibits ever given before a St. Louis audience."

**1902** G.D. Collins of San Antonio, Texas, arrived here to meet with World's Fair officials. Collins proposed to ease traffic congestion at the upcoming fair by establishing a balloon line to ferry passengers from downtown to the fairgrounds.

**1906** The *Globe-Democrat* reported on a fad brought back to St. Louis by women returning from Eastern resorts. A reporter wrote, "No real up-to-date woman feels she is in the swim unless she has a teddy bear." The name appeared to have been adopted as a tribute to president Roosevelt.

**1916** St. Louis Browns left-handed pitcher George Sisler gained a 1-0 win over the great Walter Johnson. It would be the last victory on the mound for Sisler, who was about to take over as the regular first baseman. Sisler would go on to become the greatest Brownie ever. He hit over .400 twice and amassed a lifetime average of .340. Sisler became one of the original 11 players elected to the Hall of Fame.

**1926** With the city in the throes of a deadly bootlegger gang war, the county sheriff announced plans for night time patrols to discourage the warring Cuckoo and Italian gangs. That same day, Thomas Edison's son Charles was in St. Louis to demonstrate his father's latest invention--a long-playing record that could hold up to 20 minutes of music on each side.

**1933** It was "Dizzy Dean Day" at Sportsmen's Park. The Cardinals star was presented with a new car before the game. 'Ol Diz was 20 and 15 so far that season. But the Giants spoiled the party that day, beating the Cardinals 4-3.

**1936** Dan Kelly was born in Ottawa, Ontario. For over 20 years, he broadcast Blues games over KMOX, most of those with his partner, Gus Kyle. Jack Buck and Jay Randolph handled the Blues broadcasts the first year. Blues owner Sidney Salomon Junior enlisted the help of Robert Hyland to bring Kelly, the host of *Hockey Night in Canada*, to St. Louis.

**1937** Orlando Cepeda was born in Puerto Rico. The "Baby Bull" won the NL Rookie of the Year Award in 1958. The Giants traded him to the Cardinals for Ray Sadecki on the same day that Busch Stadium opened. He was a key part of the 1967 and 1968 pennant winning teams he dubbed "El Birdos." The Birds traded him to Atlanta for Joe Torre after the 1968 season. Cepeda was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1999.

**1941** "The Man" played his first major league game. Stan Musial's first day in the majors was a good one, as he went two-for-four against Jim Tobin of the Boston Braves. Those were the first of his 3,630 career hits.

**1948** Harry Truman kicked off a "whistle stop" presidential campaign in Washington, vowing to "Give 'em hell." He was way behind in the polls as he started his 18-state swing through the Midwest and the West. He gained some ground, but still trailed Thomas Dewey by about five percent on election night. Truman was given little chance of winning.

**1953** The Municipal Airport Commission selected Parks Airport as the most desirable site for a second major airport. The commissioners said they were confident they had ended for once and for all the controversy over the site for another St. Louis airport.

**1958-** Bill Bangert announced plans for a 100,000 seat stadium covered with a plastic dome in St. Louis County. The former Berkeley Mayor and owner of a road-building firm said the stadium would be the centerpiece of an 840-acre shopping and sports complex to be incorporated as the Village of Champ. The site at I-270 and 70 interchange is now a giant and very smelly landfill.

**1966** Vice-President Hubert Humphrey visited McDonnell Aircraft. He praised employees for their work on military aircraft and Project Gemini.

**1968** In "The year of the pitcher," Gaylord Perry of the Giants threw a no-hitter against the Cardinals at Candlestick. Just 16 hours later, Ray Washburn of the Cardinals returned the favor--the first back to back no hitters in major league history.

**1980** James "Jimmy" Michaels was killed when a bomb ripped his car apart on I-55 in South St. Louis. The murder triggered a bloody war between two underworld families. David Leisure was put to death for his role in the bombing on September 1, 1999. The bombing marked the start of two years of bloody warfare between the Leisure and Michaels families over control of a labor union.

**1989** The Rolling Stones brought their "Steel Wheels" tour to Busch Stadium. St. Louis piano legend Johnny Johnson joined the Stones on stage during "Little Red Rooster."

**2001** On the night that baseball resumed for the first time since September 11, in a trembling voice, Jack Buck read a stirring poem during pre-game ceremonies at Busch Stadium "Since this nation was founded under God, more than 200 years ago, We've been the bastion of Freedom...The light which keeps the free world aglow. We do not covet the possessions of others; we are blessed with the bounty we share. We have rushed to help other Nations...anything...anytime...Anywhere. War is just not our nature...we won't start, but we will end the fight. If we are involved we shall be resolved to protect what we know is right. We've been challenged by a cowardly foe who strikes and then Hides from our view. With one voice we say there's no choice today, there is only one Thing to do. Everyone is saying the same thing and praying that we end these Senseless moments we are living. As our fathers did before, we shall win this unwanted war. As our children will enjoy the Future, we'll be giving."