

## September 18

**1818** Rose Philippine Duchesne arrived in St. Charles to found the first convent of the Order of the Sacred Heart in America. She would soon open a Sacred Heart School for girls, and would become one of the pioneer educators of the American West.

**1820** The first Missouri General assembly met in St. Louis at the Missouri Hotel. 14 Senators and 43 Representatives were chosen. The first law passed by the assembly concerned the election of United States Senators from Missouri. (Which still had not been officially admitted to the Union)

**1870** It was the first day of business for a dry-goods store that would become a St. Louis landmark. Scrugg's, Vandervoort and Barney opened their five-story building at Fourth and St. Charles. It would close in 1967.

**1877** The steamboat *Grand Republic* burned to the waterline on the river front, where she was being repaired. The *Grand Republic* was one of the grandest of all the riverboats, costing a then-unheard-of \$375,000 to build. A gunboat built here by James Eads during the Civil War was also destroyed.

**1883** The Browns were just one game out of first and club president Chris von Der Ahe was thankful there was no ladies day coming up. The Browns were one and ten on ladies days. Von der Ahe said "The presence of the fair sex seems to demoralize the whole team instead of cheer them up."

**1910** Tom Benoist became the first resident of St. Louis to pilot an airplane. His 150-yard hop in a modified Curtiss plane could also be considered the first flight from Lambert Field. At the time, the site was a balloon launch area known as Kinloch Field. Major Albert Bond Lambert, who made his first airplane flight with Orville Wright, bought the site in 1920.

**1927** KMOX broadcast its first programming from the CBS network. In December, the station became a charter CBS affiliate.

**1943** The Cardinals clinched the 1943 National League pennant. They would lose the World Series to the Yankees.

**1944** A group of nine men donated more than 400 acres at the north end of Creve Coeur Lake to the county. They called for a memorial park, dedicated to the soldiers of all wars. Creve Coeur Lake Park would become the first to be owned and maintained by St. Louis County.

**1947** President Harry Truman named Stuart Symington of St. Louis as the first Secretary of the Air Force. His swearing in marked the establishment of the Air Force as a separate force, equal to the Army and Navy. Symington was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1953

and served until 1976. John F. Kennedy is reported to have offered him the vice-presidential nomination in 1960. But the job went to Lyndon Johnson, because Kennedy needed votes in Texas.

**1949** The new International Airport in Chicago was dedicated in honor of Lieutenant Edward "Butch" O'Hare. O'Hare was born in St. Louis. O'Hare won the Medal of Honor for single-handedly defending the carrier "Lexington" against seven Japanese bombers. He was shot down over Tarawa on November 27, 1943.

**1955** Four city firefighters were killed in a collision between a fire truck and a tractor trailer at Kingshighway and Manchester. The driver of the semi said he never heard the fire engine's siren.

**1957** The Army announced plans to close the giant St. Louis Ordinance Plant on Goodfellow. The plant would be placed on a "stand-by" basis, putting some 1,400 people out of work.

**1966** George P. Vierheller died at the age of 84. The man known as "Mister Zoo" was credited with making the St. Louis Zoo one of the best in the country during his 40 years as director.

**1967** The Cardinals clinched the 1967 pennant with a 5-1 win over the San Francisco Giants at Candlestick Park. Bob Gibson threw a three-hitter in his first start since July 15th, when his leg was shattered by a line drive off the bat of Roberto Clemente.

**1968** Ray Washburn of the Cardinals pitched a no-hitter against the San Francisco Giants at Candlestick. The Giants only managed to hit two balls out of the infield as the Cardinals won 2-0. Just 16 hours earlier, Gaylord Perry threw a no-hitter against the Cardinals, out dueling Bob Gibson 1-0.

**1981** Scullin Steel closed its doors. Founded in 1899, Scullin employed thousands during World War Two. The factory site then became the St. Louis Marketplace Shopping Center. The administration building still stands.

**1998** A group calling themselves the "Arena Angels" tried to form a human chain around the doomed Arena. They came up short. The Arena would be demolished in February 1999.

**2004** The Cardinals technically clinched their third division title in five years, based on a tie-breaking formula. But manager Tony LaRussa wanted the celebration to wait for a win. After the Cards lost to Arizona the next day, he lost his cool at a post-game press conference when a reporter asked if the team was celebrating.