

## September 20

**1809** Sterling Price was born in Virginia. A former congressman and hero of the Mexican War, he was elected governor of Missouri in 1852. Price took command of the pro-southern militia, handing the Union defeats at Lexington and Wilson's Creek. In 1864, his troops marched on St. Louis. They were stopped short at Pilot Knob and defeated for once and for all at Westport.

**1836** The *Missouri Republican* became the first St. Louis newspaper to publish daily. The "Missouri Gazette" was the first newspaper west of the Mississippi, founded in 1808. But it was not a daily paper.

**1843** Second Lieutenant Ulysses "Sam" Grant arrived at Jefferson Barracks, fresh from West Point. His West Point roommate, Fred Dent, had asked him to call on the Dent family at their estate, "Whitehaven," on Rock Hill Road. Grant would meet his future wife, Julia Dent at Whitehaven, in February of 1844. They were married in 1848.

**1861** Union forces under James Mulligan surrendered following a siege at Lexington, Missouri. Mulligan had been cut off from food and water and bombarded for two days by Sterling Price and his men. The battle of Lexington is known as "The Battle of the Hemp Bales." The rebels used bales of hemp for breastworks took cover behind bales of wacky weed.

**1865** The first trains operated between St. Louis and Kansas City. Construction on the line that became the Missouri Pacific had begun in 1851, but was delayed by the Civil War.

**1881** Buildings in St. Louis were draped in black in honor of the murdered president, James Garfield. A St. Louis group headed for the first Missouri Confederate Veterans reunion in Moberly cancelled plans to take a brass band along. They felt "It was best to relieve the reunion from every appearance of a holiday gathering.

**1904** The recently organized St. Louis County Telephone Company put up its first police call box in Clayton and began stringing wires to connect the county seat with Kirkwood and Webster Groves. The company said it would use automatic calling boxes to replace the "Hello Girls."

**1916** Pigeons caused a major headache for residents of St. Charles. Sparks from a KATY train passing beneath the highway bridge set fire to pigeon's nests. The blaze consumed the entire wooden bridge deck. Ferries were pressed into service until the damage could be repaired.

**1921** Mrs. Emma Kiel, daughter of Mayor Henry Kiel, christened the first Buick built in St. Louis at the new General Motors plant, located at Union and Natural Bridge.

**1926** Warner Brothers announced it was leasing the Capitol Theatre on Sixth Street to introduce its new "Vitaphone" system for talking motion pictures. According to Warner, the system synchronized sound and pictures to a degree never thought possible before.

**1947** A committee led by John P. Barrett planned a public meeting to protest Archbishop Ritter's order to desegregate the Catholic Schools. That morning, Ritter sent a letter to be read at every Sunday mass. Ritter took the unprecedented step of threatening excommunication. He reminded Catholics of "the equality of every soul before Almighty God."

**1949** A group of commissioners appointed by Illinois Governor Adlai Stevenson and Missouri Governor of Missouri created the Bi-State Development Agency. It was originally created to operate the Chain of Rocks Canal. In 1961, Bi-State took over public transit in the St. Louis area.

**1954** Educational Television came to St. Louis. K-E-T-C signed on at 9 p.m., with a preview of things to come. The first broadcast was from McMillan Hall at Washington University. Following remarks by Arthur Holly Compton, the station broadcast a play dramatizing the necessity for free speech. KETC became the fourth station in St. Louis, joining, KTVI, KSD, KWK (Channel Four) and WTVI (Channel 54) Channel Nine was the seventh educational station in the country.

**1958** The hula hoop fad was sweeping the nation. A large crowd came out to the Westroads Shopping Center at Clayton Road and Brentwood to watch 350 kids compete in a hula hoop contest.

**1963** Pope John the 23rd announced that the Old Cathedral had been elevated to the status of Basilica of St. Louis the King. The Old Cathedral at that time was one one of only 17 churches in the United States to be designated as a basilica. (Now, the new cathedral has also been designated as a basilica, making St. Louis one of the few cities in the world with two of them)

**1970** Edward Johnson of Catawissa, Illinois, plunged 15 feet from a Loge Box while trying to snag a foul in the 10<sup>th</sup> inning of a 7-4 Cardinals loss to the Phillies at Busch Stadium. He went to the hospital with a possible ruptured spleen. Team officials said it was the first such incident in Busch Stadium history.

**1972** Vice-President Spiro Agnew was in St. Louis to campaign for GOP candidates. He claimed that there was "so much bumbling" by those accused of trying to bug Democratic headquarters that someone was trying to set up the Republicans.

**1976** The Mississippi River fell to its lowest level here in 110 years, as a record drought gripped Missouri. 70 counties had been declared disaster areas, and crop losses were put at 300 million dollars state wide.

**1992** U2 brought their “Zoo TV” tour to Busch Stadium. The band played on a giant stage featuring props that ranged from a massive lemon to tiny German automobiles suspended in air and a giant video wall.

**1999** Missouri Governor Mel Carnahan dedicated a stretch of Interstate 70 in St. Louis as the "Mark McGwire Highway." Signs honoring the designation were posted in the westbound lanes at Cass and in the eastbound lanes at Goodfellow.

**2000** The Cardinals clinched the National League Central with an 11-6 win over the Astros. Jim Edmonds hit a grand slam in the game. Ray Lankford followed with a home run, the 15<sup>th</sup> time that the Cards slugged back-to-back home runs. That tied an NL record set by the Reds in 1956. The Cards finished with a team record 235 homers for the season.

**2003** The Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center at The University of Missouri St. Louis opened. The building is named for the UMSL chancellor who fought for its construction.

**2004** A jury returned a verdict of not guilty in the murder-for-hire trial of Katie Wolfmeyer. Wolfmeyer was accused of trying to hire a hit man for former Blues hockey player Mike Danton.