

September 21

1645 French explorer Louis Joliet was born in Quebec. Together with Pere Marquette, he would explore the Mississippi basin in 1763. The expedition proved that the Mississippi flowed into the Gulf of Mexico. Marquette and Joliet were the first white men to pass the site that would become the city of St. Louis. Their expedition helped lead to French possession of Louisiana.

1799 William Lewis Sublette was born in Kentucky. Sublette came to St. Charles in 1818 but sought adventure as a trapper. Sublette would form a partnership with Robert Campbell and opened trading posts along the Missouri. He discovered a shortcut on the Oregon Trail that was named in his honor. After returning to St. Louis, he lived on a huge farm called "Sulphur Springs," where you will find Sublette Avenue today.

1808 The town trustees of St. Louis passed an ordinance establishing the forerunner of the police department. Each able-bodied male in the town was required to serve his turn as watchman or patrolman when called. If they would not serve, they were fined one dollar.

1821 Captain William Becknell left Franklin, Missouri for Santa Fe. His expedition laid the groundwork for the Santa Fe Trail.

1868 Women were admitted to the University of Missouri for the first time. They were admitted only to the normal department, and could not actually attend classes until 1870-71.

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."

1899 The first automobile appeared on the streets of Belleville. Mr. and Mrs. A. Lambrecht made the one-hour trip from St. Louis.

1901 Architects Cass Gilbert and Frank Howe's plan for the World's Fair grounds was approved. It called for a fan-like group of buildings radiating out from the highest point in Forest Park. (Ground had been broken just two weeks earlier) Architects were given just two weeks to turn in plans for the eight main buildings.

1918 Rand Brooks was born in St. Louis. The actor is most famous for his role as Scarlett O'Hara's doomed husband, Charles Hamilton, in *Gone With The Wind*. He also played Lucky Jenkins, Hopalong Cassidy's sidekick in the last few Hopalong movies and appeared in TV's *Rin Tin Tin*.

1932 A crowd of 9,000 saw the first night game at Sportsmen's Park. It was an exhibition game between the Cardinals and The House of David, a touring team that featured former Redbird Grover Cleveland Alexander. The Cards won ten to three.

1934 Paul "Daffy " Dean threw a no-hitter in the second game of a doubleheader against Brooklyn. His brother "Dizzy" had thrown a one-hitter in the first game. After the game, Ol' Diz said "If I'd of known Paul wuz gonna throw a no-hitter I'da thrown one too."

1943 Delegates met in Jefferson City to draft a new state constitution to replace the third one, approved in 1875. It took just over a year for the delegates to finish their work. The voters would adopt our present state constitution in February of 1945.

1944 The Cardinals clinched their third pennant in a row with a 5-4 win over the Boston Braves. The Browns would clinch the American League flag on the final day of the season, setting up the "Streetcar Series."

1948 Benson Ford, vice-president of the Ford Motor Company dedicated the new \$12 million Lincoln-Mercury plant on Highway 66, near Lambert Municipal Airport. At that time, Hazelwood did not exist. Residents concerned about plans by Florissant to annex the area that included the new plant founded the village.

1951 The first suburban Scruggs, Vandervoort and Barney Store marked its grand opening. The store was located at Forsyth and Hanley in Clayton. The suburban store drew sales from the landmark downtown location, causing losses for the company that caused both stores to close in 1967.

1964 The Cardinals were still six-and-one-half games behind the Phillies with just 13 games to play. The Reds beat the Phillies that night, and the Phils would go on to drop the next ten games in a row.

1968 Topping out ceremonies were held for the Spanish Pavilion downtown. Mayor Cervantes led the effort to bring the pavilion here from the 1964 world's fair as a cultural center. His fund-raising corporation went bankrupt, and the pavilion sat vacant until developer Donald Breckenridge bought it. Today, the pavilion is the lobby of the downtown Marriott.

1974 The Cubs pounded the Cardinals 19-4, setting a record for the most runs scored against the Cardinals at Busch Stadium. Steve Swisher hit a grand slam and the Cubs took advantage of three Cardinal errors while rapping out 18 hits.

1993 A federal judge sentenced former Missouri Attorney General William L. Webster to two years in prison for conspiracy and embezzlement of state resources. Just a year earlier, Webster had been a candidate for governor. But an investigation found that his campaign contributors looted Missouri's Second Injury Fund, which Webster was supposed to defend.

1998 Legendary track star Florence Griffith Joyner died of an apparent heart seizure at the age of 38. "Flo-Jo" was married to East St. Louis Olympian Al Joyner and was the sister in law of Jackie Joyner Kersee. Flo-Jo had suffered an apparent heart seizure while on a flight to St. Louis in 1996.

2000 An explosion at the Sunset Fireworks complex in Jefferson County claimed one life and left another worker in serious condition. An explosion at the same facility in 1999 had killed one worker and left another seriously injured.