

September 23

1806 The Lewis and Clark expedition arrived at St. Louis. Nearly the entire population of 1,000 met them on the riverbank. After 2 ½ years, most citizens had given them up for dead. The men would get double their pay and 320 acres of land as a reward. Lewis and Clark received 1,600 acres. Lewis would be named governor of the Louisiana Territory and Clark would be named commander of the militia and Indian agent.

1823 Jeremiah Connor died at the age of 50. Washington Avenue is his legacy. He laid out an area 80 feet wide through his land in 1818, and gave it to the city under the condition that the street be wider than all the others. The width of Washington Avenue was a factor in the location of the Eads Bridge some 50 years later.

1850 William T. Sherman reported for duty at Jefferson Barracks. He would resign his commission in 1853 and moved to California to run a bank. But he came back to St. Louis, and was managing a streetcar railway when the war broke out. After the war, he returned to make his home here.

1906 Ben Alheimer and a female companion were riding in his new car on Locust near Jefferson when they startled a horse, as early automobiles often did. But this time, the beast jumped in the back of the convertible. Alheimer and the horse were unhurt. His companion suffered a bruised shoulder. The horse caused about \$100 damage to the vehicle.

1925 Nine business firms here announced plans to build the largest radio station in the country. The 50,000-watt station was to be built 16 miles outside of town to avoid drowning all the other stations out. It was expected to cost \$100,000 and be on the air by Christmas. (The "X" in KMOX stands for Christmas, 1925)

1926 With a win over the Giants in New York, the Cardinals clinched their very first pennant. Of course, it was big news in St. Louis. But sports fans elsewhere were preoccupied with the big fight between Jack Dempsey and Gene Tunney. In Philadelphia, over 120,000 spectators saw Tunney pull off a tremendous upset.

1929 About 3,000 people gathered for a banquet as part of the ceremonies marking the dedication of the Arena. Secretary of Agriculture Arthur Hyde and Governor Henry Caulfield spoke. The "almost perfect acoustics of the new structure were admirably demonstrated" by a 50-piece band and the singing of "The Masked Soprano." The Arena was built as the permanent home of the National Dairy Show. But the stock market crash bankrupted the promoters.

1941 Stan Musial hit his first home run in the major leagues as the Cardinals beat the Pittsburgh Pirates, 7-0. Luke Sewell served up "The Man's" first round-tripper in the second game of a double header.

1952 Famous-Barr announced it would become the first unit of what was billed as the first "auto-age" shopping center in the area. The "Northland" famous would open in 1955 at Lucas and Hunt and West Florissant, on the fringes of suburbia at the time.

1953 A committee that included attorney Jerry Duggan, Alderman A.J. Cervantes and hotel owner Harold Koplar was formed in a last-ditch effort to keep the Browns here. Their effort nearly succeeded.

1960 The football Cardinals played their first regular-season game as the St. Louis Cardinals. They defeated the Rams 43-21 at Los Angeles. The Big Red would finish the season six-five-and-one. That was good enough for fourth place in the NFL East.

1967 The Blues played their very first game, an exhibition contest against Rochester of the American Hockey League. The Blues won 3-2, with Terry Crisp scoring the first goal in Blues history. Jack Buck called the game on KMOX.

1972 The Sierra Club filed suit to block construction of the proposed dam on the Meramec River at Sullivan. Congress had already appropriated \$5 million for the project.

1972 It wasn't a good day for a team normally known for good defense. The Cards committed eight errors while losing to the Cubs 15-1 in the second game of a doubleheader at Busch. Ed Crosby made two errors at second base, and every starter except for centerfield Jorge Roque and outfielder Jose Cruz made an error.

1979 Lou Brock's steal of second in the fifth inning of a 7-4 win over the Mets in New York gave him 938 career thefts. Lou became the all-time stolen base leader, surpassing William "Sliding Billy" Hamilton. It was the last stolen base of Lou's career.

1983 Steve Carlton recorded his 300th career win, a 6-2 win over the Redbirds at Busch. Carlton won 20 games for the Cardinals in 1971, but was traded to Philadelphia for Rick Wise because of a salary dispute with August A. Busch Jr.

1993 The *Inaugural*, a World War Two era minesweeper moored on the riverfront as a tourist attraction, overturned and sank south of the Poplar Street Bridge. The *Inaugural* and the Burger King complex were ripped from their moorings on August 1st. The minesweeper is still lying on its side.

1997 The song Elton John performed at Princess Diana's funeral went on sale. Some St. Louis stores sold out of "English Rose" within 15 minutes. The Delmar Streetside location stayed open past midnight, so it could be the first to sell the song.

1998 Actress and St. Louis native Mary Fran died at the age of 55. The former co-star of the *Newhart* Show was born Mary Fran Luecke in St. Louis. She decided to break into show business while attending Nerinx Hall Catholic School in Webster Groves. Her first TV job was as a "weathergirl" on KSD-TV, Channel Five.

2006 East St. Louis police found the bodies of three children stuffed in a washing machine and dryer at a public housing complex. Their mother, Jimella Tunstall, had been found dead a few days earlier, with an unborn child cut from her womb.