

September 27

1766 The date of the first mortgage ever recorded in St. Louis. Pierre Berger made the mortgage to Francis Latour, the goods covered being a quantity of deer skins.

1817 Another famous duel was fought on "Bloody Island," now a part of the East St. Louis river front. Charles Lucas and Thomas Hart Benton had already wounded each other in an earlier duel. This time, Benton would kill Lucas. The incident would haunt him for the rest of his political career.

1864 Rebel forces led by Sterling Price moving toward St. Louis were held up by outnumbered Union forces at Pilot Knob. One thousand Confederates were killed or wounded in 20 minutes in a frontal assault on Fort Davidson that day. Price turned into Franklin County and marched towards Jefferson City. He went around the capitol after learning it had been reinforced. Price was defeated at Westport, near Kansas City on October 23rd. The Civil War in Missouri was over.

1864 Pro-Confederate guerrillas under "Bloody Bill" Anderson attacked the railway station in Centralia, Missouri. They captured 25 Union soldiers, and shot them dead in cold blood. 114 Federal troops were killed in an ambush the guerillas had set up to trap their pursuers. The band of raiders is said to have included the James Brothers.

1879 Professor John Wise and George Burr, a bank teller, took off in a balloon from Lindell Park. Burr's body would wash up on the shore of Lake Michigan three weeks later. No trace was ever found of Professor Wise or the balloon.

1926 Sportsman Bud Yates announced a plan to bring professional football to St. Louis. He invited any player who wanted to try out for his "St. Louis Blues" to attend an organizational meeting. A similar plan had failed two years earlier.

1942 The Cardinals clinched the National League Pennant on the final day of the season, as they took the first game of a doubleheader from the Cubs, 9-2. The Redbirds won 43 of 52 down the stretch to outlast a great Brooklyn team.

1953 The St. Louis Browns played their final game. The team that made St. Louis "First in beer, first in shoes, and last in the American League" appropriately went out with a 2-1 loss in ten innings to the Chicago White Sox at Sportsmen's Park. Ed Mickleson drove in Johnny Groth in the fourth inning for the final run in the franchise's 52-year history. At 3:44 pm, Jim Dyck flied to center for the final out. A crowd of 3,174 fans saw the game.

1955 One year after the Board of Aldermen approved the controversial program, the fluoridation of the St. Louis city water supply began. Health Commissioner J-Earl Smith called it "One of the truly great public health measures of the 20th century."

1959 Seven months after the tornado, the *Globe-Democrat* reported that the area around Boyle and Olive was bouncing back better than ever. The area now known as "Gaslight Square" was attracting a reputation as a hot nightspot.

1968 Bob Gibson broke Grover Cleveland Alexander's season earned-run-average record. Gibson finished the season with an amazing 1.12 ERA. A 1-0 decision over Houston at Busch was his 13th shutout of the season. He tossed 28 complete games and struck out 268 batters en route to winning both the Cy Young and MVP honors.

1970 In the first official Monday Night Football broadcast from Busch Stadium, the Big Red defeated the New York Jets 17-10. Joe Namath was unable to play due to an injury.

1970 The police shut down the controversial KDNA, 102.5 F-M. Several members of the staff, who called themselves "The Double Helix," were busted for drugs. The station was affiliated with *The Outlaw*, described by police as an "independent radical newspaper."

1972 Just 3,380 fans turned out for the Cardinals day game against the Mets. It was the smallest crowd in Busch Stadium history to that date and still stands as the smallest crowd for a regularly scheduled game. The smallest crowd ever at Busch was 1,519 for a make up game on September 14, 1989.

1982 The Cardinals clinched the 1982 National League East pennant with a 4-2 win over Montreal, setting up a playoff with Joe Torre's Atlanta Braves.

1987 Sister Patricia Kelly was murdered in her apartment on South Grand. "Sister Pat" started the Dollar Help and Energy Care programs. Jerry Lee Little Junior is serving nine life sentences for the murder of Sister Pat and three other women.

1990 The city of East St. Louis hit rock bottom. A circuit court judge ordered the city to turn over the deed to city hall to Walter DeBow. DeBow won a lawsuit after he was beaten in the city jail.

1998 Mark McGwire capped his amazing season with two more home runs against the Montreal Expos at Busch Stadium. Number 69 came off Mike Thurman in the third inning. In the seventh, Big Mac lined the first pitch he had ever seen from rookie Carl Pavano over the left field fence. McGwire had slammed two home runs the day before, and ended the season four ahead of Sammy Sosa.

2004 MO-DOT's \$50 million hi-tech tunnel carrying Lindbergh Boulevard under the new runway at Lambert Field opened. The tunnel is equipped with jet fans and a battery of sensors to detect everything from ice to carbon dioxide.

2005 Ground was broken for a \$290 million entertainment and restaurant complex in the Bottle District, north of the Edward Jones Dome. Initial plans included a go-kart racing center and a bowling alley run by Delmar Loop developer Joe Edwards. Plans were also

in the works for three condo towers, one of which would be as tall as the Gateway Arch.