April 30, 1904

*This Date in Missouri Senate History*

On *This Date in Missouri Senate History*, the date was April 30, 1904, the day the Louisiana Purchase Exposition — more commonly known as the World’s Fair — opened in St. Louis.

The fair ran until Dec. 1 of that year.

Hence the name, this expo was meant to honor the 100th anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase. Both Kansas City and St. Louis made proposals for hosting this as early as 1898.

Missouri lawmakers authorized St. Louis to sell $5 million in bonds for the fair in 1899. The Legislature also approved asking voters for an additional $1 million. Counting privately raised funds, some $15 million went toward making the expo a reality.

The fair is known for its many creations, inventions and firsts. The first wireless telephone, which led to the invention of radio; the x-ray machine; the electric streetcar; and the waffle ice cream cone — although, it’s believed that was already around, but the fair popularized it.

April 30, 1904, the date marking start of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition — or World’s Fair — in St. Louis, on *This Date in Missouri Senate History*.

(Sources: *Whose Fair? Experience, and Memory, and the History of the Great St. Louis Exposition; Kansas City Journal;* *Missouri Senate Journal*)