MILESTONES IN ST. LOUIS COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL'S HISTORY

1917 (March 27) -- Plans are first discussed for a "country day school" in St. Louis.
1917 (May 5) -- Articles of Incorporation for St. Louis Country Day School are drawn up.
1917 (late September) -- St. Louis Country Day School opens with 48 students in
Classes 5 through 8; one classes is added each year until, in 1921-22, all eight
grades are in place. Most students travel to school via chartered streetcar -- "The Special."
1917 (October 27) -- COUNTRY DAY NEWS publishes inaugural issue.
1918 (May 30) -- First Country Day Prize Day and Prize Speaking Day.
1919 (spring) -- First school year book is published titled "Codasco," initial use of the word
which, explains the NEWS, is "derived from the name of the school, the Country Day School."
1919 (October 14) -- Newly formed Country Day interscholastic football team plays its first game
(versus Central High substitutes).
1920 (January 28) -- In the absence of an indoor basketball court of sufficient height, "Suitcase
Ball" is introduced, with players attempting to knock over a suitcase standing on end.
1921 (October) Completion of first new Country Day School building (later the Lower School).
1922 (June 9) -- First Country Day graduation (seven students receive diplomas).
1922 (October) -- New dining hall opens, next to under-construction gymnasium.
1923 (January 17) -- New gymnasium is opened.
1923 (January 20) -- Country Day's new gymnasium hosts first basketball game (versus Western
Military Academy).
1923 (June 8) -- First Junior Prom is held.
1923 (December 28) -- Country Day Alumni Association is formed.
1925 (February 27) -- New auditorium, adjoining gymnasium and seating 535, is dedicated.
1925 -- Goldman Gates are constructed at Brown Road entrance to campus.
1925 (March) -- First Class Gift, a wooden lectern, is contributed by the Country Day Class
of 1922; it is still used today in the Blanke Alumni Room.
1926 -- Country Day is granted a charter for a Cum Laude Society chapter.
1926 (February) -- The "Shed," an eagerly awaited open-air play structure, is completed behind the
gymnasium.
1926 (February 6) -- First dramatic production, "The Toreadors," is presented by student theatrical
company officially named "The Troubadours" later that year.
1926 (March 2) -- First Country Day-John Burroughs athletic contest (basketball, won by CDS 23-16);
game is described by the NEWS as between "the two rival country schools of St. Louis."
1926 (October 9) -- Country Day wins first John Burroughs varsity football game, 13-0; game is also
the first varsity contest under new head coach Robert "Pop" Hughes.
1928 -- ABC League is formed. Country Day and MICDS continue in League until it is dissolved in 2012.
1928 (January 20) -- Vincent Price has his first major theatrical role as Don Lozono in Troubadours
production of "El Bandido."
1928 (September) -- CDS varsity football coach Robert "Pop" Hughes schedules first football camp,
held at Irondale, Mo., Boy Scout Reservation.
1929 (March 18) -- Small private plane with a student pilot makes forced landing on a CDS field.
1932 -- Country Day ends dependence on well water when a county water pipeline is extended up
Brown Road.
1934 (September) -- Bus service replaces the two electric trolley "Specials" which had brought students
to Country Day from St. Louis since school opened its doors in 1917.
1934 (November 10) -- Football Coach Pop Hughes introduces trick "center play" which results in center
scoring a touchdown in 7-0 victory over Western Military Academy.
1935 (January 25) -- The Country Day Rally Song is sung for the first time, during a CDS-John Burroughs basketball game.

1938 (January 6) -- U.S. Naval Aviator Scott Pope Hawkins '28 becomes first CDS alumnus to lose his life in military service; "Fallen Heroes" of all wars eventually number 33.

1939 (May) -- Alligator escapes for second time from Country Day's makeshift zoo, is found on neighbor's porch. Zoo, brought to school by a student, is dismantled soon after.

1941 (November 15) -- Coach Hughes introduces trick football "bat play" by which the ball was advanced down the field by a player using a glove to hit it out of bounds, leading to 14-13 win over John Burroughs.

1942 (August 2) -- Robert H. B. Thompson, longest-serving Country Day Headmaster, dies of a heart attack at age 57. A member of the first CDS faculty, he led the school for 21 years.

1942 (summer) -- Deerfield Summer Camp makes its debut on Country Day Campus.

1942 (January) -- Military training is instituted at Country Day for top three classes; the program remains in place until the fall of 1945.

1943 -- More than 250 of Country Day's 500 alumni are serving in the military.

1947 (July 28) -- CDS Headmaster's house is destroyed by an explosion and fire thought to have been caused by a natural gas leak. School caretaker is killed; Lillian Walls, then a housekeeper and later school dietitian, is injured but is rescued by maintenance man Jim Jones.

1949 (December 2) -- Baseball stars Stan Musial, Red Schoendienst, Marty Marion, Enos Slaughter, Yogi Berra, and Roy Sievers plus sportscaster Harry Caray attended CDS Father-Son Dinner.

1950 (September 30) -- CDS faculty member Grant R. Ellis, recalled to active Marine Corps duty, is killed by a sniper in Korea. School's football facility is named Ellis Field in his honor.

1950 (October) -- First Country Day "Buzz Book" published.

1950 -- The Board of Trustees banned student membership in fraternities, at least three of which had established chapters at Country Day.

1951 (January) -- Stretch of old Brown Road in front of Country Day campus is renamed Country Day Lane.

1952 -- Acquisition of land for new Warson Road Country Day campus is completed. Total cost of 55.9-acre site: $199,000.

1952 (fall) -- "Ram" is adopted as sports team nickname after a student contest, succeeding "Redcoats" used in 1951-52 and, earlier, "The Codascos" and "The Brown Roaders."

1953 (October 10) -- The Country Day cannon, a smaller starter cannon briefly used at football games to celebrate each CDS touchdown, is retired after John Burroughs complaints lead to police taking the weapon (and parents firing it) to the Ladue police station after the cannon was fired during a CDS-Burroughs game. Cannon is now in the CDS Archives.

1955 -- Round Country Day seal is adopted; reportedly designed by shop teacher Gordon Raymond. New seal replaces original winged-figure design introduced in 1926.

1955 -- Tradition of afternoon snacks of sandwiches or crackers and milk is abolished.

1957 (fall) -- Coats and ties become the dress requirement for all students.

1957-58 -- Country Day moves from its original Brown Road campus to Warson Road over the year-end holiday break. Most students participate in the move. Total cost: $150.

1959 (June) -- Three pioneer faculty members retire -- Gordon M. Browne, Robert L. Hobbs, and Walter J. McCreery.

1959 (fall) -- First appearance at football games of live Ram mascot.

1960 (fall) -- Nadia Danett, Russian teacher, becomes first full-time female faculty member at Country Day since the 1918-19 school year.

1962 (March 7) -- Explorer Sir Edmund Hillary addresses student assembly.

1964 (May) -- Unofficial tradition of throwing a senior in the Country Day pond is introduced.
1965 (fall) -- Longtime varsity football coach Robert "Pop" Hughes retires, having accumulated Varsity coaching record of 76 wins, 34 losses, and 7 ties over 35 seasons.
1966 -- Last of the Brown Road campus buildings are razed for airport expansion; site now rests under east end of Lambert runways.
1966 (fall) -- Ronald Holtman takes over as Country Day's varsity football coach.
1968 (fall) -- New swimming pool opens, and a water polo team is formed.
1968 (fall) -- CDS welcomes its first female football cheerleaders.
1969 (fall) -- New Library-Learning Center opens.
1973 (June) -- J. Evan Philips, "Mr. Phil," retires after 50 years as Country Day faculty member.
1974 -- Country Day varsity football team wins State Championship, first of seven to date.
1974 (fall) -- U.S. Senator Julian Bond addresses CDS student body.
1974 (fall) -- Country Day wins first state football championship, beating Pleasant Hill.
1983 (April 8) -- Country Day alumni and United States Senators John C. Danforth '54, Thomas F. Eagleton '46, and Peter B. Wilson '51 address student body in Danforth Chapel.
1987 (November 7) -- Bryant Arts Center opens.
1990 (January 29) -- Boards of Country Day and Mary Institute vote to merge.
1992 (fall) -- Country Day and Mary Institute are officially joined into Mary Institute and St. Louis Country Day School.