

August 27

1832 Carondelet was incorporated as a town. The village was founded in 1767. It was nicknamed "Vide Poche" or "Empty Pocket" by the French. The name was either a comment on the poor residents, or on their gambling abilities, depending on which source you believe. Carondelet was annexed by the City of St. Louis in 1870.

1861 Former Mayor Washington King died. He served in 1855-1856. During his term, the city limits were expanded from 18th Street west to Grand, taking in the old town of Bremen. The mayor also worked to pave more streets and to expand the waterworks.

1895 The Terminal Hotel at Union Station formally opened. It was the last part of the station to be completed. The hotel boasted accommodations for 250 guests and was described as one of the finest in the country. It closed in 1970. In 1985, the 550 room Omni Luxury Hotel (now the Hyatt) opened. It occupies the area of the old Terminal Hotel and part of the train shed to the south.

1904 Carl Myers and George Tomlinson took off in their balloons, competing for a \$5,000 prize for a flight to Washington. Myers landed one mile west of St. Charles, farther away from D.C. than when he started! Tomlinson landed near Wyoming, Illinois, about 200 miles away. The flights were too short to qualify for the prize.

1910 The *Globe-Democrat* reported that Courtland Harris, president of the Harris Shirt Company, and attorney Thomas H. Cobbs had presented a proposal for a zoo to the "Million Population Club" civic group and the city. Harris would propose that school children pitch in to buy an elephant. Several citizens promised to donate animals. The Million Population Club refused to donate a camel, because the animal might be considered a symbol of Prohibition.

1920 Alfonso J. Cervantes was born in St. Louis. He became an alderman from the 15th ward in 1949 and was elected as the 43th Mayor of St. Louis in 1965. He was known as the "Salesman Mayor" for his efforts to promote the city. While race riots swept other cities in the 1960's, Cervantes worked closely with African-American leaders to keep the peace. His fight for a new airport in Illinois cost him a bid for a third term in 1973.

1933 Lieutenant Tito Falconi, an Italian aviator, flew from St. Louis to Joliet--upside down! He set a record for inverted flight at three-hours, 16 minutes. He admitted being a little scared when one of the three straps holding him in his seat broke.

1936 The heat wave and drought were shattering records across Missouri and Illinois. In Belleville, the temperature had hit 100 degrees or higher for 16 straight days. In St. Louis, it hit 100 for 14 out of 16 days. The mercury rose to 98 and 99 on the other two days.

1956 Dorothy Richer, author of the teen column in the *Globe-Democrat*, was harsh in her assessment of newcomer Elvis Presley. She wrote, "He cannot sing and his whole

performance is crude and disgusting....his face is devoid of expression except when he snarls. My guess is that in a comparatively short time he will be forgotten."

1967 The first quadruplets born in St. Louis were making headlines. The Fahrenkog Family of Florissant decided the babies should be named Brian, Mark, Paul and DeWayne. They were born two days earlier at DePaul Hospital. The Fahrenkogs already had three boys and three girls at home.

1982 Rickey Henderson of the Oakland A's stole his 119th base of the season, breaking the old record set by Lou Brock.

1991 Clarence Harmon became the first black Police Chief in the 130-year history of the St. Louis Police Department.

2000 Calls were increasing for something to be done about the toll on I-44 near Six Flags. In the latest accident, two people were killed and 18 injured in an accident involving a tour bus. An accident in the same area less than a month earlier took the lives of five members of the Vander Haar family.