

## December 27

**1884** A Swedish immigrant named John Meyenberg asked a group of Highland, Illinois citizens for financial backing. Meyenberg planned a plant to produce his invention, condensed milk. The plant opened in a vacant wool factory, then moved to St. Louis in 1921. "Pet" was one of the brands produced by The Helvetia Milk Condensing Company, and the company took the name in 1923.

**1900** Carrie Nation busted up her first saloon in Kansas. The militant prohibitionist would visit St. Louis in 1901. She hassled smokers at Union Station and tried to bust up the "Carrie Nation Saloon" at 16th and Market. She returned here in 1904 and denounced the world's fair as the "tool of the devil."

**1902** William "The Missouri Kid" Randolph and George "Black Frank" Collins made off with \$14,000 in the robbery of the Union, Missouri bank. They killed a Pinkerton agent in the ensuing shoot out. Collins was hanged in March 1904 and Rudolph met the same fate in May 1905.

**1906** A group of citizens headed by E.G. Lewis announced they had founded the University City Trust Company. The company planned to create a "model city" in the newly created municipality. It was charged with making plans for parks, boulevards and residential districts.

**1908** The Marquis and Count de Lafayette of Paris were suing the city of St. Louis. They demanded the city turn over Carondelet Park and the site of the Southern Hotel. They traced ownership to a woman in their family who had married a St. Louis man. The suit said the money was needed to "keep up the dignity and position which the family name demands."

**1915** William Howard Masters was born in Cleveland. Virginia Johnson joined him in studying sexuality at Washington University in 1957. They opened the Masters and Johnson Institute in 1964. Their 1966 book "Human Sexual Response" was intended for the medical community, but became a best seller.

**1926** Charles Lindbergh asked his boss, William B. Robertson, for help in financing his attempt at the first solo Trans-Atlantic flight. Lindbergh had already secured \$1,000 from aviation booster Albert Bond Lambert. Robertson said he couldn't afford it. The *Post-Dispatch* also turned Lindy down, saying the paper could not be associated with such a risky venture. But business leaders Harry Hall Knight and Harold Bixby would say yes.

**1931** The first church services were held in the "Hooverville" shantytown that covered the riverfront beneath the Free Bridge. (Now the McCarthur) Residents used packing crates and lumber fished from the river to construct "The Full Gospel Mission."

**1947** Ground was broken for the new \$1,650,000 county courthouse in Clayton. A county judge said the new building would eliminate the number one fire hazard in Clayton. The old courthouse, dating from the 1870's was in terrible shape. The 1947 courthouse still stands as part of the county government complex.

**1963** The first contracts were awarded for the Innerbelt Expressway. The two-mile stretch from Highway 40 to Ladue Road opened in 1966. The highway was extended to Page in 1970. It remained a dead end at Page until 1981.

**1969** George M. Khoury died in St. Louis at the age of 67. A printer from St. Louis, he founded the Khoury little league baseball organization in 1936.

**1972** President Richard Nixon and former president Lyndon Johnson were among the thousands who filed in to pay their respects to Harry Truman at the Truman Library in Independence. Governor Warren Hearnes and Governor-elect Kit Bond were also there.

**1974** The battle between the new town of Black Jack and the Nixon administration was headed to the U.S. Supreme Court. Black Jack officials vowed to appeal a court ruling overturning its zoning laws. The appeals court said laws prohibiting construction of low to moderate-income apartments were unconstitutional.

**1975** For the second straight season, the football Cardinals fell in the first round of the playoffs. The Rams beat them in Los Angeles, 35-23.

**1983** Walther Nothies disappeared from his St. Charles County home. Under the name Walter Scott, he sang lead on the 1965 Bob Kuban and the In-Men hit "The Cheater." His body was found in a cistern on April 10, 1987. James Williams, who was having an affair with Scott's wife, was convicted of the crime. Williams had also murdered his own wife.