

## **December 28**

**1832** Missouri Governor Daniel Dunkin signed the charter for St. Louis University, the first university west of the Mississippi. The school that became SLU opened in 1818 and closed in 1826. Bishop Rosati revived the school and invited the Jesuits to teach in 1829. According to Jesuit tradition, no tuition could be charged. But Bishop Rosati obtained a dispensation from Pope Gregory XVI to allow the university to charge tuition.

**1841** Bishop Peter Kenrick arrived in St. Louis, to serve as coadjutor to Bishop Rosati. When Rosati died in 1843, Kenrick took over. He later became the first Archbishop of St. Louis. Within four years, he had overseen the construction of five more churches.

**1874** The town of Fenton was officially incorporated. It was a move by citizens to try to bring some order to the town, which had a rough reputation. William Long, an Englishman, founded the town. He named the town after his mother, who he claimed was a descendant of the Earl of Fenton. According to the petition for incorporation, Fenton had "35 legal voters, 40 to 50 women and about 90 children, with fair prospects for an increase in the latter."

**1901** Work began on the monumental task of straightening and burying the pesky River des Peres as it flowed through Forest Park. The river was buried in a wooden channel beneath the world's fair grounds. The work would be finished in June 1902.

**1907** The May Department Store at Sixth and Washington announced all assets had been sold to the Famous Department Store, at Broadway and Morgan. Famous officials announced they would move the Famous Store to Sixth and Washington in February 1908.

**1922** Police Chief O'Brien announced that the city of St. Louis would institute a ticket system for traffic scofflaws beginning on January 1st. Offenders would be issued a ticket and required to appear in court at a later date. Under the present system, the officer would have to take traffic offenders in custody and accompany them to the station.

**1926** Robert O'Farrell, Cards catcher and National League MVP, was named manager to replace Rogers Hornsby. Hornsby had been dealt to the Giants for Frankie Frisch on December 20. Cards management hoped naming the popular O'Farrell as manager would cool some of the uproar. The St. Louis Chamber of Commerce had asked Commissioner Kenesaw Mountain Landis to halt the trade.

**1927** Federal prohibition agents were warning restaurants and hotels not to serve cracked ice and set-ups on New Years Eve. They warned it might make them liable for charges under the Volstead Act. Most of the establishments said they would ignore the warning.

**1927** The violent war between the Italian and "Cuckoo" gangs claimed its 14th victim. Four men in a speeding car gunned down notorious "Green One's" gangster Vito Giannola.

**1930** For the first time since the Volstead Act went into effect, prohibition officials announced there would be no "spotters" working the nightclubs and hotels on New Years Eve. St. Louis prohibition chief James Dillon said the merrymakers regarded his agents as part of the entertainment.

**1945** Veterans were picketing city hall, demanding a place to live. They criticized the Board of Aldermen for recessing for the holidays before taking action on easing zoning restrictions to help with the housing shortage. One official was proposing using the vacant Arch construction site for a giant trailer park to help house vets.

**1947** The Chicago Cardinals won the National Football League Championship, defeating the Eagles, 28-21. That's the last time the football Cardinals won a championship, including their years in St. Louis.

**1949** The transfer of Jefferson Barracks from the federal government to the state of Missouri was completed. The ceremony came 123 years after the post was established as a military training ground. Much of the land was turned over to St. Louis County for a park.

**1954** An engineering study made in connection with a proposal that the city of St. Louis buy Parks Airport found there was no need for a second St. Louis airport. The study said Lambert Field would be adequate until at least 1965.

**1955** A federal judge ordered an end to segregation in St. Louis public housing projects. The ruling came in a lawsuit by three African-Americans who were refused admission to the Cochran Apartments. At the time, blacks were admitted only to the Carr Square Apartments and the Wendell Pruitt Homes.

**1957** Boston Pops Conductor Arthur Fiedler in St. Louis said rock and roll was a passing phase. He was here for a benefit with the St. Louis Symphony. Fiedler said a nation that survived the Charleston and the Black Bottom would survive rock and roll.

**1970** The St. Louis construction unions were threatening legal action to block the proposed airport at Columbia-Waterloo, Illinois. The unions were upset that the work would go to unions and contractors in Illinois.

**1972** Harry S. Truman was buried in a simple ceremony in the garden outside his office at the Truman Library in Independence. One of the first arrivals for the funeral was Missouri Senator Stuart Symington. He had just flown from Washington, D-C, where he attended the funeral of his wife.

**1983** A mob defendant was talked from the ledge at the Federal Courthouse downtown. Steven Wougamon stood shivering on the ledge for 75 minutes. He was one of the defendants in the car bombing that killed George Faheen and the murder of Michael Kornhardt. Wougamon claimed he had been "brainwashed" by the government.

**1988** Charlotte Peters died at the age of 76. Known as the "First Lady of St. Louis Television, " she hosted the popular noontime *Charlotte Peters Show* in the 50's and 60's. Her son is Pulitzer Prize winning cartoonist Mike Peters of "Mother Goose and Grimm" fame.