

## February 1

**1806** Joseph Murphy was born in Ireland. He came to America in 1818 and went became an apprentice in a St. Louis wagon shop when the family farm in Creve Coeur failed. Murphy became the greatest wagon maker in the West. During the Gold Rush, it was not uncommon for entire wagon trains to be up of Murphy wagons.

**1817** The Bank of Missouri was chartered. The bank was located in the basement of Auguste Chouteau's home. Weakened by the panic of 1819, it closed in 1821. The state would stay out of the banking business for another 16 years.

**1819** The first permanent theater in St. Louis opened. William Turner and 15 other citizens had joined to build the 600 seat theater on Main, between Olive and Locust. The first show was Oliver Goldsmith's "She Stoops to Conquer" and the farce, "The Watchman."

**1843** A group of St. Louis County residents moved to introduce legislation to separate the city from the county. The move failed, but it was the first sign of the bickering between the city and county that would lead to "the great divorce" of 1876.

**1869** Kerry Mills was born in Philadelphia. One night in 1904, the New York composer ordered a popular drink, known as a "Louis." The bartender's name was Louis, so he said, "Give me another Louis, Louis." His friend, lyricist Andrew B. Sterling, chuckled at the repetition. He soon penned a song about a wife who left her husband Louis to go to the World's Fair and asked him to "Meet Me In St. Louis, Louis." (Louis was pronounced "Louiee" in the song.)

**1874** The St. Louis papers were filled with the sensational details of the robbery of the St. Louis and Little Rock Express at Gad's Hill the day before. The James Gang left behind a note for journalists, which began with the words "The most daring robbery on record" and ended with "there is a hell of an excitement in these parts." It was said the gang looked at the hands of the passengers so as not to rob working men.

**1903** Edward G. Lewis, the founder of the University Heights Realty and Development Company, announced his plans for a new headquarters building for his American Women's Magazine. The design called for an octagonal building on Delmar in Lewis' planned community. The building now serves as the city hall of University City.

**1906** The *Globe Democrat* reported that St. Louis was now the leading manufacturer of shoes in the world. Twenty shoe factories had been built here in the past five years. The paper said St. Louis made 48 million pairs of shoes in 1905.

**1927** The St. Louis Fire Department retired the last of its 32 horses, completing the changeover to motorized equipment. The department said the horses would be reassigned to "more lowly tasks in the service of the city."

**1928** Edward Mallinkrodt died at the age of 83. His father, a Prussian immigrant, borrowed money for Edward and his brother to start a chemical company in 1840. They set up shop on the family farm in North St. Louis, where the Mallinkrodt complex stands today.

**1929** Martin-Breitt Real Estate, announced that deals had been closed on property for the proposed \$3.5 million Fox Theatre. The theatre was to be built on the west side of Grand, between the Beers Hotel and the Humboldt Building. It would be 1,000 seats larger than the New St. Louis Theatre, then the largest in the city. Construction was slated to start on August 1.

**1932** The *Globe-Democrat* reported on a visit by Winston Churchill, "the most glamorous and one of the greatest figures in modern statesmanship." In a speech before the St. Louis Women's Club, Churchill called for a closer union of English-speaking peoples to "prevent the dissolution of civilization into another World War and to constitute a bulwark against possible Soviet expansion."

**1946** Oklahoma A&M beat St. Louis University 39-27 before 13,386 at the Arena, the largest basketball crowd to see a game in St. Louis to date. Bob Kurland, "The Jennings Giant" scored 22 points for the Aggies.

**1952** The army announced plans to reactivate the small arms plant at 4300 Goodfellow, due to demand from the fighting in Korea. The plant, the largest of its kind during World War Two, was expected to be up and running by mid-1953. It was expected to employ 26,000 people.

**1958** Contracts were awarded for the first significant new office building to be built downtown in 26 years. City officials said the ten-story Caradine Hat Company Building at 14 South 4th Street marked the end of a long period of decay downtown.

**1959** The *Globe* reported that the area around around Boyle and Olive may soon be known as "Gaslight Square." If the city agreed, gas lamps would light the area. The area was beginning to attract a mix of non-conformists, nightclubs and antique stores.

**1967** Hawks owner Ben Kerner, who had recently announced that the St. Louis Hawks were for sale, said he would keep the club for now. He said he had turned down several bids from groups who wanted to move the team.

**1970** Jessie "Pop" Haines was named to the Baseball Hall of Fame. He spent 18 of his 19 major league seasons with the Cardinals. His 210-158 record included three 20-win seasons. He threw a no-hitter in 1924.

**1982** The entire area was still under a snow emergency. 100 National Guardsmen were mobilized to clear the snow in the city. Mayor Vincent Schemmehl and County Executive Gene McNary ordered all non-essential workers to stay home. Most businesses remained shut down. At least ten deaths were blamed on the storm.

**1983** President Ronald Reagan came to St. Louis. Lee Iacocca, Chairman of the Chrysler Corporation, accompanied Regan on a visit to the Fenton plant. The president also spoke at a Regional Commerce and Growth Association meeting downtown.

**1984** Dillard's bought out the nine Stix, Baer and Fuller department stores. Stix was founded back in 1892, and its main location was at Washington and 6<sup>th</sup> Streets. The downtown location would become part of St. Louis Centre, and closed in 2001.

**1984** The biggest fire in St. Louis in seven years destroyed a six-story warehouse at 201 Dickson. The general alarm blaze destroyed over \$2 million worth of patio furniture.

**1985** The Cardinals dealt David Green, Jose Uribe, Dave LaPoint and Gary Rajsich to San Francisco in return for Jack Clark. Clark would prove pivotal in the drive towards the 1985 pennant. He slugged 57 homers and drive in 193 runs over the next two seasons.

**1993** JoAnn Williams agreed to a plea bargain in the murder of her ex-husband, Walter Scott. She received five years in prison on a charge of hindering prosecution. Scott was the lead singer for Bob Kuban and the In-Men.

**2000** Less than 48 hours after his team won the Super Bowl, Rams Coach Dick Vermeil announced his retirement. The Rams named offensive coordinator Mike Martz as the 21<sup>st</sup> head coach of the Rams the following day. Martz broke into the NFL as an unpaid assistant in 1992. He became Rams receivers' coach in 1995. After two seasons with the Redskins, he returned to St. Louis as offensive coordinator.

**2001** The U.S. Senate confirmed the nomination of John Ashcroft to become Attorney General. In November 2000, Ashcroft had lost his bid for a second term in the Senate to the late Missouri Governor, Mel Carnahan. Carnahan's widow, Jean, took her husband's place. She voted against Ashcroft's nomination.