

February 13

1794 John Hardeman Walker was born. Legend says he is the man responsible for "The Bootheel" area becoming part of Missouri. Hardeman was a major landowner, who led the fight to include the area between the Mississippi and St. Francois rivers down to the 36th parallel.

1819 A bill proposing the admission of Missouri to the Union was introduced in Congress. A New York Representative proposed an amendment prohibiting the further introduction of slavery and requiring all children born in Missouri after admission to be freed at the age of 25. The Talmadge amendment brought the issue of slavery to the nation's attention, and launched a two-year political fight over Missouri statehood.

1866 The James Gang began their reign of terror. The gang took \$60,000 from the bank in Liberty, Missouri. As they rode out of town, they gunned down a cashier who raised the alarm. It marked the first armed robbery of an American bank during peacetime.

1874 A reward of \$17,000 was offered for the capture of the James Gang, dead or alive, for the train robbery at Gads Hill, Missouri two weeks earlier. The governor of Missouri was offering \$10,000, the post office put up another \$5,000 and the governor of Arkansas offered \$2,500.

1889 St. Louis lawyer and farm newspaper publisher Norman J. Colman was named as the first United States Secretary of Agriculture. As Commissioner of Agriculture, Colman had lobbied President Cleveland to make his job a cabinet position. Colman maintained an experimental farm near St. Louis and pushed for a measure providing federal funds to operate such farms in conjunction with universities.

1904 William Lemp killed himself at the family mansion at 3322 DeMenil Place. The Lemp Brewery was by far the most successful in St. Louis at the time. Lemp's son had died under mysterious circumstances in 1901. Prohibition forced the brewery out of business in 1919, and tragedy stalked the family. Elsa Lemp, the wealthiest heiress in St. Louis, killed herself in 1920. William Lemp Junior shot himself to death in the mansion in 1922. In 1949, his brother Charles also committed suicide in the mansion.

1905 The mercury dipped to 40 below zero at Warsaw, Missouri. That's the lowest temperature ever recorded in the state.

1924 Edward Lineham, a self described "copper hater" and member of the Eagan Gang, was shot to death by his own associates. He was to have faced trial that day for holding up a mail messenger.

1934 August A. Busch Senior scrawled a note: "Goodbye Mama and Precious Children," then shot himself at his hunting lodge at St. Peters. He had been in intense pain due to heart trouble. St. Louis police called suicide "The Dutch Act," because so many German

brewers had killed themselves. Besides the Lemp suicides, Otto Steifel of the Union Brewery had killed himself in 1920.

1935 A jury of eight men and four women found Bruno Richard Hauptman guilty in the death of the Lindbergh baby. He was sentenced to die in the electric chair in the state prison at Trenton, New Jersey. Thousands of people gathered outside the courthouse cheered the announcement of the verdict in "The Trail of the Century."

1937 The National Football League granted a franchise to a group of Cleveland businessmen. The Cleveland Rams had played in the American Football League in 1936, their first season. In their first season in the NFL, they would compile a record of one win and ten losses. Former Pittsburgh Pirate manager Hugh Bezdek was named as the first Rams coach. To this day, he is the only man to coach an NFL team and a major league baseball team.

1949 Thousands of St. Louisans jammed the switchboards at KMOX, the *Globe-Democrat* and Police Headquarters when KMOX went off the air for 80-minutes. A broken cable at the transmitter was blamed for the outage. Most of the callers were upset that they missed the Jack Benny show and the Amos and Andy program.

1959 The National Aeronautics and Space Administration signed a contract with McDonnell Aircraft for the design and construction of the orbital Mercury spacecraft. The "Freedom Seven" Mercury capsule carried Alan Shephard on America's first manned space flight.

1974 James "Cool Papa" Bell was named to the Baseball Hall of Fame. The fastest man ever to play the game, Bell is said to have once been hit by his own line drive as he slid into second base. He played for the St. Louis Stars from 1922 to 1931, and then starred for other Negro League Teams. He was offered a contract with the Browns at the age of 50, but turned it down.

2005 Gretchen Wilson of Pocahontas, Illinois topped off an amazing year with a Grammy Award for best female country vocal performance on "Redneck Woman." She was nominated in three other categories. Her debut album had already notched the best new artist honors at the American Music Awards and the Horizon Award from the Country Music Association.