

January 1

1788 Philosopher Etienne Cabet was born in France. Cabet dreamed of establishing a communist utopia. About 200 of his followers settled on a 28-acre site around Wilson and Sulphur in 1853, one of the first settlements on “The Hill.” Everyone in the colony shared responsibility for economic and social activity. Money problems and bickering led to the abandonment of the commune in 1864.

1832 Thomas Crittenden was born in Shelby County, Kentucky. As the 24th Governor of Missouri, he offered a huge reward for the capture of the James Gang. By the time he left office, Jesse James was dead, Frank James had given himself up, and the rest of the gang was either dead or behind bars.

1836 Doctor George Engelmann began taking weather readings in St. Louis. He kept records for the next 47 years, the only weather records we have from that period. A renowned botanist, he is best remembered for developing Henry Shaw's garden. Engelmann died after catching cold while trying to clear a path to his weather instruments on a snowy day.

1842 The St. Louis City Dispensary opened, the forerunner of City Hospital. Patients were admitted as soon as the doors opened. Most of them were suffering from respiratory ailments.

1861 The last slave auction in St. Louis took place at what is now the Old Courthouse. About 2,000 people showed up to jeer the auctioneer. The crowd repeatedly yelled “three dollars” when bidding began on a “boy” valued at up to \$1,000. It took two hours for the bidding to reach eight dollars. At that point, the exhausted auctioneer led the seven slaves back to the jail.

1863 President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. The act didn't free the slaves in Missouri. It applied only in states in rebellion against the Union. Missouri Governor Claiborne Jackson had taken the militia to fight for the rebels, but Missouri remained Union. In July 1863, the General Assembly passed a measure freeing the slaves as of July 5, 1870. But they were actually freed by the 14th Amendment.

1867 Charles Udell Turpin was born. Turpin owned the Booker T. Washington Theater at 2248 Market Street. It was the one of the first theaters in the country built and operated by African-Americans. In 1910, he was elected as constable, the first black to be elected to a St. Louis political office. Charles Turpin was re-elected twice. His brother, Thomas, was an early ragtime musician and composer known as the “Father of St. Louis Ragtime.”

1901 Junius Pulitzer Shaw became the first St. Louisan born in the 20th Century. Mrs. Mackey Shaw, 3923 North Ninth Street, gave birth 20 seconds after midnight. Junius was given his middle name because the Post-Dispatch awarded him \$25 in cash and a big assortment of gifts. Shaw died in August 1982 at the age of 81.

1908 St. Louis celebrated one of the quietest New Years ever. City police strictly enforced an order by Governor Joseph Folk barring merry-making, cowbells and horn blowing.

1914 St. Louisans Tom Benoist and Tony Jannus began flying boat service between St. Petersburg and Tampa, Florida. It was the first scheduled passenger airline in the U.S. The prototype for the aircraft was tested at Creve Coeur Lake. Benoist had founded the first aeronautical supply company in the U.S. in St. Louis in 1908. He was also the first St. Louisan to pilot an airplane. Jannus was the pilot who took Albert Berry up to make the first parachute jump in the U.S. over Jefferson Barracks in 1912.

1923 Shortly after midnight, federal agents under Gus O. Nations raided the Palm Room at the Chase Hotel. Hundreds of revelers forced the “dry sleuths” and the police to retreat amid a hail of chairs, dinnerware and cutlery. Two men were shot in the melee. A city detective said he opened fire in self-defense after being assaulted. The public was irate, and many questioned whether the search warrants used were valid.

1924 Gus O. Nations, the chief federal prohibition agent here, said 1924 was the "most quiet, orderly and law abiding" New Years celebration he had seen in St. Louis. Only two people were arrested. That compared to the year before, when a riot broke out as prohibition agents raided the Chase Hotel.

1924 Gussie Busch joined the Anheuser-Busch Brewery. Within four months, he was named general superintendent. Gussie became one of the most beloved figures in St. Louis. He saw the brewery through prohibition, mainly by selling yeast, glucose corn sugar and other products.

1931 The grandson of August A. Busch was released unharmed, 36 hours after he was kidnapped. Adolphus Orthwein was found in Webster Groves after an elderly black man, Pearl Abernathy, told police he thought his son kidnapped the boy.

1933 The new Watson Road was finished from the St. Louis city limits west to Gray Summit. The new road was designated to carry City Route 66 traffic to Lindbergh and Route 66 between Lindbergh and Gray Summit. Prior to that date, Manchester Road had carried Route 66 traffic west of the city.

1939 Landlords evicted hundreds of white and black sharecroppers and tenant farmers from Butler, Pemiscot, Dunklin and New Madrid Counties in the Missouri Bootheel. Many of them would gather their meager possessions and move onto Highways 60 and 61 to draw attention to their plight.

1954 In an unprecedented message read at New Years masses, Archbishop Joseph Ritter forbid Catholics “under the penalty of sin” to see the *French Line*, currently playing at the Fox Theatre. An 80-foot tall likeness of the movie’s star, Jane Russell, towered over

the Fox to promote the film. Ritter urged Catholics to boycott the Fox, which he called "a palace of sin."

1954 KSD-TV carried the first live color program broadcast in St. Louis. Over 2,000 people crowded around special color receivers at the Hotel Chase to see the broadcast of the Tournament of Roses Parade from Pasadena, California. The St. Louis float, pulled by the Budweiser Clydesdales took home an award.

1956 St. Louis artist Russell Kraus moved into the first structure in Missouri designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. Wright called his design "Usonian," reflecting his belief that buildings should fit in with their natural surroundings. The grounds of the home are now Ebsworth Park, off Ballas near Dougherty Ferry. Wright also designed one other home in the St. Louis area, the T.A. Pappas house.

1960 Georgia defeated Missouri in the Orange Bowl, 14-0. Their highly touted quarterback, Fran Tarkenton, led Georgia.

1961 Mizzou won the Orange Bowl, beating Navy 21-14. Joe Bellino, "everybody's all-American," was held to just four yards rushing by the Tigers. Under coach Dan Devine, the Tigers finished 11-0, but were ranked fifth in the nation. During the 1960's Devine's Tigers would compile a record of 77-22-6.

1970 Penn State defeated the Tigers in the Orange Bowl, 10-3. Tiger quarterback Terry McMillan threw five interceptions. St. Louisan Chuck Roper was called in to replace McMillan and threw two more interceptions. The Dan Devine era would end after the 1970 season and Missouri has not been the same since.

1974 The Missouri Highway Department cleared up the confusion about the interstate that circles St. Louis. The entire route was designated as I-270. Prior to that time, the stretch from Troy, Illinois to I-70 was known as I-270. The stretch between I-70 and I-55 in South St. Louis County was known as I-244.

1999 St. Louis was digging out from a New Year's Day snow storm. Eight inches of the white stuff were mixed with ice as the temperature dropped to five below.

1983 Tohri Harper was born in St. Louis. You know him better as rapper Murphy Lee. The member of Nelly's St. Lunatics received national attention when he teamed with Nelly and P Diddy for the hit "Shake Ya Tailfeater" from the *Bad Boys II* soundtrack followed by the release of his CD "Murphy's Law." In 2004, he shared the Grammy for Best Rap Performance by a Duo or Group for "Tailfeather."

2000 The millennium arrived without a hitch, as police, emergency agencies and businesses that rely on computers stood by in case any Y2K bugs materialized. Fireworks exploded over the Arch as part of the "First Night" celebration. Connor James Archer, a breech baby born at ten seconds after midnight at St. John's Mercy Medical in Creve Coeur, was the first St. Louis child of the 21st century.

2004 A massive turnout at the New Year's celebration in Forest Park caught organizers by surprise. Record warm temperatures brought big crowds out to ride a giant Ferris Wheel and take part in festivities honoring the centennial of the 1904 World's Fair. Organizers were expecting 50,000 people, but over three times that number showed up.