

January 5

1779 Zebulon M. Pike was born in Lambertton, New Jersey. He left St. Louis aboard a keelboat in 1805 to find the source of the Mississippi. He mistakenly concluded that the source was at Leech Lake, Minnesota. The following year, he led another expedition from St. Louis, this one to explore the southwestern part of the Louisiana Purchase. It was on this expedition that he discovered the mountain that now bears his name.

1818 Bishop Louis DuBourg arrived in St. Louis to take over the Diocese of Louisiana and the Floridas. Almost immediately, he began planning for a cathedral. He established a seminary, an academy for boys, and worked to establish a school for girls under the Order of the Sacred Heart. He also brought Father Pierre DeSmet and the Jesuit order to St. Louis. DeSmet would become one of the most revered missionaries in the west. The Jesuits would found St. Louis University.

1833 Warren County, Missouri was organized from Montgomery County. It is named after patriot Joseph Warren of Massachusetts. Warren sent Paul Revere on his famous ride. He was killed at the Battle of Bunker Hill.

1849 The first few cases of cholera were reported here. It was the beginning of the worst disaster in city history. The cholera ebbed for a while late in the winter, but was raging again by spring. By June, hundreds were dying every week. By the time the epidemic ended in July, more than 5,000 people, or one out of every ten residents, had died.

1853 Major George Sibley and his wife donated their beautiful estate in St. Charles to the St. Louis Presbytery for the establishment of a Christian college. Their estate was called "Lindenwood."

1857 Trusten Polk took the oath of office as Governor of Missouri. Just over a month later, he was named to succeed Henry Geyer as Senator, giving him the shortest term ever for a Missouri governor. Missouri had four governors in a ten-month period after Polk.

1874 Joseph Erlanger was born. He was a physicist at Washington University who won a Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1944. He was honored for using the cathode-ray oscillograph to study nerve action potentials. Erlanger would become chairman of the Washington University Medical School.

1902 Plans by the Police Board to confine "The Social Evil Element" to one part of town during the world's fair were under fire by residents of the near south side neighborhood chosen for the district. The residents said it was the duty of the police to rid the city of such women, not to move them in among respectable people.

1905 The *Globe-Democrat* reported that Louisiana Purchase Exposition Employees had discovered a new use for the hill in front of the Palace of Fine Arts. Now cleared of trees, "Art Hill" made a perfect toboggan slope. The employees were using discarded folding chairs as sleds.

1907 The St. Louis Police Board ordered six motorcycles. The Board said the department's two "skidoodle wagons" could no longer catch many speeders. The police cars had a top speed of 30 miles-per-hour. It was hoped the motorbikes could keep pace with the latest models.

1921 Walthall M. Moore, the first black elected to the Missouri Legislature, took his seat as the 51st session of the General Assembly got underway. Moore represented the Sixth District of St. Louis. He received assistance from the Citizens Liberty League, a group founded in 1919 by prominent St. Louis African-Americans to elect blacks to public office.

1924 Firemen fought temperatures of five below zero as flames swept the Day Rubber Company at and three other buildings on Fourth Street between St. Charles and Locust. Damage was put at over \$1 million, with 1/2 that total at the Nugent's Dry Good's Store. The Day Rubber Company stood where the Federal Reserve Bank is today.

1928 The Board of Aldermen approved a bill providing for the city to acquire the flying field developed by Albert Bond Lambert at his own cost. The bill called for the city to lease the field for \$1 per year, and eventually purchase it. A \$1 million bond issue would be submitted to the voters for improvements.

1931 The most prominent structure in the "Hooverville" that had sprang up on the riverfront beneath the Free Bridge opened. The Welcome Inn at the foot of Chouteau Street served as the main distribution point for charity. More than 2,200 meals per day were served there.

1933 The tiny Hodiament Bank in Wellston was forced to liquidate. The bank failure triggered a panic here that forced 17 banks to close in just 13 days.

1949 The Reverend Paul C. Reinert, S.J., became president of St. Louis University. Father Reinert became the youngest person to head the university. He succeeded the Reverend Patrick J. Holloran. Reinert was a key figure in Washington University's rise to national prominence. He served as president until 1974, then as chancellor from 1974-1990.

1963 The great Rogers Hornsby died at the age of 66. Hornsby spent 12 years as a Cardinal. He batted over .400 twice and led the Cardinals to their first world championship in 1926.

1994 The new Clark Bridge between Alton and St. Charles County was opened. The \$118 million structure replaced the treacherous, narrow old span, considered one of the worst on a U.S. highway.

1998 Millionaire-adventurer Steve Fossett's attempt at an around-the-world solo balloon flight ended in a field in Krasnador, Russia. Fossett took off in the "Solo Spirit" from

Busch Stadium in St. Louis on New Years Eve. He was forced down by poor wind conditions and equipment problems.

2004 President Bush was in St. Louis, discussing his “No Child Left Behind” initiative at Laclede Elementary School. The president then headed to America’s Center for a \$2,000 dollar a plate fundraiser. The event raised over \$2.5 million for the Bush campaign, a record for a single political event in Missouri. It marked Bush’s 15th visit to Missouri since he took office.

2005 President Bush was in St. Louis again, this time to visit Madison County and promote his plans for tort reform.