

## **January 7**

**1812** A third earthquake struck along the New Madrid fault. This one was not as strong as the first two, however it convinced all but two families in the New Madrid area to pack up and move out.

**1821** The Reverend Jesse Walker organized the first permanent Methodist group in St. Louis. (John Clark set up the first Methodist class at Florissant in 1805, but it dissolved) Walker's group began with six members and grew to 20 in 1807. By 1822, the church had 87 members, and the first Methodist church here was built at 4th and Clark.

**1856** Thousands were flocking to the riverfront to see the Mississippi completely frozen over. Some of the more hardy souls were walking across. Saloonkeepers were doing a thriving business in the middle of the river, out of the reach of the law.

**1861** Southern sympathizers in St. Louis organized six companies of soldiers dubbed "Minute Men." They openly flew the Confederate flag at their headquarters and pledged to defend the state against invasion by the Union. At first, they planned to seize the federal arsenal at St. Louis, but they were advised to wait by Governor Claiborne Jackson. By doing so, they lost any chance of taking it.

**1905** The Suburban Telephone Company of Clayton completed connections with the Kinloch Telephone System of St. Louis. About 100 Clayton subscribers now had direct access to St. Louis for a ten-cent toll call. Suburban pointed out that its modern equipment eliminated the need for central operators or "Hello Girls," as they were known.

**1913** Cardinal great Johnny Mize was born in Demorest, Georgia. He held the all-time single season Cardinal record for home runs until Mark McGwire came along. The "Big Cat" stands at number two on the Redbird career batting average list with .312. A contract dispute led to Mize being dealt to the Giants in 1941. He was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1981.

**1920** Joe Jenkins became the first person in St. Louis to be arrested under federal enforcement of Prohibition. Jenkins sold a nickel glass of beer to a federal agent inside his tavern at 3201 Market Street.

**1931** Mayor R.C. Miller ordered the construction of a new municipal auditorium to provide work for unemployment relief. The municipal auditorium was later re-named Kiel Auditorium.

**1946** Police Chief James Mitchell was alarmed at the large number of weapons brought home by souvenir hunting GI's. He appealed to them to remove some vital part. The chief was concerned some of the weapons might fall into the wrong hands.

**1954** The St. Louis County Chamber of Commerce announced plans for a public county library, using donated books. A spokesman said suburban and rural residents should enjoy the same opportunity to get books as city residents.

**1957** St. Louis physician Doctor Thomas Dooley was named one of the "Ten Outstanding Young Men of the Year" by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. As a young Navy doctor in 1954, Dooley ministered to 600,000 refugees in Indo-China. He then set up a medical mission in Laos.

**1959** The *Globe-Democrat* reported on a post-war trend. Eleven shopping centers were under construction or on the drawing board in the St. Louis area. Construction was underway on Ballwin Plaza. Preparations were underway to break ground on Grandview Plaza, at 66 and Washington in Florissant. A \$12 million center was planned at 66 and Lindbergh in Hazelwood.

**1962** Seventy employees of the GEM discount store on Page were arrested as a battle between St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney Norman Anderson and the discount chain over Sunday sales. The chain claimed the ban was unconstitutional.

**1966** Work on the visitors center at the Arch was halted after AFL-CIO workers refused to work alongside black plumbers from a rival union. Work did not resume until February 11th.

**1970** A cold snap caused the Arch to shrink by three inches. Workers adjusting interior cables noticed the difference. Engineers reassured everyone that the summer heat would restore the missing three inches.

**1985** "Lou, Lou, Lou!" The great base burglar Lou Brock was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame. Brock came to the Cardinals in a trade with the Cubs for struggling pitcher Ernie Broglio in 1964. Brock sparked the team to the 1964 World Championship and was a vital part of the 1960's championship teams. He stole 938 bases in his career, and 118 bases in 1974.

**1998** Jury selection began in a copyright infringement lawsuit by a Kirkwood screenwriter against some of the biggest names in Hollywood. Steven Kessler claimed that Steven Spielberg, Michael Crichton and Warner Brothers turned a book he wrote into the movie *Twister*.

**1999** The parties in the St. Louis school desegregation lawsuit announced a settlement. The agreement still hinged on voter approval of a sales tax in the city and approval by a judge. City voters would approve the sales tax on February 2nd, and a judge okayed the settlement on March 12th.