

## **January 8**

**1814** Territorial Governor William Clark signed "An act for the prevention of vice and immorality." The first Missouri "Blue Laws" established Sunday as a day of rest for all slaves, servants and apprentices.

**1815** The British were defeated at the Battle of New Orleans, which gave St. Louis its first millionaire. The combatants did not know the war was over, but John Mullanphy knew. He arrived in New Orleans two days before the news got there. He bought up all the cotton that couldn't be shipped because of the war, and re-sold it at a huge profit. Mullanphy became a great philanthropist.

**1817** The first Missouri petition for statehood was presented to Congress. The bill died in committee. In November of 1818, the territorial legislature tired again, launching the bitter political battle that led to the first Missouri Compromise in 1820. A Second Missouri Compromise changed language in the state constitution dealing with slavery, finally paving the way for statehood in August 1821.

**1894** William H. Danforth incorporated the Robinson-Danforth Commission Company with a capital investment of \$12,000. Danforth started out in a seasonal business, but observed "animals need to eat year-round." So he began mixing feed. The name of the firm was changed to Ralston-Purina in 1902. While serving in World War One, he noticed how eagerly the soldiers waited for "chow" and applied the name to his feeds

**1904** Dikran Khan Kelekian, Commissioner for Persia to the World's Fair, was quoted as saying the Shah of Persia was reluctant to allocate \$20,000 for a pavilion. Kelekian said at previous international expositions "dishonest officials" had used them as "Persian theaters where dancing girls performed." This was reported to have "greatly incensed" the Shah.

**1905** Joseph Wingate Folk was inaugurated as Governor of Missouri, the youngest governor in state history. He carried on a moral crusade he began while St. Louis Circuit Attorney. Folk was a hero in rural Missouri and his "Missouri Idea" became known nationwide. But St. Louis never forgave him for bringing down some of the best-known citizens. A large majority here always voted against him.

**1926** The first all-weather route across the state was completed. Workers closed a troublesome 2,200 foot gap on Missouri Highway Two, "The Airline Route" between St. Louis and Kansas City. The gap near High Hill was surfaced with rock and gravel, eliminating the last dirt detour on what would become U.S. Highway 40.

**1939** Architect Frank Lloyd Wright was in St. Louis. He praised the Wainwright Building but had nothing but criticism for the rest of our local architecture. Wright was especially harsh in bashing the Civil Courts Building, with its top modeled after the Mausoleum of Halicarnassus. Wright said, "I neither like or dislike it. I deplore it."

**1952** Frankie Baker died in a Portland, Oregon mental institution. She claimed to be the former teenaged prostitute described by the *Post-Dispatch* as an “ebony-hued cake-walker,” who shot her lover "Johnny" at 212 Targee Street on October 15, 1899. The shooting was immortalized in the song “Frankie and Johnny.” When the song became the basis for a motion picture, she sued, but lost the case.

**1953** Bruce Sutter was born in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Whitey Herzog traded Ken Reitz, Ty Waller and Leon Durham to Chicago for Sutter on December 9, 1980. His split-finger fastball baffled hitters, and helped the Cardinals to the 1982 World Championship.

**1953** City officials announced plans to ease the worst traffic bottleneck in the city. Their plans called for extending the "Express Highway" (now 40) to Market Street. The elevated section over the Wabash Tracks would cost \$5 million. It would ease the daily crunch at Vandeventer and Market, the busiest intersection in the city.

**1962** The trial of East Side rackets kingpin Frank "Buster" Wortmann and four of his associates began in an East St. Louis federal courtroom. He was accused of not paying taxes on his income from illegal gambling.

**1963** Bi-State completed negotiations to buy out the last of the 15 transit operators in the St. Louis area. The buyout of V and K bus lines paved the way for Bi-State to take over and streamline public transit across the metropolitan area.

**1966** Over 5500 people attended a "Victory in Vietnam" rally , sponsored by Missouri Young Americans for Freedom. They heard retired Army Major General Thomas Lane urge that U.S. troops "Be allowed to attack and destroy" in Vietnam.

**1983** The football Cardinals made their first playoff appearance since 1975, but the result was the same. Neal Lomax threw for a postseason record 365 yards, but Green Bay beat the Big Red 41-16.

**1993** Carl Icahn resigned as chairman of TWA, relinquishing all control and interest in the airline. The direction of the bankrupt airline was placed in the hands of a two-man management committee, appointed by employees, the unions and creditors. Icahn had taken the airline private in 1988. The move put \$469 million in his pocket, but left the airline saddled with \$539million in debt.

**2002** Ozzie Smith was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame. That night, he carried the Olympic torch into Kiener Plaza. “The Wizard” owns 13 gold gloves, and holds the shortstop records for assists, double plays and total chances. A wiz with the glove, he was no slouch at the plate. He amassed a lifetime total of 2,400 hits and 580 stolen bases. His home run won Game Five of the 1985 National League Championship Series.