

## January 9

**1809** Moses Austin and Samuel Hammond laid out a city at the mouth of Joachim Creek. They named it after the ancient buried city near Naples, Italy--Herculaneum. Austin established the town as a port to ship lead from his mining empire. He developed a plan to colonize Texas, but died before he could see it through. Austin's son carried out his father's wishes and founded Austin, Texas.

**1822** The Missouri Legislature approved the incorporation of St. Louis as a city. The measure was not to take effect until voted on by the inhabitants. Voters approved it on March 3, 1823 and the first election of officers took place on April 7, 1823. At the time, St. Louis had a population of about 5,000. St. Louis had been incorporated as a town in 1809.

**1849** The first death from cholera in 1849 was reported here. Six people died in January, 22 died in February, 78 in March and 126 in April. By June 86 people were dying every day. By Mid-August, 7,000 people, or about 1/10 of the population of the city, had died.

**1892** A fire destroyed Academic Hall, the center of the University of Missouri at Columbia. The only thing left standing were the six columns that still stand today. The fire almost meant the end of the state school at Columbia. Critics in the Missouri House tried to have it moved to Sedalia.

**1901** Murat Bernard Young was born in Chicago. He grew up in St. Louis, where the 1919 McKinley High School yearbook features his drawings under his nickname "Chicken." "Chic" Young's comic strip "Blondie" made its debut on September 8, 1930. It has been running in the *Post-Dispatch* since 1936. Chic Young died in 1973. His son, Dean, still writes the strip.

**1923** Thousands packed a public meeting at the Odeon Theatre to protest what they called illegal tactics by federal prohibition agents in the New Year's raid on the Chase that ended in a riot. Two men were shot as irate revelers hurled chairs, glassware and dinnerware at the agents under the command of Gus O. Nations. The KKK threatened to break up what it called an "un-American" meeting.

**1931** The St. Louis Police Board was selling 20 of the last 30 horses from the Mounted Patrol District in Forest Park. The board said horses were too slow to fight modern crime. The few remaining horses would patrol Commerce Row, where they could easily thread their way through the truck traffic.

**1947** Demolition was about to be halted on the oldest house in St. Louis while efforts to save it continued. The Jean Baptiste Roy house was built in 1830. It gained greater fame later in its life. Legend has it that the hot dog was invented there, when the house was the home of a sausage shop that specialized in selling sausages on a bun.

**1948** The Census Bureau reported that St. Louis was still growing rapidly, despite a critical housing shortage and the limited boundaries of the city. The population had risen by 62,000 since 1946, to a new high of 902,000.

**1949** Mayor Aloys P. Kaufman announced he was retiring at the end of the year. He said the job didn't pay enough. He returned to his law practice, which probably paid considerably better.

**1974** An aldermanic committee approved a proposal to breath new life into the bankrupt and vacant Spanish Pavilion downtown. They okayed a plan by developer Donald Breckenridge to build a high-rise luxury hotel atop the pavilion. The hotel is now the Marriott. Mayor A.J. Cervantes brought the pavilion here from the New York World's Fair in 1965.

**1975** The *Globe-Democrat* profiled the young voice of the St. Louis Spirits basketball team. 22-year-old Bob Costas was broadcasting the games on KMOX Radio and KPLR TV. The article noted that he had jumped straight from the Syracuse University station to KMOX. Costas said he began doing play-by-play for his own basement basketball games at the age of six.

**1978** It snowed in St. Louis. That's not a big deal, except that it marked the start of 71 days in a row with snow on the ground here. That's the local record.

**1984** Disaster was narrowly averted when a DC-3 cargo plane crashed on an embankment in Bridgeton, just yards from the St. James Subdivision and only a few feet from Interstate 70. The pilot died a few days later. A worker at the airport had put jet fuel in the propeller-driven aircraft.