

## January 12

**1789** Bishop Joseph Rosati was born in Sora, Italy. He became the first bishop of the newly created Catholic Diocese of St. Louis in 1826. Four years later, he turned his attention to construction of an adequate cathedral. The building we now know as the Old Cathedral is his legacy. He brought the Jesuits to teach at St. Louis College, originally begun by Bishop DuBourg in 1818. The school grew into St. Louis University.

**1890** The first bank in Clayton opened for business. The St. Louis County National Bank was located at Meramec and St. Ferdinand. (Now Forsyth)

**1901** Certification that the citizens of St. Louis had raised \$5 million for the World's Fair was delivered to authorities in Washington, D.C. Government money for the fair was conditioned on the \$5 million being raised by popular subscription and another \$5 million from the city of St. Louis.

**1920** Assistant City Health Commissioner Norman Sadler declared automobiles a menace to public health. He called for governors to be placed on engines to limit speeds to 20 miles per hour. He also wanted drivers to undergo mental and physical testing.

**1934** A citizens group launched a campaign to build a new courthouse for St. Louis County. They described the current building as a "firetrap, which subjects valuable records and the lives of prisoners in the adjoining jail to a hazard." The group planned to seek a bond issue.

**1945** Health Commissioner Doctor Joseph Bredeck endorsed a federal government order to limit building temperatures to 68 degrees to save energy for the war effort. He recommended wearing warmer clothes, especially for girls. The doctor said, they "don't wear clothes enough to dust a fiddle with anyway."

**1946** The Cleveland Rams announced that they were moving to Los Angeles. Owner Dan Reeves had been pushing for the move since he obtained controlling interest in the team in 1943. The move was delayed while Reeves served in the military.

**1948** The city of Florissant was moving to annex land south and west of the city, including the site of the new Ford assembly plant on Highway 66 near the airport. The farmers who lived in the area would band together and form their own village to stave off annexation by Florissant. They would incorporate as Hazelwood.

**1948** The law banning married teachers from the St. Louis city schools was lifted. It had gone unchallenged for 50 years before Anita Weis and Mildred Homes began fighting for their jobs in 1941. It was believed that when a teacher married, their husband would support them and the jobs should go to men or women who were the head of the household.

**1950** Mayor Darst and other civic leaders were confidently predicting that the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial would be finished by 1953. They were reacting to news that a bill appropriating funds for the memorial had been introduced in Congress.

**1951** Rush Limbaugh III was born in Cape Girardeau. His father was a well-respected judge who heard the custody case stemming from the infamous Nellie Muench scandal in the 1930's. Young Rush shined shoes before working at the Top 40 station in Cape. After he became a successful host in Sacramento, Rush applied for a position at KMOX. He was not hired. In August 1988, he launched his syndicated show on 58 stations. Today he is heard on over 660 stations, including KMOX.

**1957** Dick Miller, head of an Indianapolis promotional firm, announced plans for a 48-lane bowling alley next the Arena. He said the "Arena Bowl" would be the largest ever built in St. Louis. The Arena Bowl was home of the "Bowling for Dollars" TV show, hosted by Morgan Hatch.

**1958** KWK began its "Record Breaking Week." Deejays gave each rock and roll record in the library a farewell spin before smashing it on air. The station manager called it a "simple weeding out of undesirable music." The campaign inspired Danny and the Juniors to record "Rock and Roll is Here to Stay."

**1959** McDonnell Aircraft was awarded a \$15 million contract to build the capsule to carry the first American into space.

**1960** The king of the East side rackets, Frank "Buster" Wortman, and five of his associates, were indicted by a federal grand jury on charges of income tax evasion. The indictments capped a 3 and ½ year investigation.

**1960** The route was announced for a new expressway, to connect U-S 66 at Sylvan Beach with downtown St. Louis. The planners chose a controversial route through Webster Groves and "The Hill" neighborhood for what would become I-44.

**1961** A \$3,796,000 contract was awarded to McDonald Construction of St. Louis for the first phase of Arch construction. The contract covered excavations for the Arch and visitor's center, as well as levee redevelopment and an expressway on the western edge of the memorial.

**1970** U.S. Representative William Clay called on President Nixon to declare the Pruitt-Igoe Housing Project a federal disaster area. Thousands of residents were without power and heat for the second time in two days due to ruptured water pipes.

**1983** Health screenings began on residents of Times Beach. Most of them were living in temporary housing after the flood wiped out most of the town. The screenings were to look for possible health effects from dioxin exposure.

**1983** A Canadian group made an offer to buy the Blues from Ralston-Purina. They planned to move the team to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. The NHL said it would work to find a buyer who would keep the team in St. Louis.

**1997** Steve Fossett took off from Busch Stadium aboard his balloon "Solo Spirit." Fossett was attempting to make the world's first around-the-world flight in a balloon. Denied permission to fly over Libya, he ran short on fuel and had to ditch in India. The flight set a distance record.

**1999** The man behind the "Monday Night Miracle" lost his battle with cancer. Former Blues player Doug Wickenheiser was 37. Number 14 is best remembered for his overtime goal that clinched the dramatic come-from-behind win in Game Six of the 1986 Campbell Conference Finals.

**1999** Guernsey's Auction House in New York City sold Mark McGwire's 70th home run ball at auction for \$2.7 million dollars. Todd McFarlane, creators of the *Spawn* comic book series, was the winning bidder. Blues hockey player Tony Twist would sue McFarlane in 2000, claiming McFarlane used his name without permission as the basis for the mafia boss character Antonio Twistelli.

**2005** Two police officers died in a crash on Highway 370. University City officer Stephen Bastean was driving the wrong-way near the St. Louis Mills when his SUV collided head on with the patrol car driven by Bridgeton officer Scott Armstrong. Bastean had been drinking before the accident.

**2007** Police found kidnapped teens Ben Ownby and Shawn Hornbeck in a Kirkwood apartment. Shawn had disappeared in Richwoods on October 6, 2002. Ben had been kidnapped four days earlier in Franklin County. The suspect was identified as Michael Devlin, the manager of a pizza restaurant. Investigators hailed 15-year-old Mitchell Hults as a hero for giving the police an accurate description of the truck used to take Ben. The national media dubbed the case "The Missouri Miracle."