

January 13

1806 A court appointed commissioners to formally lay out the settlement that had sprang up around the "Red House," where commandant Louis Lorimer set up a trading post on the Mississippi River between St. Louis and New Madrid. The settlement would become the city of Cape Girardeau.

1833 Pope Gregory XVI signed a special dispensation allowing St. Louis University to charge tuition. Under Jesuit rules, priests were not allowed to charge for their work. Bishop Rosati made the request for the dispensation. It was said to be one of the biggest changes since the Society of Jesus was founded.

1870 A Senator speaking in favor of removing the national capitol to St. Louis noted that there were 42,000,000 people living in the United States, with more than half that number residing in the Mississippi valley. He predicted that with a capitol at St. Louis, the nation would become the greatest on the globe, with New York a mere appendage of St. Louis.

1902 Plans were unveiled for the first public bath house in St. Louis. Officials said it was needed because several children had lost their lives bathing in the Mississippi. The bathhouse would be built at 10th and Carr. It would boast 60 showers and three tubs.

1904 Nine boys and one man plunged six floors down an elevator shaft at the Brown Shoe Company Building at 11th and Washington. The gate had been raised from the outside. In a rush at quitting time, they did not notice that the elevator had passed to the floor above. Nine died.

1922 The Board of Aldermen called on Missouri's Senators and Congressmen to work for modification of the 18th Amendment. By a 25-to-one vote, they blamed prohibition for "abnormal consumption of obnoxious and detestable white mule whiskey."

1927 Airmail pilot Charles Lindbergh made the first night flight over the newly-lighted St. Louis-to-Chicago Airway. The government had spent \$80,000 to install 24 beacons ten miles apart. Aviation experts said the flight proved the practicality of night flying.

1930 Over 300 jobless men marched on City Hall, demanding work on city construction crews. Police were called in to break up the march. The Communist Workers Party organized the protest.

1932 KMOX moved from the Mayfair Hotel to studios in the new Mart Building at 12th and Spruce. Each of the six studios was suspended from steel springs to prevent vibrations. The ceilings could be raised or lowered to attain the best acoustics.

1934 Governor Guy Brasfield signed legislation officially ending 14 years of prohibition in Missouri.

1950 Robert Forsch was born in Sacramento, California. Forsch pitched for the Redbirds from 1974 until 1988. He is the only Cardinal pitcher to toss two no-hitters. The first came against the Phillies on April 16, 1978. Forsch did it again on September 26, 1983, against Montreal. His brother Ken also threw a no-hitter for Houston, making them the only brothers in Major League history to hurl no-hitters.

1951 The \$11 million Veteran's Bridge across the Mississippi opened. At the time, the bridge was the sixth largest cantilever-type bridge in the country. It carried Route 66 traffic from 1955 until 1967. It was re-named to honor Doctor Martin Luther King Junior in 1972.

1958 A spokesman for KWK said calls to the station were running five-to-one in favor of the "Record Breaking Week." Most of the complaints were coming from teenagers. Deejays gave each rock and roll record a farewell spin before smashing it to bits on the air. The move was attracting national attention.

1959 McDonnell Aircraft was celebrating some good news from NASA. The government had awarded Mac a \$15 million contract to build the Mercury space capsules. A Mercury capsule would carry America's first man in space, Alan Shephard, on May 5, 1961.

1964 Meramec Community College opened. Classes were held in temporary wooden buildings. Over 550 students were enrolled that first semester. The campus is on the site of the old Redemptorist Seminary.

1967 The McDonnell Aircraft Corporation announced a merger with Douglas Aircraft. James S. McDonnell started his firm in 1939 in a rented office at Lambert Field. It grew to become the largest producer of military aircraft in the world before Boeing bought Mac out in 1996.

1967 The debut of topless waitresses at Gaslight Square didn't come off. The owner of the Dixie Belle Night Club said topless waitresses might boost business in the rapidly declining area. His three waitresses didn't show up that day, and police did.

1969 Warren Hearnes was sworn in, becoming the first Missouri Governor to serve two consecutive four-year terms. His mother made potato chips to support the family and distributed snacks to stores during the Great Depression. Hearnes began his political career as a State Representative from Mississippi County in 1949.

1974 Catholic leaders here gave a partial endorsement to the controversial film, *The Exorcist*. They said the film was an acceptable version of a rare instance of satanic control. They were concerned that it might touch off an epidemic of psychological and religious problems among teenagers. The film was based on a real-life incident in St. Louis.

1979 Singer Donny Hathaway apparently jumped to his death from the 15th floor of the Essex House Hotel in New York City. The door was locked from the inside and the safety glass had been removed from the window. Hathaway grew up in a St. Louis housing project. His biggest hits were duets with Roberta Flack, “Where is the Love” and “The Closer I Get To You.”