

January 16

1870 The *Republic* reported on the first meeting of the “Corpulent Masculine Social Association” at Schneider’s on 5th Street. The requisite weight for membership was between 200 and 210 pounds. In order to be a First Class member, the men were required to weigh at least 250 or more.

1880 St. Louis school superintendent William Torrey Harris announced his retirement. Harris had built the St. Louis schools into one of the best systems in the nation. He supported Susan Blow’s proposal to establish the first kindergarten in the country. Harris became U.S. Commissioner of Education and a renowned philosopher. Harris Teacher’s College, now Harris-Stowe State College, was named in his honor.

1883 The *Globe-Democrat* printed reviews by eight critics, including several women, on the first performance here by English actress Lilly Langtry in *An Unusual Match*. Despite a snowstorm, the Olympic Theatre was packed. Some of the critics seemed more interested in whether Langtry lived up to her reputation as the most beautiful woman in the world.

1900 Chicago officials stunned St. Louis when they suddenly opened a controversial drainage canal that would carry sewage into the river. St. Louis was fighting a landmark legal battle against the canal, claiming it was a hazard to health here.

1911 Cardinal great, Jerome Hannah "Dizzy" Dean was born in Lucas, Arkansas. He made his debut on the last day of the 1930 season, threw a three-hitter, and promptly demanded a raise. He was sent back to the minors. Brought up for good in 1932, Dean would win 121 games over the next five seasons. A line drive off the bat of Earl Averill during the 1937 All-Star Game broke Dizzy’s toe, and he was never the same.

1920 Prohibition officially went into effect at 12:01 a.m. There were 20 breweries operating in St. Louis at the time. Only eight, including Falstaff and Anheuser-Busch, would survive. Prohibition proved to be an utter failure in a beer-loving town. Most people openly flouted the law. The Green Ones, the Pillow Gang, Egan’s Rats and the Hogan Gang stepped in to quench the city's thirst, and fought bloody wars on the streets.

1931 Twelve people were arrested after city police tear gassed about 1,000 demonstrators who marched on city hall demanding jobs. The Unemployed Council of St. Louis organized the rally.

1933 Authorities indicted 21 people in a huge bootlegging ring. The ring operated stills on islands in the Mississippi and on riverboats in St. Louis, St. Charles and Ste. Genevieve Counties. It was believed they had produced 1.5 million gallons of illegal booze since 1925.

1948 Plans for the World's Fair here in 1953 received a major setback. Polls of the Board of Aldermen showed most were opposed to a plan to hold the fair at the

Kingshighway--Oakland site. The plan called for using 30 acres in Forest Park, and razing 260 homes to use 300 acres south of the park.

1951 The U.S. Standardization Board relaxed the rules so Stan Musial could get a pay raise to \$85,000. There was a wage freeze in effect because of the Korean War. The board allowed teams to raise salaries within a complicated formula based on salaries over the past four years, plus ten percent.

1954 The wailing of air-raid sirens signaled the start of the city's first Cold War era air-raid drill. Traffic was halted, and everyone from housewives to office workers, headed for the shelters. Civil Defense workers called the drill, "An inspiring success."

1962 The NBA All-Star game was played here in St. Louis. The hero was our own Bob Pettit. He stole the show with 25 points and 27 rebounds. He was named the MVP as the West beat the East, 150-130.

1970 The Missouri Highway Department approved the route for the last segment of the Innerbelt to be built. It was a 2.5 mile section from where Missouri Route 725 ended at Page, across Walton and Midland to Natural Bridge. The segment between Natural Bridge and I-270 was to be built first. The final segment opened in 1981.

1970 Curt Flood filed suit in New York Federal Court to have baseball's reserve clause overturned. The Cardinals had traded him to the Phillies, but Flood refused to report. Flood sat out the entire 1970 season and lost his case in the Supreme Court. But his case is seen as a turning point in baseball labor relations and the start of free agency, clearing the way for today's salaries.

1980 Albert Pujols was born in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. The Cardinals drafted him in the 13th round of the 1999 free agent draft. Albert was named the National League Rookie of the Year for 2001, setting rookie records for RBI's, total bases and base hits. In 2002, he became the first player in Major League history to hit .300 with 30 home runs, 100 runs and 100 RBI's in each of his first two seasons.

1981 Mayor James Conway said the Admiral would return to St. Louis by the spring. The Bi-State Development Agency had bought millions in bonds to allow the city to buy the boat. The Admiral left St. Louis in May 1979, after the Coast Guard declared the hull unsafe. But the Board of Aldermen would kill the deal, and the Admiral appeared to be doomed.

1986 St. Louis businessman John B. Prentiss, the Third, and William E. Franke bought the faltering Globe-Democrat from Jeffrey Gluck for \$500,000 dollars. The paper was revived for a while, but folded for good on October 29, 1986.

1991 Operation Desert Storm began at 6 p.m. St. Louis time (3 a.m. Jan. 17 in Iraq) with massive air and missile attacks on targets in Iraq and Kuwait. St. Louis radio and television stations suspended regular programming. Nine Missouri National Guard units,

seven from the Army and two from the Air Guard were called up. The Defense Mapping Agency in St. Louis was also critical to the operation.

1991 Ike and Tina Turner were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Ike Turner arrived in St. Louis in 1954 and his Kings of Rhythm soon ruled the local R and B scene. Tina met Ike in 1959. The 18-year-old backup singer soon proved to be the star of the show. Ike and Tina placed 25 records on the R and B charts from 1960 to 1975. That includes the St. Louis wedding reception staple, "Proud Mary."

1995 A big shake-up in the St. Louis grocery business. Schnuck's announced it was buying out National Supermarkets.

2000 The Rams played their first playoff game in St. Louis. Kurt Warner threw five touchdown passes and Tony Horne returned the second half opening kickoff for a touchdown, as the Rams beat the Vikings, 49-37.

2001 Days after TWA announced a buyout by American Airlines, the city lost the headquarters of another major hometown firm. Ralston-Purina announced that Nestle would purchase the world's largest manufacturer of dry pet food. Ralston Chairman William Stiritz said more jobs could eventually move to St. Louis because of the deal.