

## January 25

**1835** St. Louis County began planning a road linking the village of Manchester with Jefferson City, via Union and Mount Sterling. The road would become Manchester, the first state road in St. Louis County.

**1875** Pinkerton agents raided the Clay County, Missouri home of Frank and Jesse James. They fire-bombed the house, but Frank and Jesse were not home. The attack killed their half-brother, Archie, and injured the boy's mother. Local residents were outraged, calling the attack "the crime of the century."

**1877** President Grant pardoned several leaders of the Whiskey Ring scandal, which began in St. Louis. The St. Louis *Globe-Democrat* exposed the scheme to defraud the government out of millions of dollars in tax revenue. The scandal reached into the highest levels of the Grant administration.

**1901** A bill authorizing a \$5-million bond issue for the proposed World's Fair was before the city council. A committee of citizens was in Washington to ask Congress for five million more. They urged speedy passage of the measure by the council, so Washington would be assured the city would make good on its plans.

**1902** President Roosevelt appointed Admiral George Dewey as head of a commission to visit foreign nations and drum up interest in the Louisiana Purchase Exposition planned for 1903. The date was later pushed back to give foreign governments more time to prepare their exhibits. The commander of Eastern Fleet during the Spanish American War received a hero's welcome on a 1900 visit here.

**1913** About 300 citizens met at the county courthouse and began the work of incorporating the city of Clayton. Colonel W.F. Broadhead was elected as mayor to be recommended to the county court.

**1928** The city unveiled plans for the St. Louis Municipal Airport, to be developed at the newly acquired Lambert flying field. The plans called for four runways, from 2,800 to 5,000 feet long, an administration building, and space for two aircraft factories to be built in the spring. Other improvements depended on passage of a \$1 million bond issue.

**1935-** Doctor Isaac Kelley identified Felix McDonald as the man who kidnapped him in 1931. McDonald got 60 years. The case was a media sensation in St. Louis. Tawdry Central West End socialite Nellie Muench had pointed out Kelley to the gangsters. She was on trial for conspiracy, and then stole a baby to appear more sympathetic to the jury. She was acquitted on the conspiracy charge, but the baby scam got her ten years.

**1945** A spectacular accident at Union Station. An empty troop train, backing into the station, smashed through a glass partition and plowed 30 feet into the crowded Midway. The train was moving slowly, so everyone was able to get out of the way.

**1946** The mayor of Florissant said he would reconsider a plan to annex the site of the new Ford plant on Highway 66 near the airport. Ford had said it might cancel plans for the \$8 million plant if Florissant annexed the area. Local farmers, concerned about higher taxes, were considering forming their own village. In 1949, they would incorporate as Hazelwood.

**1947** Famed Negro singer and actor Paul Robeson joined a picket line outside the American Theatre. Picket lines had been up since November, to protest the segregation of Negroes in the balcony. Robeson said he was giving up his career for two years to fight for racial equality.

**1956** St. Louis Police were ordering the arrest of "every top hoodlum" for questioning in the murder of Robert Brown. Detectives said the Parliamentarian for the Board of Aldermen was killed because he refused to let racketeers into his lucrative tobacco and vending machine businesses.

**1959** Bird lovers across the country were upset by the St. Louis Health and Hospital Director's plan to eliminate pigeons. Doctor Earl Smith proposed getting the pigeons soused on alcohol soaked bread. The drunken birds would then be trucked off to the dog pound gas chamber.

**1978** The temperature dipped below 32 degrees, which is not normally worth noting in January. But this time, the mercury would not rise above the freezing mark until February 23rd. That's a string of 30 consecutive freezing days, the longest recorded in St. Louis history.

**1980** To protest the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, 9-0-5 Liquor stores pulled Stolichnaya Vodka from the shelves. 9-0-5 President David Kay said the company had also stopped buying Iranian caviar when the hostage situation developed.

**1991** Brett Hull of the St. Louis Blues became the 5th player in NHL history to score 50 goals in 50 or fewer games. Hull scored his 50th in the Blues 49th game of the year, a nine-four route of the Detroit Red Wings.

**1994** Pope John Paul II named Justin Rigali as the seventh archbishop of the Archdiocese of St. Louis. Before coming to St. Louis, Rigali spent many years at the Vatican and accompanied Pope John Paul II to the U.S. in 1979 and 1987. In January 1999 he welcomed the Pope to St. Louis, the only visit to a single diocese in the U.S. by John Paul the II. On July 15, 2003, Pope John Paul II appointed Rigali as the Archbishop of Philadelphia.