

January 27

1804 James Marshall was born in Maryland. He settled with his brother John on Manchester Road near Rock Hill Road. They began a mercantile business. In 1859, he built a subdivision called "Webster Groves."

1810 The town trustees of St. Louis passed an ordinance organizing citizens into fire companies. All able-bodied males were required to serve. The ordinance also required all residents to keep two stout buckets on hand.

1831 The Legislature established the Board of President and Directors of St. Louis Schools. The board would be in charge of administering the huge land grants given to the schools during territorial days. The land grants made the schools rich, but a public school was not established here until 1839.

1902 A St. Louis grand jury indicted a city assemblyman and two former assemblymen on bribery charges stemming from legislation involving the awarding of city streetcar franchises. Crusading city circuit attorney Joe Folk said these indictments were only the beginning.

1908 Harry Houdini introduced his famous "Milk Can Trick" at the Columbia Theatre in St. Louis. The handcuffed 5' 5" magician escaped from a padlocked oversized milk can filled with water. The trick made him an international star when he took it on tour across the U.S. and Europe. Houdini later admitted that he could escape quickly from the cuffs, but waited a few minutes to increase the suspense.

1933 Mayor Bernard Dickmann first publicly proposed that a memorial to the Louisiana Purchase be built on the St. Louis riverfront. He urged the area's representatives in Congress to back a request for federal funds.

1939 The United States Supreme Court upheld lower court rulings clearing the way for demolition work to begin on the riverfront. Several property owners had sued to block construction of the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial.

1946 Four people were killed and 15 injured as a five-alarm fire swept the Alpine Hotel at 412 Pine. One of the dead was a city fire captain.

1947 A group of 85 civic leaders announced plans for a Worlds Fair in 1953, to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase. The movement died after opposition arose to holding the fair in Forest Park.

1949 Fred Saigh bought out the interest of Robert Hannegan, giving Saigh 90% controlling interest in the Cardinals. Saigh and Hannegan had bought the Birds in 1947, with just over \$60,000 in cash out of the \$4 million purchase price. Hannegan walked away with a profit of \$866,000 in two years.

1954 The Cardinals sent four players and more than \$100,000 to San Diego of the Pacific Coast League. In return, the Birds picked up Tom Alston. Alston would become the Cardinal's first black player.

1959 The *Globe-Democrat* reported that the Chain of Rocks Bridge was headed for the junk heap. The Missouri and Illinois Highway Departments had announced plans for a free bridge north of the old span. The article said the Village of Madison would probably find it cheaper to tear the bridge down than maintain it.

1962 A barrage of protests greeted the news that the 73-year-old "Red Water Tower" in North St. Louis would have to be torn down. Recent freezing and thawing had caused some bricks to come loose. The tower was saved when the city found out it would cost as much to tear it down as it would to restore it.

1963 Zoo officials announced plans for a \$300,000 miniature railroad to shuttle visitors between four stations on the grounds. A private corporation would build the railroad, with part of the profits going to the zoo.

1973 Churches across the area responded to President Nixon's call for special services to mark the cease-fire in Vietnam. A special mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated at the Old Cathedral.

1981 The American Hostages arrived at Andrews Air Force Base. His fiancée, Jill Ditch, greeted marine Sergeant Rocky Sickmann of Krakow, Missouri. Her anxiety and joy became the focus of the network cameras covering the homecoming.

1983 Bernie Federko scored his 500th career point. It came in a 3-3 tie against the North Stars in Minnesota. In 1984, Federko would become the Blue's all-time leading scorer, breaking Garry Unger's record of 575 points.

1999 It was billed as the largest indoor gathering ever in the United States. Over 100,000 attended a Mass led by Pope John Paul II at the Trans World Dome. He urged wayward Catholics to return to the faith. The Pope then wrapped up his 30-hour visit with a service at the Cathedral Basilica, attended by Vice President Al Gore. He also met with civil rights leader Rosa Parks. John Paul II boarded a plane dubbed "Shepherd One" by TWA for the trip back to Rome.