

January 28

1817 Territorial Governor William Clark signed a measure authorizing the first lottery in what is now Missouri. The lottery was to raise money to buy fire engines and equipment for St. Louis. It was a complete failure. (Maybe they should have tried “scratchers” tickets) The city's first two fire engines were bought by public subscription in 1819.

1836 Joseph Joshua Lawrence was born in North Carolina. Doctor Lawrence founded a medical journal in St. Louis after the Civil War. In 1879, he developed a surgical disinfectant. Lawrence named it “Listerine” in honor of English physician Sir Joseph Lister, who performed the first antiseptic surgery in 1865. He then befriended Jordan Lambert, who helped perfect the formula and founded a firm to market it.

1880 The House of Delegates took up a bill to ban droves of mules from certain streets and to designate certain hours when the “cantankerous beasts” could be driven. Delegates planned to meet with the drovers to see which streets and time periods could be restricted without ruining their business.

1901 The city won the first round in a landmark legal battle with the city of Chicago. The city and the state had sued to halt the opening of a canal that carried Chicago's sewage into the river. The court called upon the city to prove the canal was a health hazard here. St. Louis officials said it could do so easily.

1907 The *Globe-Democrat* reported that a group of prominent men led by Albert Bond Lambert had organized the St. Louis Aero Club. Lambert planned to travel to Paris and buy a balloon for the club to enter in the James Gordon Bennett Trophy Race. The race was set for St. Louis the following October.

1932 The St. Louis Board of Aldermen named a committee to look into the possible purchase of the financially troubled Arena. Only three years old, it was in danger of being demolished. The owners said the Arena was not generating enough revenues to pay off the construction loans.

1934 The Forest Park Highlands Amusement Park announced a 50-thousand dollar rehabilitation program. The "Scenic Railway" ride was to be dismantled and replaced with a new thrill ride, "The Flying Turn." Today, St. Louis Community College stands on the site.

1938 For the first time in history, the State of Illinois sent a woman to the electric chair. Marie Porter became the second Illinois woman to be executed when she went to the chair at Menard with Angelo Giancoloa. Porter had convinced Giancoloa to murder her brother for insurance money at Belleville on July 3, 1937. Porter may have been insane. Her father murdered her husband in 1935.

1947 The Browns announced that some home games in 1948 would be telecast on KSD TV on an experimental basis. The Brownies also announced that Dizzy Dean and Johnny O'Hara would handle broadcasts of all home and away games on WIL.

1948 Dignitaries watched the opening of a time capsule, placed in the cornerstone of the county courthouse when it was built in 1878. Over the years, the box had ruptured, rendering the contents a soggy mess. All was unrecognizable, except for a few coins. The old courthouse was being demolished.

1953 Cardinals owner Fred Saigh pleaded guilty of income tax evasion. He was sentenced to 15 months in prison and fined \$15,000. NL President Warren Giles would order him to sell the club. Groups in Houston and Milwaukee made serious offers. On February 20th, Saigh sold the club to Anheuser-Busch considerably less money. He wanted to make sure the team stayed in St. Louis.

1963 State park officials announced plans to restore four 159-year-old St. Charles buildings that had served as the first state capitol. The cost of the project was put at \$1 million.

1965 Local preservationists were upset, and it looked as if the historic old post office downtown was doomed. The federal government announced it was going ahead with plans to build a new office building on the site, rejecting appeals to save the old building.

1981 Former hostage Marine Sergeant Rocky Sickmann arrived aboard an Ozark Airlines plane to a wild welcome at Lambert Field. Cheering crowds wearing yellow ribbons waited at the terminal, where Rocky said "I Love You All!" A motorcade took him home to Krakow, Missouri. Sickmann spent 444 days as one of 52 Americans held hostage in Iran. He later became a training specialist for the Anheuser-Busch College of Sales and Marketing.

1992 Brett Hull of the Blues became only the second player in NHL history to score 50 goals in 50 games twice. The record-breaker came against the Los Angeles Kings.

1999 The "Arena Angels" group handed out blue ribbons to symbolize their fight to save the Arena. It was to have been a farewell ceremony, but demolition of the old barn had been postponed until February.