

## July 28

**1821** The first homicide trial in the State of Illinois ended with Timothy Bennett convicted of murder. He killed Alphonso Stewart in a fake duel in Belleville. Bennett slipped live ammunition into his gun and fired before the signal. He was hanged on September 3, 1821, on what is now West Main Street.

**1834** The "Father of St. Louis Journalism" died at the age of 62. Joseph Charless edited and published the first newspaper west of the Mississippi. His *Missouri Gazette* began publishing in St. Louis in 1808.

**1849** The Committee of Health declared the cholera epidemic at an end. At least 8,423 people were reported to have died, about 1/10 of the city's population. The epidemic spurred the city to begin building sewers and draining the sinkholes that dotted the area.

**1881** Missouri Governor Thomas Crittenden offered a reward of \$10,000 each for the arrest and conviction of Frank and Jesse James. Crittenden got the money from railroad and express companies, and hoped it would tempt a gang member to turn traitor. Robert Ford shot Jesse dead in April of 1882 and received a pardon from the governor. Fearing for his life, Frank James turned himself in.

**1907** Barbers were upset after police officials ordered strict enforcement of the Sunday closing laws. The barbers were fearful that customers would learn to shave themselves and would decide they didn't need a barber, even during the week. Brisk sales of razors were reported here.

**1909** The contract was let for the Municipal Free Bridge over the Mississippi. The bridge was formally opened in January 1917. For the first time in the history of the city, people could cross the Mississippi for free. The bridge was renamed for General Macarthur in 1942.

**1920** William Reedy died in San Francisco, where he was attending the Democratic national convention. Reedy was considered the leading intellectual of St. Louis. As editor of "The Mirror," he discovered or nurtured such writers as Zoe Adkins, Fannie Hurst, Sara Teasdale, Edgar Lee Masters, Carl Sandburg and many others.

**1930** University City aldermen gave Mayor Eugene Ruth permission to fire up the searchlight once again atop the building that had just been acquired for city hall. U-City founder E.G. Lewis installed the light in 1904. The light was visible from 175 miles away on a clear night.

**1943** William Warren Bradley was born in Crystal City. The only former pro basketball player to make it to the U.S. Senate, he was considered the best high school player in Missouri. He went on to star with Princeton and the New York Knicks. Bradley was elected to the Senate in 1978.

**1961** The Mark Twain Expressway between St. Charles and downtown was completed with the opening of a four-mile section between Palm and Division. Traffic engineers hailed the new "reversible" lanes that would carry eastbound traffic into the city during the morning rush and westbound traffic in the afternoon.

**1969** Commissioner Ford Frick repeated his quote: "Here stands baseball's perfect warrior, here stands baseball's perfect knight" as Stan Musial was inducted into the Hall of Fame. Musial established National League records for games played, at bats, hits, runs in a season, RBI's in a season, and lifetime total bases. A seven-time NL batting champion, he was named MVP three times and appeared in 24 All-Star Games.

**1972** The first national convention of the People's Party, held in St. Louis, nominated anti-war pediatrician Doctor Benjamin Spock for president. Spock said the party's goal was to raise radical issues and provide a platform for alienated voters to change the system.

**1983** Eleven-year-old Sur Williams was being hailed as a hero. He summoned help when a 14-year-old girl was being raped in Forest Park. A crowd of about 30 people stood idly by during the assault.

**2000** The Rams awarded Super Bowl MVP Kurt Warner with a six-year, \$47 million contract extension. The deal also included a \$17.5 million signing bonus.

**2002** Ozzie Smith was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. In his induction speech, "The Wizard" used a baseball and imagery from the "Wizard of Oz" to symbolize his career. Ozzie holds career shortstop records for assists, double plays and total chances. He won 13 Gold Gloves and was named to 15 All-Star teams.