

## May 9

**1861** The commander of the U.S. Arsenal, Colonel Nathaniel Lyon, dressed as an old woman to spy on the pro-southern militia at Camp Jackson. His troops surrounded the camp the next day and militia commander Daniel Frost surrendered. In 1959, Frost's daughter, Harriet Frost Fordyce, gave St. Louis University money to purchase the land where Camp Jackson was located. The campus built on the site was named for the rebel general, and a statue of Lyon on the site was banished to Lyon Park.

**1878** Thousands of people attended the ceremonies marking the laying of the cornerstone for the first county courthouse in Clayton. The county had just been officially separated from the city. A time capsule was placed inside the stone. It was opened when the courthouse was demolished in 1948. But over the years, a seam had ruptured. The contents were a soggy mess.

**1880** The 14<sup>th</sup> Mayor of St. Louis, James G. Barry, died. He served during the most catastrophic period in St. Louis history, from 1848-1849. Barry pushed through legislation providing for relief and reconstruction following the Great Fire of 1849. He formed a citizen's committee to help cope with the 1849 cholera epidemic.

**1881** The Forest Park and Central Street Railroad presented a plan it said it would help build up the county seat. The railroad offered to extend its line to Forest Park in return for one-third of the proceeds from the sale of lots. A railroad official said that, at present, there was "no active demand" for the lots in Clayton.

**1895** The City Health Commissioner said minute organisms in the drinking water were a variety of miniature crab. He said it was harmless, but recommended boiling the water anyway. He said the discovery was actually a compliment to reservoir officials. The water used to be too muddy to see anything in it.

**1901** The Committee on Organization reported to the Louisiana Purchase Exposition Company and the by-laws were adopted.

**1921** Lightning struck the grandstand at Sportsmen's Park during a Brown's game. Marty McManus of the Browns and a Detroit player were thrown to the ground. One wag commented that the three thousand fans got a shock that could only be equaled by the Browns winning the pennant.

**1927** Tornadoes swept across Southern Missouri and Arkansas. 225 people were killed. The business district of Poplar Bluff was devastated. 104 people were killed and 350 injured in Poplar Bluff alone.

**1929** A crowd of 20,000 celebrated the dedication of the grand opening of the new Soulard Market and Civic Center. The market was the product of an 87-million-dollar bond issue.

**1942** John Ashcroft was born in Chicago. He served as Governor of Missouri from 1985 to 1993 and was elected to the US Senate in 1994. In 2000, Ashcroft ran a bitter re-election campaign against Missouri Governor Mel Carnahan. The Governor died in a plane crash two weeks before the election and Ashcroft lost after Jean Carnahan announced she would serve in her husband's place. President Bush named Ashcroft as US Attorney General in December 2000. He stepped down in 2005.

**1947** National League president Ford Frick was quoted in the papers as saying the Cardinals had threatened to strike to protest playing against Jackie Robinson. Frick said Cardinals owner Sam Breadon prevented trouble.

**1952** Washington University ended racial testing for admission. Some felt that Chancellor Arthur Holly Compton had moved to slowly on the issue.

**1953** The eight-mile-long, \$40 million Chain of Rocks Canal north of St. Louis was dedicated. The canal was expected to boost river traffic past the levels of the old steamboating days. It allowed traffic to bypass the treacherous natural "Chain of Rocks" across the Mississippi.

**1961** The Mercury capsule that carried America's first man in space was on its way back to St. Louis, where it was built by McDonnell Aircraft. It was to be examined here. Mayor Tucker planned to ask NASA if the capsule could be displayed permanently at the planetarium, then under construction.

**1967** Cardinal outfielder Roger Maris hit his first National League home run. It came against the Pirates in Pittsburgh. Maris wore uniform number nine, and a fan in row number nine caught the ball.

**1977** One of the most memorable characters in Cardinal history made his most dramatic appearance. Al Hrabosky entered a tie game against the Reds with the bases loaded and no one out. "The Mad Hungarian" struck out George Foster, Johnny Bench and Bob Bailey.

**1979** It was announced that St. Louis had edged out Toledo and Akron, Ohio to become the new home of the Bowling Hall of Fame and Museum. The museum would move from Milwaukee to a new facility next to Busch Stadium. Completion was set for 1981.

**1985** The city of Maryland Heights was incorporated. Residents worried about neighboring communities plans to annex West Port Plaza spurred the incorporation drive.

**1992** The Cardinals staged one of their biggest comebacks ever, rallying from a nine-nothing deficit to beat the Braves here. The Redbirds trailed nine-nothing in the fourth before beginning the rally.