

## September 4

**1793** Edward Bates was born in Virginia. Bates was the first Missourian to serve in a presidential cabinet. He came to St. Louis in 1814, and became a congressman, then a senator. Bates was nominated for president in 1860. President Lincoln appointed him attorney general in 1861.

**1809** The governor of the Louisiana Territory, Meriweather Lewis, left St. Louis for Washington. Ailing and facing money problems, he hoped to convince the federal government to repay expenses from the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Lewis would die under mysterious circumstances on the Natchez Trace. His death was ruled a suicide--even though he took a bullet in the back.

**1813** Thomas Hart Benton, who would become of Missouri's most renowned statesmen, shot it out with Andrew Jackson. An officer in Jackson's unit had shot Benton's brother in a duel where Jackson served as second. Benton said Jackson should have stopped the duel, and Jackson vowed to horsewhip Benton the next time they saw each other. Both men were wounded when they shot it out in a Nashville hotel.

**1847** Jesse James was born near Kearney, Missouri. The James Gang struck several times around St. Louis. The gang robbed the Bank of Ste. Genevieve on May 27, 1873. They held up a train at Gad's Hill, near Piedmont on January 31, 1874. Jesse is said to have looked at the male passenger's hands so he would not rob any workingmen. Legend says while riding with "Bloody Bill" Anderson's band of rebel guerillas in 1864, Jesse became familiar with a cave we now call Meramec Caverns.

**1904** Officials with the recently concluded Olympic games here called for banishment of the "brutal" marathon event. A sportswriter reported that the athletes who trained properly had few problems. The writer said the winner, Thomas Hicks, complained only of fatigue and sore feet after the race.

**1904** The *Post-Dispatch* reported that a cool summer in St. Louis resulted in fewer divorces. The article said that there were 294 divorce suits in circuit court during the summer of 1901, when the average temperature was 83 degrees. But there were just 154 cases during the same four-month period in 1904, when the average temperature was 74 degrees.

**1906** University City was incorporated. Edward Garner Lewis, the flamboyant publisher of *Women's Magazine*, bought 85 acres for his model city in 1902. The building that now serves as city hall was the magazine's headquarters. Lewis went broke defending himself on fraud charges and left his planned city to start another one in California.

**1921** The station that became WIL radio signed on, broadcasting police transmissions. The first public broadcast in St. Louis had been made over WEW earlier in the year.

**1927** Phones in the downtown area were switched from manual to a dial system. A rash of wrong numbers was predicted, as businessmen would have to dial calls without operator assistance.

**1927** Thomas Eagleton was born. He was only 21 when he was elected to the job of city circuit attorney. He served as Missouri's attorney general, and lieutenant governor. Winning a senate seat in 1968. He made a bid for the vice-presidency in 1972, and was later instrumental in bringing the Rams here.

**1930** Jerome Hannah "Dizzy" Dean was purchased by the Cardinals from the Houston club of the Texas League. The 20-year-old pitcher had compiled a record of 25 and ten during his first year of pro ball.

**1958** "Sad" Sam Jones of the Cardinals became the first National League pitcher to register 200 strikeouts in a season since Johnny van Der Meer in 1941. Sam struck out eight Cubs in a 4-2 Cardinal win, raising his record to twelve and eleven.

**1966** Willie McCovey of the giants blasted a mammoth home run off the Redbird's Al Jackson. It sailed into the upper deck at Busch Stadium, and was estimated to have traveled 450 feet. The blast stood as the longest home run in Busch Stadium history until Mark McGwire arrived.

**1981** Mayor Vince Schemehl announced an agreement to purchase the *Admiral* from Pittsburgh businessman John Connelly. Connelly had paid \$600,000 for the *Admiral* after the city rejected a plan to save it. Connelly sold it back to the city for \$1.4 million-- and kept the engines.

**1987** One of the worst multiple murders in St. Louis history took place. Two gunmen entered the National Supermarket at 4331 Natural Bridge after the store closed. The robbers ordered seven workers to lie face down and shot them in the head. Five people died. Marvin Jennings and Donnie Blankenship were later convicted of the murders.

**1988** The *Post-Dispatch* reported on the large number of campaign contributions to Attorney General William L. Webster's re-election campaign by St. Louis lawyers involved with a fund defunded by Webster's office. The lawyers were defrauding the obscure Second Injury Fund which paid benefits to injured workers with previous medical problems. The resulting scandal ruined Webster.

**1999** The Blues traded Grant Fuhr to Calgary for a third round draft pick. Roman Turek was tapped to take over as the number one goalie. Turek would go on to win the Vezina Trophy as the league's top goaltender.

**2005** Gas prices in St. Louis soared to an all-time high, averaging \$3.08 per gallon. The price spike came after Hurricane Katrina crippled oil production in the Gulf of Mexico.