

September 7

1749 Rene Auguste Chouteau was born in New Orleans. His father abandoned the family and his mother began a relationship with Pierre Laclede. In 1763, Laclede brought 14-year-old Auguste along to choose a spot for a trading post. Chouteau returned in February 1764 to oversee construction at the site that Laclede had named St. Louis. Chouteau became the business and social leader of the young city.

1876 A disastrous attempt to raid the bank at Northfield, Minnesota, nearly destroyed the James Gang. Three members of the gang were killed in the botched hold-up, and three of the Younger Brothers were badly wounded. Only Frank and Jesse James escaped. Jesse would form another gang and rob three more trains before Robert Ford killed him on April 3, 1882.

1888 Bernard F. Dickmann was born in St. Louis. In 1933, he became the first Democratic Mayor of St. Louis since Rolla Wells 24 years earlier. He served from 1933 to 1941. Dickmann's greatest accomplishment was the creation of the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial. He also pushed through an anti-smoke ordinance that became the model for cities nationwide.

1888 Claiming it is too dark to play, the Browns walked off the field in Brooklyn. The Browns were leading the game 4-2. To make the point, owner Chris Von der Ahe lit candles in front of the bench. An irritated umpire Fred Goldsmith decided to finish the game no matter what. Fans pelted the Browns with bottles as they left the ballpark.

1899 In what a reporter wrote was "probably the most disgraceful scene ever enacted on a baseball field, certainly the worst in St. Louis," a near-riot erupted after an umpire's call gave a victory to Cincinnati. Police had to rescue the umpire from the fans and the Browns players.

1900 The *Post-Dispatch* reported that Mayor Henry Ziegenhein laughed it off when a group of citizens demanded better street lighting. Zeigenhein reportedly said, "We got a moon yet ain't we?" The voters had the last laugh when they voted the thoroughly corrupt "Uncle Henry" out of office in the spring.

1926 A bloody bootleggers war here claimed another victim, the third murder in three weeks. There had been several other shootings, which left more gangsters wounded. The latest victim was a saloonkeeper, gunned down while he played cards in the crowded poolroom. When police arrived, they found the place deserted.

1933 The owners of the Southern Hotel building announced it would be torn down to save taxes. The hotel at Broadway and Walnut was built in 1879, two years after one of the deadliest fires in St. Louis history destroyed the original building. The hotel closed in 1912. The Stadium East Garage stands on the site today.

1964 The Cardinals suddenly found themselves in the midst of a pennant race. After sweeping a Labor Day doubleheader from the Reds, and completing a 12-3 home stand, the Cards moved into a second place tie. They were still seven games behind the front-running Phillies.

1970 A report by the Urban League said for the first time, the population of the city was 1/2 black and 1/2 white. That compared to a decade earlier, when the city's population was 71 percent white. In 1900, it was 97 percent white.

1972 Ann Miller left Deaconess Hospital for her home in Los Angeles, unsure if she would ever dance again. She suffered a head injury when hit by a steel curtain during a set change at the Munny on August 14th.

1982 The "Fabulous Fox" Theatre re-opened with a presentation of the musical "Barnum." The theatre was restored to its original grandeur under the guidance of Leon and Mary Strauss. The Fox opened in 1929, and had been vacant since 1978.

1988 TWA stockholders approved Carl Icahn's proposal to take the company private. The privatization took \$610 million dollars out of the airline and put \$469 million in Icahn's pocket. The move added \$539 million to TWA's debt.

1993 Cardinals outfielder Mark Whiten slugged four home runs and drove in 12 in a single game. "Sunny" Jim Bottomley of the Cardinals was the last player to get 12 R-B-I's in one game, back in 1924. Bob Horner of the Braves was the last player to hit four home runs in a game, in 1986.

1998 Mark McGwire smashed his 61st home run of the season, tying the all-time mark set by Roger Maris in 1961. It happened on the 61st birthday of his father, John McGwire. The historic blast came in the first inning off Mike Morgan of the Cubs at Busch Stadium. Big Mac's son Mathew joined team mates in welcoming him at home plate. Sammy Sosa applauded from the outfield.

2005 Pinnacle Entertainment broke ground for a \$400 million casino complex at Laclede's Landing. Plans called for the complex to include a new hotel and spa, connected to America's Center by a pedestrian walkway beneath I-70. Completion was set for 2007.