

September 8

1772 Manuel Lisa was born in Spain. He led the development of the fur trade in St. Louis. Lisa became one of the first white men to explore the Yellowstone and Teton areas and built the first fort for the American fur trade, establishing the Americans commercially in the Northwest.

1842 Pheobe Couzins was born in St. Louis. She would become the first professional female lawyer in the United States. Couzins also became the first woman to serve as U.S. Marshall.

1842 Polly Berry filed suit in St. Louis for possession of her daughter, Lucy. Polly was a free black who was kidnapped and sold into slavery. Attorney Edward Bates argued successfully that since Polly had been free, her daughters were also free. Lucy DeLaney told her story in the book *From the Darkness Cometh the Light or Struggles for Freedom*. Bates became Attorney General under Abraham Lincoln.

1866 Andrew Johnson became the first president to visit St. Louis. At the time, he was on his way to impeachment hearings in Washington, battling Congress and the radical Republicans because of his postwar reconstruction policies. Encouraged by the warm reception here, he made a fiery speech attacking his enemies. The speech would be used against him in his impeachment trial.

1874 Reports reached St. Louis about a failed robbery attempt by the James Gang. They had stopped a train carrying the Lexington, Missouri band home with their earnings from a week's engagement at a fair. The band feared a holdup, and had armed themselves. Seeing the armed band, the gang cursed and rode away empty-handed.

1898 Cardinal great Frankie Frisch was born. The "Fordham Flash" played for the Cardinals from 1927 until 1937, was a player-manager from 1933 until 1937, and managed the team in 1938. He died in 1973.

1908 St. Louis aviation pioneer Albert Bond Lambert took his first balloon flight, a trip aboard the "United States" to Creve Couer Lake. Lambert was the son of the man who developed Listerine. As president of the St. Louis Aeronautical Society, he promoted the city as an aviation capitol and was the first licensed pilot here. He developed a flying field on Natural Bridge, and then sold it to the city at his cost.

1917 Browns players Doc Lavan and Del Pratt sued owner Phil Ball for \$50,000 for making alleged slanderous statements to the newspapers. Ball had accused the players of loafing on the job because they disliked manager Fielder Jones.

1929 A new town was springing up virtually overnight in Central Missouri. "Damsite" had developed near the location of a giant dam to be built by Union Electric near the town of Bagnell. Hundreds of job seekers were pouring into the area.

1930 The comic strip “Blondie” made its debut. Murat Bernard “Chic” Young’s strip featured Blondie Boopadoop, who fell in love with a millionaire’s son, Dagwood Bumstead. Bumstead’s father disinherited him but the couple wed on February 17, 1933. Young was born in Chicago and grew up in St. Louis, attending McKinley High School. He would draw more than 15,000 “Blondie” strips before his death in 1973.

1940 Johnny "The Big Cat" Mize of the Cardinals became the first player to hit three home runs in a game four different times.

1963 KSD TV announced that former fashion model Dianne White would take over the Sunday night weather forecasts. White became the first African-American on-air talent on St. Louis television. That same day, the station hired Mary Fran Luecke as their chief weather girl. She would later star on the “Bob Newhart Show.”

1976 The city sued to overturn a decision by Transportation Secretary William Coleman calling for a new airport to be built at Columbia-Waterloo, Illinois. A poll showed that 89.5 percent of St. Louisans wanted the airport to stay right where it was.

1976 Demolition work was wrapping up on the last of the 33 high rise buildings that made up the notorious Pruitt-Igoe Housing Project. Nearly 12,000 families lived there at its peak. The crime-ridden and vandalized project closed in 1973.

1986 Mike Laga of the Cardinals became the first player to hit a ball out of Busch Stadium. Problem was, it was foul by about 150 feet. Nonetheless, it was an impressive feat. It is 130 feet from the roof of Busch Stadium to the field below. The ball was found in a flowerbed in the employee parking lot.

1998 At 8:18 pm, Mark McGwire smashed a line drive home run on the first pitch he saw from Steve Trachsel of the Cubs. Number 62 was his shortest home run of the year. It cleared the left field wall at Busch Stadium by just two feet. Mark’s son met him at home plate again, and Sammy Sosa came in to congratulate him. McGwire embraced the four sons and two daughters of Roger Maris. Groundskeeper Tim Forneris retrieved the ball, and presented it to McGwire following the game.