

September 9

1824 John Boyer Vashon was born. He was the son of African-American abolitionist and educator, George Boyer Vashon. In 1887, he came to St. Louis and took over as principal of Colored School Number Ten. Vashon spent the next 34 years working for the St. Louis public schools. He also helped organize a YMCA for African-Americans. Vashon High School was named in his honor when it opened in 1927.

1848 In a series of editorials, the *St. Louis Republican* warned that the newer city of Chicago was challenging St. Louis for trade supremacy with the west. Few people thought Chicago, with a population about half that of St. Louis, would ever be a major rival. But by 1860, as the railroad replaced the steamboat, Chicago's population had tripled.

1852 The first train left Alton for Springfield, Illinois. The line would develop into the C&A, which billed itself as "The Only Way." The Gulf, Mobile and Ohio eventually absorbed the C&A.

1870 Henry Shaw was personally overseeing landscaping and construction of the land he donated to the city for a park at his estate "Tower Grove." Shaw announced the arrival of two bronze lions, cast in Berlin, to flank one of the carriage entrances to the park.

1898 Frank Francis Frisch was born in the Bronx. He came to the Cardinals in the controversial trade that sent Rogers Hornsby to the Giants after the 1926 season. But the "Fordham Flash" would star for the Redbirds for eleven years. He was named NL MVP in 1931 and managed the team from 1933 to 1938. He was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1947.

1903 Union bootblacks here were threatening to strike. They were demanding ten cents per shine, up from five cents, and wanted the workday reduced to 13 hours from the current 16. The union said it was confident of victory, because St. Louisans would not stand for muddy shoes for very long.

1904 Nearly a week after the close of the Olympics at the world's fair, some of the results were still in question. Some members of a Milwaukee team were found to be professionals. As a result, first place in the tug-of-war competition was awarded to a group representing the West Side St. Louis Turnverein. There were few competitors from overseas at the 1904 Olympics. Most of the teams represented athletic clubs.

1927 Mobster Alphonse Palazolla was riddled with bullets outside a tombstone shop on "The Hill." Over the next three months, the war between the Cuckoo and The Green Ones Sicilian gangs would claim ten more lives. It got so bad that Archbishop John Glennon forbade the administering of last rites to dead gangsters. The gang wars claimed about 60 lives in St. Louis between 1919 and 1932.

1947 City officials were considering installing parking meters downtown as a revenue producer. While none of them were enthusiastic about the idea, they agreed to study cities that were using meters.

1949 Missouri Pacific Railroad workers ignored President Truman's plea for "reason," and walked off the job. Thousands of factories on Mo-Pac spurs, including 400 in St. Louis alone, faced a possible shutdown.

1954 The managing director of the Chicago Cardinals Football Club said he would consider any sound offer to bring the team to St. Louis. Walter Wofner was responding to an inquiry by Howard Baer, chairman of the board of directors for the Chamber of Commerce.

1968 A federal grand jury opened hearings into alleged union misdeeds at the Gateway Army Ammunition plant on Goodfellow. The plant was supposed to have been re-activated to make ammo for the war in Vietnam months ago. Allegations of payroll padding and kickbacks to officials were widespread.

1968 Arthur Ashe defeated Tom Okker of the Netherlands to capture the U.S. Open. Ashe was still an amateur at the time. He became the only African-American man to win the Open title.

1977 After 120 years, Falstaff beer was no longer being brewed in St. Louis. The company ended production at its plant at 1920 Shenandoah.

1979 Lou Brock day at Busch Stadium. Before the game, baseball's all-time base burglar was honored in ceremonies and showered with gifts. August Busch Jr. gave Lou a 33-foot yacht, KMOX presented him with a new Monte Carlo convertible and KPLR TV chipped in a video recorder.

1998 Thousands of fans donned Cardinal Red for a lunch time rally at Kiener Plaza to celebrate Mark McGwire's record-breaking home run. The bat used by Big Mac and home run ball number 62 went on display at Cooperstown. Tim Forneris, the groundskeeper who recovered the ball, met President Clinton. He also appeared on the "Today" Show.

1999 Former Missouri Senator John Danforth was named to head the investigation into the fiery 1993 siege at the Branch Davidian compound in Waco. Danforth said he wanted to know if there was a cover-up and if the government killed people.

2003 A coalition of African American leaders urged a boycott of Nelly's new energy drink. The product was named after Nelly's song, "Pimp Juice." Project Islamic Hope, the National Alliance for Positive Action, and the National Black Anti-Defamation League said the name was demeaning.