

## September 13

**1831** Samuel Cupples was born in Pennsylvania. He opened a store in St. Louis in 1851 and soon needed a more efficient distribution system. His partner, Robert Brookings built a complex of 18 warehouses along the railroad tracks between 1893 and 1895. The Cupples Complex soon became the center of rail shipments to St. Louis, and a model for other cities.

**1860** John "Blackjack" Pershing was born in Laclede, Missouri. Early in his career, he commanded a Negro detachment in Nebraska, and his cohorts pinned the nickname "Nigger Jack" on him. It had been cleaned up to "Black Jack" by the time he became well known as the commander of the American Expeditionary Force in France during World War One.

**1903** The world's fair was narrowly assured of having the giant bird cage built in time for the fair. The deadline for opening bids had passed. But none came in under the \$15,000 limit. The mailman showed up with a bid from a St. Paul firm, and officials determined it had been mailed in time. The contract was awarded for \$14,634.

**1904** It was "Electrical Day" at the World's Fair. Crowds flocked to the DeForest wireless telegraph tower to see the forerunner of radio transmission equipment. The tower stood on the eastern end of what is today known as "Art Hill."

**1924** Farmers in O'Fallon and other outlying areas of St. Charles County celebrated the paving of a 26-mile stretch of the Booneslick Trail between St. Charles and Foristell. Before the road was opened, communities west of St. Peters were isolated from St. Charles by bad roads. The road later became U.S. 40, and eventually I-70.

**1933** The Army Corps of Engineers unveiled plans for a massive lock and dam at Alton. President Franklin Roosevelt urged the corps to speed the project in order to provide thousands of jobs. Construction on \$10 million project was expected to begin in November.

**1957** Trading closed for the last time at the Merchant's Exchange downtown. The building at 111 North Third was one of the city's architectural treasures. Samuel Tilden was nominated for president there. The building was torn down to make room for Interstate 70.

**1964** The Cardinals scored in each inning of a 15-2 drubbing of the Cubs at Wrigley Field. Julian Javier, Lou Brock and Mike Shannon hit home runs, and Curt Simmons won his 15<sup>th</sup> game. The Birds were the first NL team to score in each inning since the New York Giants did it on June 1, 1923.

**1964** James Eagan was elected mayor of Florissant. He would be elected nine times, becoming synonymous with the suburban St. Louis community. Eagan was the second longest serving mayor in the U.S. when he died at the age of 74 on November 2, 2000.

**1967** Big Red fans were surprised by a big trade just three days before the start of the season. The Cardinals traded veteran split-end Sonny Randle to the 49'ers for future draft picks. Randle was the holder of most of the Big Red catching records.

**1975** The largest crowd in Busch Stadium History to that date saw the Cards beat the Mets 6-2. A crowd of 50,545 attended.

**1978** The first F-18 Hornet rolled off the assembly line at McDonnell-Douglas. Mac officials were predicting the F-18 had the potential to equal the success of its famous big brother, the F-Four "Phantom."

**1989** The management announced that the Chase Park Plaza was closing its doors in nine days. The hotel had been the center of St. Louis night life for 67 years. The Chase was re-vived as an entertainment and apartment complex over a decade later.

**1990** A tanker hauling 8,000 gallons of diesel fuel collided with another semi and exploded on westbound 70 east of Highway 94. The driver was killed. Six hours later, drivers all over the St. Louis area, as far away as Brentwood, were stuck in traffic. Westbound Highway 40 backed up for 12 miles as drivers looked for another way into St. Charles.

**1993** The flood of 1993 officially came to an end at 6:15 p-m, as the Mississippi finally dipped below flood stage. The river had been over flood for 80 days, and for 44 days back in April, a total of 124 days.

**1999** Three people were killed when a tractor trailer slammed into traffic stopped on westbound I-270 at I-170. Seven other people were hurt. The fiery 16-vehicle accident increased calls for something to be done about the dangerous exit on the left side of the highway. The interchange is now being rebuilt.

**2001** Hundreds joined Mayor Slay and local clergy at a downtown candlelight vigil to honor the terrorist victims in New York and Washington. Missouri firefighters arrived at Ground Zero to assist in rescue efforts, but were stunned to find no survivors. Flights resumed from Lambert Field and travelers noticed increased security measures.