

September 28

1817 The city was shocked by a sensational murder. William Smith, a bank director and owner of one of the first brick homes in the city, was discussing the previous day's duel between Charles Lucas and Thomas Hart Benton with one William Tharp. Tharp drew his pistol and shot Smith dead.

1837 Missouri's first Senator died at the age of 54. David Barton came to St. Louis in 1812. When the legislature deadlocked on the choice for a second senator just prior to statehood, Barton was allowed to choose. He picked Thomas Hart Benton.

1902 Eleven automobiles took part in the first St. Louis automobile club endurance run, a 25-mile trip to Manchester Mills. A young boy was injured when he put a stick into the spokes of a moving auto. His father said "It's a purty thing for city folks to come out to the country and run down innocent children."

1903 David R. Francis, president of the World's Fair Company, donated a beautiful silver cup as a prize for the marathon event at the Olympics here. Francis hoped the cup would encourage Americans to participate in the even in greater numbers than in the first two Olympics.

1906 Tony Faust died at the age of 71 in Wiesbaden, Germany. Faust came to St. Louis at the age of 16, and opened his first restaurant in 1862. Tony Faust's or "Tony's" at Broadway and Elm was regarded as one of the finest in America. It was the first building in St. Louis to have electric lights.

1912 Corporal Frank Scott died in a plane crash at College Park, Maryland. The pioneer airplane mechanic is the first enlisted man to die in a plane. In 1917, the War Department named its new training base for aviation cadets in St. Clair County in honor of Scott. Scott Air Force Base is the only base to be named for an enlisted man.

1924 Rogers Hornsby finished the season with a .424 batting average, still a modern-day Major League record. Despite his record season, Hornsby finished second in the MVP balloting to pitcher Dazzy Vance of Brooklyn. A Cincinnati sportswriter who didn't approve of Hornsby's temper left "The Rajah" off his ballot.

1930 Dizzy Dean appeared in his first game in a Cardinal uniform, a 3-1 win over the Pirates here on the last day of the season.

1940 The newest superhighway in the area was dedicated. The Daniel Boone Expressway was designated U.S. 61, and ran between Lindbergh and Wentzville. (Now 40/64) The highway was built at a cost of \$6,147,500.

1947 Dizzy Dean came down from the broadcast booth to pitch for the Browns against the White Sox on the last day of the season. Ol' Diz scattered three hits over four innings

and added a single of his own. But the Browns lost the game in the ninth inning. Dizzy's appearance attracted nearly 16,000 fans. Just a few days earlier, a Browns game had drawn just 350 fans.

1953 Six-year-old Bobby Greenlease, the son of a wealthy Kansas City auto dealer, was kidnaped from his school and held for \$600,000 ransom. His body was found on October 7th. Bonnie Brown Heady and Carl Austin Hall were captured in St. Louis and executed for the crime. What happened to half the ransom money was a mystery until 1982, when the FBI made public a confession by former city patrolman Elmer Dolan. He said Lieutenant Louis Shoulders and mobster/cab company president Joseph Costello had taken the money. Dolan and Shoulders were convicted of perjury in 1953.

1953 Voters here overwhelmingly approved a \$1.5 million bond issue for clearance and development of an area bounded by 15th street, 18th, Market and Chestnut. The area was to be completely leveled to make room for a green-belt mall from Union Station to the Soldier's Memorial. Mayor Tucker hailed the voted as a mandate for an even larger slum clearance plan.

1963 The first performance by a member of the Beatles in the U.S. took place in Southern Illinois. George Harrison played with a local band called the "Four Vests" at the VFW Hall in Eldorado. Harrison spent three weeks visiting his sister Louise in Benton. Louise had convinced a teenaged disc jockey named Marcia Raubach to play "From Me To You," back in June. WFRX in West Frankfort thus became the first US radio station to play a Beatles record.

1971 The Equitable Building in downtown St. Louis was dedicated. The glass walls of the 21-story reflect the downtown streetscape. The building was seen as the first stage of an ambitious Civic Center Redevelopment program.

1982 The proposed \$125 million renovation of Union Station cleared the final hurdle. The Department of Housing and Urban Development approved a \$10 million grant for the project. Construction was expected to begin in the spring.

1991 Jazz great Miles Davis died at the age of 65. Davis was born in Alton on May 26, 1926 and later moved to East St. Louis. In the late 40's his group pioneered the "cool" jazz sound, as opposed to "hot" or "be-bop" jazz. His 1969 album "Bitches Brew" caused a controversy, as Davis used electronic instruments to produce a sound heavily influenced by rock music.

1996 It was "Ozzie Smith Day" at Busch Stadium. "The Wizard's" uniform number One was retired in emotional ceremonies before a crowd of 52,876, the third largest regular season crowd in stadium history. Smith performed his last backflip as he took the field and drove in a run as the Cardinals beat the Reds 5-2.

1997 A sell-out crowd at Busch on the final day of the season saw Mark McGwire hit home run number 58. Only Roger Maris and Babe Ruth had hit more in a season. That

day, the Cardinals beat the Cubs in a game that marked the final appearance of Cardinal killer Ryne Sandberg.

2001 Mark McGwire's 3rd inning home run off Todd Ritchie of the Pirates turned out to be his last at Busch Stadium. Career homer 582 gave Big Mac 119 homers at Busch during his career, which ranks second to Ray Lankford's 123.

2003 Pope John Paul II named St. Louis Archbishop Justin Rigali a Cardinal. The announcement came just one week before Rigali left St. Louis to become the Archbishop of Philadelphia.