

## **September 29**

**1864** A detachment of Confederate cavalry raided the Cheltenham Post Office, near what is today Manchester and Sulphur. It was the closest any rebel forces would get to St. Louis. Outnumbered federal forces at Pilot Knob had turned back the rebels under Sterling Price. The delay allowed reinforcements to rush to St. Louis, and Price was now convinced he could never take the city. He instead turned towards Jefferson City.

**1867** Sterling Price died in St. Louis. Price was a former governor who led the state militia against the Union during the Civil War. Rather than surrender, Price established a colony of Confederates in Mexico after the war. He returned to St. Louis in January 1867, to a house bought with contributions from those who saw Price as a hero. His funeral procession was the largest ever in St. Louis to that time.

**1876** A huge crowd attended the opening of the St. Louis Fair, an annual tradition. The big attraction was the zoological gardens, which fair officials hoped to make a permanent feature. The bear pit is the only structure remaining from the fairs in what is now Fairgrounds Park.

**1892** The first Famous Store opened at Broadway and Morgan. (Now Delmar) David May and his partner had bought the clothing store for \$150,000 at a fire sale. The firm merged with the William Barr Dry Goods Company in 1912.

**1922** The Chase Hotel opened. After owner Sam Koplak combined it with his hotel next door, the Chase-Park Plaza Hotel became the center of the city's nightlife in the 50's and 60's. For 20 years, Harry Fender hosted the biggest names in show business on his KMOX show broadcast from the Steeplechase Room. The hotel closed in 1989, but has since been revived as an entertainment complex

**1927** A devastating tornado ripped through the southwestern part of the city. The twister struck near the city limits south of Manchester, tore across the Central West End, and crossed the Mississippi near the McKinley Bridge. By the time it was over, 86 people were dead, six square miles of the city were in ruins, and 1500 were hurt. Damage was estimated at over \$10 million. Rescuers dug through the ruins of the Central High School auditorium piece by piece. The storm had sent a tower atop the roof plunging into the basement. They recovered the bodies of five girls.

**1928** The Cardinals clinched their second pennant with a 3-1 win over the Boston Braves.

**1941** The \$35 million TNT plant at Weldon Springs began production. The plant was the first major defense project to be completed in the St. Louis area.

**1946** The Cardinals and the Brooklyn Dodgers ended the season in a tie for first, with identical records of 96 and 58. The Cardinals would win an unprecedented best-of-three playoff to take the pennant.

**1952** Stan Musial made his only pitching appearance in the major leagues. The 1952 batting champ took to the mound and faced the runner-up in the batting race, Frank Baumholtz of the Cubs. Baumholtz reached on an error and the Cubs won 3-0. (Musial started his minor league career as a pitcher, but an injury forced a move to the outfield)

**1953** Browns owner Bill Veeck sold the St. Louis Browns to a syndicate led by the mayor of Baltimore, Tom D'Alesandro. Veeck got \$2.4 million for the lowly Brownies, who would begin play in 1954 as the Baltimore Orioles.

**1953** The *Post-Dispatch* reported that Chevrolet was planning to build a new plastic car here. St. Louis was the only assembly plant for the Corvette, America's first production sports car, from December of 1953 until June of 1981.

**1958** The Cardinals fired manager Fred Hutchinson, replacing him with Solly Hemus. Hemus would be a player-manager. The 1958 Cardinals had finished in fifth place.

**1959** Workers removed the 70-foot-tall electric Standard Red Crown sign that dominated the neighborhood at Skinker and Clayton Road. The old sign contained 5600 bulbs and five miles of wire. It was replaced with a modern plastic sign.

**1963** Ceremonies at Old Busch Stadium marked the last game for Stan "The Man" Musial. Stan and his family circled the ballpark in convertibles while 27,576 fans cheered and tossed confetti. Stan was presented with a painting "The Man and a Boy" by *Post-Dispatch* cartoonist Amadee, a ring with the number six outlined in diamonds from his team mates, and a Cub Scout neckerchief from scout Howard Lay. Stan smacked two hits off Jim Maloney and the Cards beat the Reds, 3-2.

**1964** The Cardinals beat the Phillies 4-2 to move into a first place tie with the Reds. The former first-place Phils had lost nine straight down the stretch.

**1964** Ground was broken for a 24-story octagonal hotel at Fourth and Walnut. The 486-unit "Stouffer's Riverfront" became a landmark, renowned for the revolving restaurant at the top. It is now known as the "Regal Riverfront."

**1967** For the first time, fans waited all night outside Busch Stadium to buy World Series tickets. Over 2,000 people camped out, some arriving as early as 48 hours before sale time. Police made just two arrests.

**1976** The Cardinals ended the season before a crowd of just 5,992 at Busch Stadium. Total home attendance for 1976 was just 1,207,036, the lowest non-strike season attendance in Busch history. There were just five crowds of over 30,000 in 1976, a season

in which the Redbirds wore “bellhop” caps, with an old fashioned square looking top in honor of the bicentennial.

**1977** Ralston Purina, which had just purchased the Blues, announced it was buying the Arena for \$8.8 million. The new owners re-named the building "The Checkerdome."

**1989** One of the city's most beloved figures, Gussie Busch, died at the age of 90. That night, a moment of silence was observed at the Cards-Cubs game at Busch, and the Cards players wore black armbands.

**1998** The Gateway Arch was closed to tourists after a flash fire injured nine workers. The fire broke out during maintenance on an electrical panel in the North Leg. The Arch would remain closed until October 8th.