

### **December 3**

**1818** President Monroe signed the congressional resolution making Illinois the 21<sup>st</sup> state of the Union. At the time, the capital was located at Kaskaskia. The capital was moved to Vandalia two years later and moved to Springfield in 1837. Shadrach Bond served as the first governor. Bond County was named in his honor.

**1870** The *Globe-Democrat* reported that widespread agitation to move the national capitol to St. Louis was spurring action in Washington D.C. The paper said buildings were being remodeled all over the capitol. Workers were busy repaving Pennsylvania Avenue with wood.

**1899** Former mayor Joseph Brown died. He served as Mayor of Alton before being elected as the 25<sup>th</sup> Mayor of St. Louis, serving from 1871-1875. During his administration, Forest Park, O'Fallon Park and Carondelet Parks were established and the Eads Bridge was completed. During the 1873 depression, Brown backed city-issued currency with his own money and ran a soup kitchen at his own expense.

**1901** The American League officially transferred the Milwaukee franchise to the St. Louis Browns. St. Louis would become "First in beer, first in shoes, and last in the American League." The only exception was in 1944, when the Browns managed to win the pennant only to lose to the Cardinals in the World Series.

**1907** The St. Louis *Post-Dispatch* became the first newspaper in the country to make deliveries by automobile.

**1918** The terrible flu epidemic reached its peak in St. Louis. One-thousand-467 new cases were reported that day alone. Over 1700 people died here. The toll would have been much higher if the city health commissioner had not ordered the schools and business closed early in the outbreak.

**1922** A reputed member of the notorious "Egan's Rats" gang was shot and killed at a public bath house. Two gunmen burst in as he was bathing. Police said the shooting was the result of an ongoing feud between the gangs of bootleggers.

**1926** The Board of Aldermen was debating a measure to close a big loophole in the speeding laws. Under the present law, the police had to prove recklessness as well as speeding. The new law would remove that requirement, and fix the city speed limit at 25 miles per hour for private vehicles and 20 for buses and commercial vehicles.

**1930** The County Court voted to rename Denny Road in honor of Charles Lindbergh. Officials hoped to have the Lindbergh Boulevard signs up in time for the opening of an improved section of the road. Lindbergh would soon be a 20-foot-wide concrete strip between the St. Charles Rock Road and Lemay Ferry.

**1937** One of the most unusual authors in St. Louis history died. Pearl Curran was a housewife who said the spirit of a Puritan settler named Patience Worth contacted her via an Ouija Board in 1913. Curran said Worth wanted to be a writer, but was killed in an Indian attack. Over the next 25 years, Patience helped Curran “ghostwrite” hundreds of poems, a play and several critically acclaimed novels.

**1940** Ground was broken for Fort Leonard Wood in Pulaski County. Fort Wood is named for an army sergeant who won the Medal of Honor while fighting the Apaches. He was also the original commander of the "Rough Riders." (Teddy Roosevelt was made commander when Leonard Wood was promoted)

**1967** The riverboat restaurant "River Queen" suddenly sank on the riverfront. No one was injured, but officials were mystified as to the cause. The River Queen was one of the last "Texas-Deck" stern-wheelers left on the river.

**1990** Schools in four states were closed, people stocked up on supplies and emergency response personnel stood on alert. It was all because of Doctor Iben Browning. Based on some dubious theories about the tides and the pull of the moon, the New Mexico climatologist and business consultant predicted a major earthquake along the New Madrid Fault on this date. Browning died shortly after the hysteria.

**2000** President Clinton was in attendance as Chuck Berry and four other stars were honored for their contributions to American culture. The tribute took place at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

**2003** The historic Coronado Hotel at 3701 Lindell re-opened after a \$40 million renovation. Its 165 rooms were turned into luxury apartments and the lavish ballroom was restored to original glory. Construction began on the Coronado in 1923. It hosted such notables as Charles Lindbergh, Rudolph Valentino and Queen Marie of Romania before being abandoned in 1986.