

December 4

1877 Voters in St. Louis County voted to accept a donation of one hundred acres of land from Ralph Clayton and the family of Martin Hanley for the new county seat. The city and county had recently separated. The value of the land was put at 300 dollars per acre. That land is now prime Clayton real estate.

1877 The National League charged that Browns owner John Lucas knew about fixing of games by members of the Louisville club. The infuriated Lucas disbanded the Browns and resigned from the league. *Sporting News* founder Alfred Spink resurrected the Browns in the summer of 1880.

1896 Raymond Tucker was born. He was elected as the 43rd Mayor of St. Louis in 1953 and served three terms. Tucker was a professor who rose to prominence as head of the commission charged with ridding St. Louis of its terrible smoke pall. A massive bond issue for public improvements, including three freeways and a massive slum clearance program, was passed in 1953. Tucker also devoted much of his energy to completion of the Arch and the new stadium.

1902 The world's fair company announced it had commissioned "two of the best sculptors in the United States," Daniel C. French and J.Q.A. Ward, to create huge statues of Thomas Jefferson and Napoleon for the fair. The two principals in the Louisiana Purchase were to face each other across the Grand Concourse.

1904 Residents of the Cabanne Neighborhood, the area around Page, Union and Kingshighway, formed a neighborhood association to "protect the handsome residential features of the neighborhood." They called for a ban on flats, saloons or other objectionable businesses, and for all homes to cost at least \$4,000 dollars.

1904 Frank "Buster" Wortman was born in St. Louis. He led the Capone Gang interests in St. Louis and Southern Illinois. During the 40's and 50's, Wortman and his associates controlled the nightclubs, taverns, gambling, a racing news service and a trucking line. He lived in a home near Collinsville, surrounded by a moat.

1908 The *Globe-Democrat* reported that St. Louis was about to get its first automobile taxi cabs. The Mississippi Valley Automobile Company announced plans to start service with five cabs. The minimum fare was set at 40 cents for the first 1/2 mile and ten cents for each additional quarter mile.

1919 The *St. Louis Republic*, the oldest newspaper west of the Mississippi was sold to the *Globe Democrat* and printed its final issue. The Republic was the descendant of the *Missouri Gazette*, The first newspaper published in St. Louis in 1809.

1919 A city harbor boat was on its way to Herculaneum. The boat was to pick up plaster casts of rock formations along the river cliffs made by Victor Borchardt. The casts would be used to create the realistic habitat for bears at the St. Louis Zoo.

1922 Movie star Rudolph Valentino was in St. Louis. Mayor Henry Kiel personally led the movie idol on a tour of St. Louis institutions. Valentino left a trail of swooning women in his wake.

1934 The hero of the 1934 World Champion St. Louis Cardinals signed a new contract. Dizzy Dean would make up to \$26,000 in 1935. Dean predicted "Me n' Paul" would win 50 games.

1943 Judy Garland recorded the holiday classic "Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas." The song is featured in one of the most memorable scenes of the film *Meet Me In St. Louis*. In the film the Smith family is distraught at the thought of having to leave their home at 5135 Kensington for New York on the eve of the World's Fair. Esther (Judy Garland) sings the song to console her sister Tootie. (Margaret O'Brien)

1957 The Reverend Martin Luther King spoke to a capacity crowd at Washington University's Graham Chapel. King said the nation was headed toward the "promised land of integration." Three major hotels in St. Louis refused to allow King to stay there during his visit. The Chase-Park Plaza agreed to accommodate King.

1963 An 80-ton replica of the "Santa Maria" was launched from a freighter in New York. The replica of Columbus' flagship was built in Barcelona to be part of the Spanish exhibit at the New York World's Fair. St. Louis Mayor Alfonso Cervantes brought the ship to St. Louis after the fair. It sank during a thunderstorm in 1969.

1967 The U.S. Supreme Court announced it would hear the landmark case of a bi-racial couple who had tried unsuccessfully to buy a house in a Florissant subdivision. The court would have to decide if racial discrimination by a private developer violated the constitution.

1979 A group calling themselves The Coalition of Parents Against Rock Concerts called for a ban on concerts "In which the drug culture is promoted" at the Checkerdome. A day earlier, eleven fans had been trampled to death at a concert by The Who in Cincinnati. Local promoters said it could never happen here, because all seats were reserved.

1982 The rampaging Meramec River flooded the streets of Times Beach. On December 23rd, the federal government would tell residents displaced by the flood not to come back because of dioxin contamination. Times Beach was removed from the maps. Today, the cleaned-up site is Route 66 State Park.