

## **December 5**

**1876** Fifteen St. Louis businessmen met at the Kinloch Club to establish a rival to the upstart Bell Telephone Company of Missouri. For many years, you couldn't call a Kinloch phone from a Bell phone, and vice-versa. The bitter rivalry ended in 1923, when Bell bought out Kinloch, which had 50,000 customers.

**1896** Carl Ferdinand Cori was born in Germany. Cori and his wife Gerty won the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1947 while faculty members at Washington University. Gerty Cori was the first American woman to win the honor. They were honored for their discovery of the mechanism of blood glucose regulation. Six more people who trained in their laboratory would go on to win Nobel Prizes.

**1899** The city was discussing a plan to level the Exposition Hall downtown. The landmark would come down to make room for the magnificent new city library on the old exposition grounds bounded by Olive, 13th, Locust and 14th Streets.

**1908** Constable George Bode was warning automobile "scorchers" that they could no longer "tear up" the streets of Clayton without fear of getting caught. Bode was the first lawman in a rural area of Missouri to obtain a car to chase speeders. He said he was considering mounting a pair of repeating rifles on the auto.

**1913** Pheobe Couzins died in poverty in St. Louis. She had become the nation's first female lawyer in 1871, upon graduation from the Washington University School of Law. But she never practiced law extensively. When her father died, she took over his duties as U.S. Marshall, the first female U.S. Marshall in history.

**1922** Federal prohibition agents raided a four-story building on Third Street in the heart of the city's busy commission district. Chief Agent Gus. O. Nations said the massive moonshine plant was capable of cranking out 500 gallons a day. It was the largest seized in Missouri so far.

**1923** A member of the notorious Eagan Gang was shot to death by members of his own gang. Elmer Runge had been kicked out for shooting a "copper" during a holdup in St. Louis County. He had threatened those who had him kicked out.

**1926** Cards catcher Bob O'Farrell was named the National League MVP. He caught 146 games and still managed to hit .293 as the Birds won their first world championship.

**1927** Seven people were killed, ten injured, in an arson fire at the Buckingham Hotel Annex at Kingshighway and West Pine. Night clerk O.P. Greathouse was credited with saving 58 lives, including 32 children from the Central Institute for the Deaf. The owners of the hotel were charged with murder for hiring an arsonist so they could collect insurance money

**1927** After flying 27,400 miles without a mishap, "The Spirit of St. Louis" was slightly damaged in an accident in New Jersey. Landing after a test flight following an overhaul, the wheel of the plane hit a rut. The plane tipped over on its nose. Lindbergh was not hurt.

**1933** Repeal of prohibition became a certainty, as Utah became the 35th state to ratify the 21st amendment. August A Busch said "Happy days will be here again--and soon." He added, "This is going to be a free country." In Missouri, hard liquor was still unavailable, as the legislature had yet to repeal the state dry laws.

**1936** Ownership of KMOX was officially transferred to CBS. KMOX was established by a group of St. Louis businessmen, with the aim of operating a radio station to represent civic and business interests here. That was before anyone thought that radio stations could make money by selling advertising.

**1948** Robert Moore, the son of a Portland Place doctor, was arrested for speeding. By 1950, the exploits of "Hot Rod Moore" were front-page news. The Republican candidate for county prosecuting attorney ran on a platform of putting Moore in jail. Moore eventually served four months in prison.

**1949** The National Park Service removed one of the final obstacles to construction of the Arch, accepting a plan to put the elevated railroad tracks in a tunnel. But no construction would take place until 1959, due to legal haggling over who would pay to move the tracks.

**1957** The Cardinals pulled off a great trade, swapping pitchers Mary Kutyna and Ted Wieand to the Reds for Curt Flood and Joe Taylor. Flood would patrol the Cardinals outfield for the next 12 years.

**1967** Bing Devine took over as General Manager of the Cardinals. He replaced Stan Musial, who had resigned to pursue his business interests. Devine had held the job before. But he was fired in 1964 and went to the Mets.

**1982** Thousands were fleeing the rising Meramec River. Evacuations were under way in Times Beach, Pacific and Peerless Park. The water threatened to close Interstate 44 in St. Louis County.

**1998** Brian Stewart of Columbia, Illinois was convicted of first degree assault for injecting his infant son with the virus that causes AIDS. The boy developed full-blown AIDS. Stewart would be sentenced to life in prison. The judge said Stewart would "burn in hell from here to eternity."

**1999** The Rams clinched the NFC West Title with a 34-21 win over the Carolina Panthers. It marked the team's first NFC West Title since 1985.

**2000** The *Admiral* was moved from its berth near the Eads Bridge, home for 60 years. The owners of the President Casino on the *Admiral* said the move north to Laclede's Landing would increase revenue and provide protection from wayward barges. Over 70 gamblers were injured when a runaway barge struck the casino in 1998.

**2003** Boeing delivered the last Harrier II jet to the Spanish Government. Boeing's predecessor, McDonnell-Douglas, began producing the Harrier at St. Louis in 1981. The jet could take off, land, or hover vertically. It was used extensively in Afghanistan and Iraq, and was a crowd favorite at the Fair St. Louis air shows.