

## December 6

**1826** Ninian Edwards was inaugurated as the third governor of Illinois. Edwards was the first territorial governor of Illinois, then served in the Senate after statehood. He also served as Minister to Mexico before being elected governor. The town where he made his home would be named Edwardsville in his honor.

**1862** Claiborne Fox Jackson died at the age of 56. As governor at the start of the civil war, he tried to lead Missouri into the Confederacy. When that failed, he took the state militia to fight against the Union, and set up a rebel government in Neosho. His forces were driven from the state in 1861.

**1865** A huge ball marked the opening of the Southern Hotel here, described as the finest west of the Mississippi. The six-story building covered the entire block from Walnut to Elm, where the Stadium East garage stands today. On April 11, 1877, it was the scene of one of the most tragic fires in St. Louis history. 21 people were killed.

**1875** Albert Bond Lambert was born. In 1881, his father founded Lambert Pharmaceuticals, producers of "Listerine." The young millionaire took his first airplane ride with Orville Wright and was the first person in St. Louis to receive a pilot's license. Beginning in 1920, Major Lambert developed the flying field at his own expense, and sold it to the city at cost to promote St. Louis as an aviation center.

**1888** Victor J. Miller was born in Joplin, Missouri. He became the 37<sup>th</sup> Mayor of St. Louis in 1925 at the age of 36 and was in office until 1933. Highlights of his administration included construction of the Civil Courts Building and the complete motorization of the Fire Department.

**1900** Agnes Moorehead was born in Clinton, Massachusetts. She moved to St. Louis as a child and spent four seasons as a dancer at the Muny Opera. She made her debut as a radio singer on KMOX. Her first big screen role came in *Citizen Kane*, and she went on to appear in over 60 films. She is probably best remembered for her role as Endora on *Bewitched* from 1964 until 1972. Moorehead was one of several stars of *The Conqueror* who died of cancer. The movie was filmed near St. George, Utah, downwind from the Nevada nuclear test site.

**1923** KSD joined with four other stations to present the first network broadcast. The stations carried President Calvin Coolidge's address before a joint session of Congress.

**1925** Rogers Hornsby was named as the National League's Most Valuable Player. He had led the league in hitting now for five straight seasons.

**1933** Mayor Bernard F. Dickmann proposed sending "professional beggars" to a city owned island in the Mississippi. The mayor said sending them to work on Chesley Island instead of the city workhouse would discourage more drifters from coming here.

**1939** The Interior Department accepted Mayor Dickmann's offer to present the Old Courthouse to the National Park Service as part of the Jefferson Expansion Memorial. The courthouse had been deteriorating since the courts moved to the new building in June 1930.

**1947** The Missouri Supreme Court struck down a 50-year-ban by the St. Louis Board of Education. Under the old rules, a female teacher had to give up her job if she got married.

**1948** Workmen began demolishing the historic National Hotel, formerly Scotts, at Third and Market. Among those who stayed there at one time: Abraham Lincoln, Robert E. Lee, Jefferson Davis, and Zachary Taylor. Today, KMOV TV and KMOX radio occupy the site.

**1952** Larry Sykes, a center from Baltimore Dunbar High School, became the first black to play basketball for St. Louis University.

**1974** Gussie Busch's eight-year-old daughter was fatally injured in an accident on Interstate 44. Christina Bush was in a van with her eleven-year-old brother, Andrew. The family chauffeur was killed, but Andrew survived.

**1982** The Meramec River crested at over 40 feet. At least 10,000 homes had been destroyed in St. Louis County alone. The towns of Times Beach and Peerless Park, as well as parts of Pacific were under water. I-44 was closed. For Times Beach, the worst was still to come.

**1989** Barge traffic on the Mississippi was halted, as the river dropped to its lowest level in 25 years. Places where the river was normally 17-feet deep now only held eight feet of water. It would be several weeks before the barges began moving again.

**1996** 56-year-old Mary Morgan was charged with murdering her stepdaughter, four-year-old Michelle Morgan, in St. Clair County back in 1961. Her death was originally ruled an accident. But Michelle's brother, now in prison, said he remembered Morgan beating the girl to death. Authorities had ordered her body exhumed.

**1997** A crowd of 32,429 saw the first basketball game in the Trans World Dome. The St. Louis University Billikens defeated Illinois, 57-51. The crowd was the largest ever to see a basketball game in Missouri.