

## February 23

**1819** Edwardsville, Illinois was founded. The community was named after Ninian Edwards, the first Governor of the Illinois Territory. He became the new state's Senator in 1819 and later was appointed Minister to Mexico. Edwards served as Governor of the state from 1827-1830. He died of cholera in Belleville in 1833. Edwards County is also named in his honor.

**1826** The city passed an ordinance allowing the mayor and the Board of Aldermen of St. Louis to appoint a police force, consisting of a captain and 26 lieutenants. The actual police department was not established until 1846.

**1834** Johann George Aff was born in Germany. Like many Germans fleeing a failed revolt, he settled in South St. Louis County in 1859. He farmed property on Weber Road and built a store near Gravois and Tesson Ferry. The area around the store became known as Aff's Town, later shortened to Affton.

**1870** JE Cook filed a petition for a 100-foot-wide roadway from the terminus of Page Avenue out to Ashby Road. The road was originally known as Cook Road. Of course today, the whole thing is known as Page.

**1877** Arson was suspected in a fire that broke out at the school house in Florissant. It had caused controversy since a clock was installed that chimed hourly, disturbing the sleepy village of a few hundred. A bucket brigade saved the building and citizens were watching the school to make sure it didn't happen again.

**1922** Cardinals fans were stunned to learn that 27-year-old catcher William Dillhoefer was dead of typhoid fever. "Pickles" Dillhoefer was never a great player, but he was highly regarded by the pitching staff. He had married just five weeks earlier, and the funeral was held in the same church as the wedding.

**1923** The smoke pall covering St. Louis threatened to drive the Missouri Botanical Garden out of town. The garden was seeking court permission to sell part of Henry Shaw's estate. The money would be used to buy land in Gray Summit to cultivate plants for display in St. Louis.

**1929** Elston Howard was born in St. Louis. The star athlete at Vashon High School became the first African American player to wear the New York Yankee pinstripes in 1954. In 1963, he became the first black player to win the American League MVP award. He played for ten pennant-winning teams in 13 years.

**1940** Jackie Smith, Pro Football Hall of Fame tight end with the Cardinals and Cowboys; was born in Columbia, Mississippi. The 6'4", 235-pound tight end, was a fixture Cardinals from 1963 to 1977. He finished his career with the Dallas Cowboys in 1978. At the time of his retirement, Jackie ranked as the all-time receiver among tight ends with 480 receptions for 7,918 yards and 40 touchdowns.

**1948** John Robert Gregg died in St. Louis. Gregg had devised a system of shorthand by the age of ten. He immigrated to the United State from Ireland. He published his system in a pamphlet entitled *Light-Line Phonography* in Liverpool in 1888. In 1893, he published *Gregg Shorthand* in the United States, a system still in use today. Gregg is buried in Bellefontaine Cemetery.

**1951** The Senate Crime Committee hearings, chaired by Senator Estes Kefauver, got underway in a St. Louis courtroom. KSD-TV televised part of the hearings live, prompting some of the subpoenaed underworld figures to claim their privacy was being invaded. The landmark broadcasts helped build an audience for the hearings in New York the following month.

**1974** The St. Louis Zoo announced plans to replace the crumbling old Lion House. A \$1.2 million project dubbed "Big Cat Country" would cover three times the area of the present building and present the animals in a more natural setting.

**1996** The controversy over Jesse James was laid to rest forever. Researchers at a forensic conference in Nashville declared that remains exhumed that summer from the grave in Kearney were of the notorious outlaw. As late as the 1950's, people had claimed that Jesse was still alive.

**1998** Just hours before he was to be kicked out of the country, fugitive home builder Harold Lieberman jumped to his death from his apartment in Santiago. Brothers Alan and Harold had fled to Chile in 1992 to escape fraud charges stemming from the collapse of their business. Alan returned to St. Louis in 1997 and was sentenced to ten years