

History Committee Data Base		
August		
Year	Date	
1861	10-Aug	Confederate General Jeff Thompson sent out a patrol of 150 infantrymen from Mississippi County and 100 cavalymen, who were familiar with the swamps, to destroy the Illinois & Fulton railroad. Their mission called for the complete destruction of a railroad bridge seven miles east of Sikeston. The destruction was completed; the only thing left were bent rails.
1861	16-Aug	Confederate Gen. Jeff Thompson requested supplies for his men at Sikeston. He requested clothes, boots, shoes, candles, soap, and other items. He reminded his men not to steal from the citizens or seek revenge against Unionists. He reminded his superiors, however, this is a war and if they did not send the supplies, they would acquire them from the people.
1861	28-Aug	The Confederate forces at Sikeston sent a message to Union Commanders at Bird's Point requesting an exchange of prisoners of war. The Confederates at Sikeston had 23 prisoners. This was the first time during the Civil War a formal exchange of prisoners took place.
1861	30-Aug	Union Major General John C. Fremont, commander of the Department of the West, issued a proclamation establishing marshal law in the state of Missouri. It placed a line from Leavenworth, Kansas to Cape Girardeau, MO. Within this boundary, any person caught bearing arms against the United States was to be tried and shot.
1900	Aug	Rev. S. G. Nell, the evangelist who has been laboring among the "heathen" of Southeast Missouri, is in exceedingly bad odor with the southeast press. In a letter to a Philadelphia publication, he intimates that Southeast Missouri could give Sodom and Gomorrah pointers on general cussedness.
1905	10-Aug	It was ordered that the city be placed under quarantine, due to yellow fever; this to go into effect August 11th and as long thereafter as may be necessary. It was also ordered that written notice of quarantine be served on The Iron Mountain and Frisco railroads, a copy of said quarantine to be filed in the office of the city clerk. The city marshal shall be instructed to meet all trains entering Sikeston, investigate same, so that no one be allowed to stop off unless provided with a duly authenticated health certificate. Bananas were banned to help prevent the spread of yellow fever from mosquitoes.
1906	Aug	Board of Aldermen passed a proposed ordinance regulating "objectionable businesses: livery stables, livery barns, saddle stables, etc." The ordinance became effective immediately.

1909	Aug	Mrs. Catherine Sikes Handy, widow of founder John Sikes, known as "the mother of Sikeston," died at her home in Sikeston
1913	Aug	Mayor Malone had applied with the War Department for a cannon to be placed in Malone Park. He learned, "they were entirely out of the kind of guns usually given to cities or parks." Two cannons were later obtained for the Park
1914	20-Aug	Chautauqua begins August 20: There are few Americans left who remember the circuit Chautauqua but there was a time when those words conjured up a host of images. To its supporters, it meant a chance for the community to gather for three to seven days to enjoy a course of lectures on a variety of subjects. Audiences also saw classic plays and Broadway hits, and heard a variety of music from Metropolitan Opera stars to glee clubs to bell ringers. Many saw their first movies in the Circuit tents. Most important, the Circuit Chautauqua experience was critical in stimulating thought and discussion on important political, social and cultural issues of the day. Season tickets \$2.00 for adults, \$1.00 for children.
1919	Aug	An ordinance licensing pool rooms was passed
1919	27-Aug	How many times have you heard the comment "When Pigs Fly!" meaning "will never happen." Pigs can fly as was shown by Sikestonian Leonard McMullin, the State of Missouri's first licensed commercial pilot. The town was invited to a nearby farm to see the first time pigs would be transported by plane. Tying the pigs to the underside of the plane, McMullin took off for St. Louis. Unconfirmed is the story that when he landed, the plane flipped and all the interested viewers could see were pigs feet waving in the air and it was yelled "Pigs Do Fly!"
1919	Aug	WWI Aftermath: In the way of food Sikeston is well off. However, within 2 days, the City will suffer from a gasoline famine. Charleston is already out of gasoline or almost out. If the railroad tangle should continue for a period of 6 or 7 days, many old buggies and wagons will be drafted into use and the automobile will be pushed into the garage to await a more "oily" condition.
1920	Aug	A local pilot who worked at Buckner's for many years was "Hinnie" Henry. Henry would do barnstorming feats with Leonard McMullin. Walking on the wing of the bi-plane was an easy feat for him as well as flying his plane under the Mississippi River Bridge. Henry is reported to be the first man west of the Mississippi to jump out of a plane with a parachute.
1928	Aug	Formal opening for the H.J. Welsh Undertaking and Funeral Home on Center Street. The building includes an anteroom, office, and embalming department.

1930	Aug	What is believed to be an old Indian campsite has been unearthed on the E.C. Matthews land southeast of Sikeston, where excavations have been under way for several weeks. K.K. Baker sincerely believes that he and his helpers have uncovered the dwelling place of the Indian tribe whose burial grounds they have been excavating for the past weeks. Various objects and an assortment of broken pottery were among the finds.
1937	Aug	Skirts, to be fashionable, will be shorter this fall. Fourteen inches from the floor will be the approved length, while sixteen inches would be "quite daring."
1939	Aug	Bees, literally thousands of bees, chose two large pillars on the front porch of Mrs. Jennie Sikes home on North Kingshighway. The bees chose this as their home 12 years ago. Despite all efforts to remove them, they persisted in occupying those quarters. When the bees swarm, lighted torches have been used to frighten them away.
1942	Aug	Another service for Southeast Missouri cotton farmers was announced by the Mid-South Cotton Growers Association here when H. Vandiver, field director, said that a "classing" office in charge of government-licensed "cotton classes" will be opened in the Stallcup building. The top class is "fair to meddling"; the second class is "meddling."
1942	Aug	WWII: Another contingent of Scott County's heavy draft call, many from Sikeston, left Benton to bring the County's total for August to 143.
1943	Aug	WWII: One of the largest single donations to the Army Scrap Metal Drive came when Ralph Potashnick, secretary/treasurer of the Local Truck System, reported that about 40,000 pounds of metal, the equivalent of one railroad carload, is waiting collection. This will bring to seven the number of carloads which have been collected for the Army.
1944	Aug	WWII: In celebration of the Army Air Forces 37th anniversary, an open house will be held at the Missouri Institute of Aeronautics, home of the 2561st Army Air Forces Base Unit. Sikeston people who do not have business on the post have few opportunities to see how the cadets live when they are not enjoying weekend freedom.
1945	14-Aug	WWII: First word of the final Japanese action came at 2:40 central war time, Tuesday, August 14, 1945: Sikeston Herald Extra Edition: "Japan Quits: Accepts Allies' Terms: End of most terrible war comes to weary world. Sikeston joined world in long wait for Japanese surrender," V-J Day Edition.
1948	Aug	A new clinic will be added to the medical and surgical services of Sikeston, as the McClure-Ferguson Clinic will be ready for occupancy within the next week.

1949	Aug	Supplies arrived this morning for the establishment of a polio ward at the Missouri Delta Community Hospital. An iron lung arrived several days ago from a polio center in Ohio. The Sikeston District Health office reports today that no new cases have been reported this week.
1952	Aug	The Sikeston Jaycees are "gearing up" for the Rodeo at the VFW Ball Park east of Sikeston.
1954	Aug	Sikeston continues to support our troops in the Korean War effort by the purchase of war stamps and bonds.
1964	Aug	Graber's department store announces a new charge system which goes into effect Monday. The system provides charge customers with pocket-size plastic credit cards with name, address and account number. "The advantages of our credit system make Graber's shopping more convenient and pleasant than ever," said Milton Bernstein, manager.
1966	Aug	Reports that the notorious bad man "Texas Jack" and his gang of desperados are coming to Sikeston have been confirmed and are "definitely" true, Jaycee Sheriff Charles Walls said today. The Jaycee sheriff and other high ranking Junior Chamber of Commerce officials believe the villainous gang has the "great Jaycee mine shipment" [sent in preparation for the 14th annual Jaycee Rodeo] as their objective.
1971	Aug	The General offices and headquarters of the Southeast Missouri Melon Growers Association were moved to Sikeston from Kennett the first of the week and are now located in the rooms of the Southeast Missouri Agricultural Bureau in the Hotel Marshall building.
1976	Aug	The Bicentennial Color Guard of the 135th Engineer Battalion of the Missouri National Guard based in Cape Girardeau will head the Jaycee Bootheel Rodeo parade this year. The parade will begin at 5:30 p.m. next Thursday.
1977	Aug	Beginning Aug. 5, Southwestern Bell telephone customers will notice a change in the sound of their telephone dial. The higher pitched tone is the result of new equipment which enables the company to offer Touch Tone service in Sikeston.
1982	Aug	The first Sikeston Jaycee Bootheel Rodeo Junior Miss was crowned Tuesday night before a crowd of over 300 people. Winner of the event was 16-year-old Sherry Melton of Sikeston, crowned by Rep. Dennis Zeigenhorn.
2001	23-Aug	Lowe's Home Improvement of Sikeston will open its doors on Friday. The store stocks 40,000 different items for building, improving and/or beautifying homes.
2002	18-Aug	A little pride and self-respect can go a long way and no one believes that more than the organizers of Return to Sunset Reunion day. Created last year in an attempt to do away with what some describe as apathy and lack of community involvement, the idea is to unite both current and former residents of the community.

2002	21-Aug	Residents in Sikeston and the surrounding area have a chance to honor the victims of 9-11 through a special memorial program and tribute in recognition of the one-year anniversary of the terrorist attacks. Nunnelee Funeral Chapel will provide a 10-foot tall Memorial Wall which will bear the names of all 3,044 known victims who died at the Pentagon, World Trade Center, and on Flight 93 in Pennsylvania.
2003	20-Aug	Area residents will be able to keep abreast of what's going on in city government, via the internet. Sikeston Mayor Michael Marshall said, "City staff have developed an 'e-newsletter' that will be delivered to interested residents via e-mail." City Manager Doug Friend said, "This will provide a timely cost-effective way of briefing our citizens on municipal matters." The first issue of the "Sikeston Scanner" is scheduled for release in early September.
2004	6-Aug	Members of Sikeston's 1140th Charlie Company Engineer Battalion may be serving in Iraq right now, but there's no way they're going to miss the 52nd Annual Jaycee Bootheel Rodeo next week. The Sikeston Jaycees won't let them according to Mike Conway, 2004 general co-chairman. On Wednesday, opening night of the Rodeo, Sikeston Jaycees will conduct a special ceremony regarding the U.S. flag that's been flown at Charlie Company's base in Iraq, and a special representative of 1140th will be present. When Charlie Company departed in January, the Sikeston Jaycees also sent a Jaycee club banner. "All of them signed the banner and sent it back to us," Conway explained. " On Saturday we'll retire the U.S. flag.
2005	1-Aug	Few people can say they've personally witnessed an atomic blast. Even fewer can say they helped develop the technology that made it possible. Sixty years ago (1945), the world became a different place with the test detonation of the first atomic bomb July 16, and the first actual use as a weapon on Hiroshima, Japan, August 6 VJ [Victory in Japan] Day, thus essentially ending World War II. Lennie Whitworth of Sikeston was part of the team which brought that change.
2005	5-Aug	In just a little over one month, the Sikeston Three Rivers Community College off-campus center at Sikeston underwent tremendous changes. SACC Executive Director Missy Marshall was quite impressed with the facility. "They have gotten this beautiful facility put together in a short amount of time," she said. It is nice TRCC was able to use an existing building and make it work, Marshall added. The facility located at 103 Kathleen St. was officially opened to the public last night.
2005	30-Aug	A \$1.3 million grant from the State Emergency Management Agency has been awarded for a regional bomb team. Drew Juden, Director of Sikeston Department of Public Safety, announced Sikeston will be responsible for the equipment and administration of the grant. Other participants are Cape Girardeau, Poplar Bluff, and Jackson.

2007	30-Aug	Sikeston's dreams apparently came true Aug. 29 when Sikeston was named one of the Department of Economic Development's "DREAM" cities. The Downtown Revitalization and Economic Assistance for Missouri is designed to help communities receive state assistance to ultimately improve the area's economy. City Manager Doug Friend said the award "validates the hard work that the downtown group has put together the last 18 months to revitalize the downtown."
2008	3-Aug	City welcomed Orgill, Inc., when more than 200 people representing area businesses, the city of Sikeston, and Scott and New Madrid counties, plus state elected officials and those in the Department of Economic Development, turned out to witness the Orgill, Inc. groundbreaking under the blistering sun late Friday morning. The company's 795,000-square-foot "Mid-America Super Center" will be built on a 70-acre site in Sikeston's Business and Education Technology Park, with construction set to be completed in the next year.
2008	10-Aug	A nationally-distributed magazine for law enforcement agencies is highlighting the Sikeston Department of Public Safety this month. The August edition of FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin features an article written by Sikeston DPS Director Drew Juden entitled "The Sikeston Department of Public Safety: How one community joined two forces." In the article, Juden explains how the Sikeston City Council combined the city's volunteer fire department with the police department into a single department of public safety in 1976 and how it has benefited the community.
2008	19-Aug	Nearly \$200,000 in grant funding from the Missouri Foundation for Health is coming to Sikeston. The YMCA of Southeast Missouri was approved for \$96,600. Also approved for \$96,600 in Sikeston is Bootheel Counseling Services. With this funding the organization can continue to provide mental health services to residents of Scott, New Madrid, Mississippi and Stoddard counties. "We will use it to help with salaries," said Jennifer Hartlein, director of fund development and public relations for Bootheel Counseling Services.
2008	31-Aug	After years of planning and efforts, improvements to the downtown area are finally being made. The improvements, which are to include sidewalks, crosswalks, period lighting, benches, trash receptacles and landscaping, are being funded with Federal Surface Transportation Program money made available through a transportation enhancement grant from the Missouri Department of Transportation.
2009	9-Aug	Sean and Sara Fletcher, the "kidnapped couple" from England, was amongst a sold-out Friday night crowd at Sikeston's Jaycee Bootheel Rodeo.

2009	9-Aug	For most of the 1950's, one man was behind the dominant force known as the Sikeston Bulldogs on the football field. Legendary Sikeston head football coach Bill Sapp led the Bulldogs to a 135-21-4 record during his 17-year coaching career, which included 14 conference titles and four undefeated seasons. He made Sikeston football one of the most revered and envied squads in the region, and quite possibly the nation.
2009	17-Aug	Among those reported receiving funding from the Arts Council is the Sikeston Cultural Development Corporation. It was awarded \$9,947 in funds for community arts project support.