

History Committee Data Base		
May		
Year	Date	Information
1860	21-May	The first post office at Sikeston was established with Samuel S. Watson as postmaster.
1902	May	A 10th Grade graduation exercise was held with 5 pupils making up the class: Mabel Matthews, Lynn Stallcup, Lyman Bowman, Murray Tanner, and Ed Osborn. Sikeston schools extended only through the 10th grade.
1904	May	Sikeston educational history was made as the first regular commencement of a four year high school class was held. Graduates were Eula Bowman, Rivers Clear, Sue Baker, and Harold Hess.
1909	May	Sikeston Concrete, Tile & Construction Company Plant is a new addition to the industries of Sikeston. Ever increasing demand for concrete products makes the plant welcome in Sikeston.
1910	May	The Southeast Missouri Drummers' Association, held its fourteenth and twenty-fourth annual conventions in 1910 and 1920, both in late May at Sikeston in Scott County. A drummer was a traveling salesman, (the membership of these organizations were exclusively male). Drummers generally represented wholesale houses in St. Louis. Dry goods and hardware salesmen dominated the membership lists, but sellers of shoes, packaged foods, and tobacco were also well represented.
1910	May	In 1910 attendees arrived from the east and west via the Iron Mountain Railway and from the north and south on the Frisco Lines. Many traveled from St. Louis down the Mississippi River by Eagle Packet steamboats to Cape Girardeau and then by rail to Sikeston. The program included a formal welcome by Mayor E. J. Malone, a "Mardi Gras" parade, dining, dancing, and good-natured "stunts" performed by the associations "Knights of the Grip." Friday was highlighted by the "dress parade," in which the Drummers, outfitted in white suits and carrying red and green parasols, marched along the main street while a "blimp" (dirigible) was tied off to the top of the Scott County Milling Co. Elevators, hovered overhead. The association also sponsored a circus, including a parade with elephants through the town.
1915	May	Bids were let for a new high school site on Tanner street, (the present site of the YMCA).
1917	May	The first swimming pool in Sikeston was built by John N. Chaney on his lot north of the Del Rey Hotel. It contained 85 dressing rooms and was called the Chaney Natatorium, and for many years was a popular place.
1918	May	The American nation needs your help to defend our country. Suppose you subscribed to the first and second Liberty Loans. Good! Don't consider your duty ended there. You've got to keep on helping just as our boys have got to keep on fighting. Give to the Third Liberty Loan. See any bank to subscribe.
1919	May	Company K, of the 140th Infantry, (the Sikeston boys), will soon be coming home (from World War I) and Sikeston will be gloriously glad to see them.
1920	May	When the drummers returned to Sikeston in 1920, they found a town that styled itself as the "Queen City of Southeast Missouri." Eager to please, the community's businesses closed early on the afternoon before the convention began so that employees could help the American Legionnaires clean the streets and paint the town in the association's colors of red and green.

1926	May	Forty one, 13 boys and 28 girls, will graduate. This is the largest graduating class Sikeston High School has ever had.
1932	May	The local factory of the International Shoe Company, which temporarily suspended operation April 20th, has resumed work with a work force of approximately 450 to 500, about 100 less than previously employed, probably due to the great depression.
1933	May	Robert Wadlow, young giant of Alton, Illinois, will be in Sikeston May 6. Wadlow is 15 years old, 7 feet, 10 inches tall and weighs 365 pounds. He wears size 32 shoes, which are made to order at Sikeston International Shoe Company plant.
1936	8-May	A total of 43 children sustained tonsillectomies at a clinic held in the basement of the South Grade School under the supervision of the Sikeston Red Cross, assisted by the Kiwanis Club. The cost of the clinic was divided between the two organizations.
1937	May	We urge support for passage of the proposed bond issue for a library building.
1938	May	A dazzling meteor, said to have been one of the largest ever seen in the Sikeston district was watched by Sikestonians and other Southeast Missourians as it plunged earthward at 7:00p.m. It was brilliant, and seemed to change colors as it fell.
1941	May	Sikeston was Company K's own as the town turned out almost in full strength to watch the civilian-soldiers parade through downtown streets after four months of training at Camp Robinson.
1942	May	Ten thousand greeted Gene Aldrich home as the community celebrated Gene Aldrich Day in honor of the heroic young sailor who survived 34 days on a rubber raft in open seas. The story of the three young sailors who survived is retold in the book <u>The Raft</u> .
1942	2-May	For a second time during the term, fire damaged the Negro school building.
1942	4-May	Sugar consumers must register for rationing stamps.
1942	22-May	Negroes in Sunset Addition refused offers of \$2.00 a day to chop cotton, after a C.I.O. union had urged the choppers to stay out of the fields until they received .50 cents an hour for a 10-hour day.
1944	May	Sikeston's rat and mice population has been decreased by 1334 as the result of the extermination contest conducted in the city's schools and paid for by the Lion's Club, City of Sikeston, and McKnight-Keaton Grocery Company. Children were paid a penny for a mouse tail and a nickel for a rat tail. 423 rates and 911 mice were killed during the campaign.
1946	18-May	World War II veteran William Jefferson Blythe (former President Bill Clinton's birth father) was rushing to be with his pregnant wife. Nearing 11:00p.m. on his long trip from Chicago, Illinois, to Hope, Arkansas. Blythe was passing near Sikeston when a rear tire blew out of his four-year old sedan. According to Scott County Coroner, Orville Taylor, Blythe drowned in about three feet of water.
1946	May	Sikeston's first prefabricated house will be ready for inspection soon.
1948	May	Formal transfer of the \$300,000 warehouse, land and equipment at the Municipal Airport was received by Mayor Marvin Carroll, increasing the city's airport holdings to nearly \$1 million as primarily obtained in grants from the U.S. government with War Assets Administration approval.

1951	May	The Sikeston Board of Education has decided no more inter-class fighting, "ditching" or other forms of hazing will be tolerated at the school. Usually at this time of year the male members of the junior and senior classes work off on each other some of the dormant energy of the winter months. Someone suggested that chopping cotton would give the boys a chance to get rid of their surplus energy (this suggestion was not made by any board member).
1963	May	The general offices of the Sikeston Board of Education have been moved from North Kingshighway to its new location in what is known as the nurse home building, just south of Missouri Delta Community Hospital.
1964	May	For years each succeeding city council has had the problem of what to do about outdoor toilets up for discussion. For years the State Health Department has been prodding the city administration to get rid of them. Monday night the city council acted. It passed an ordinance making it a misdemeanor for any dwelling not to be provided with a flush toilet connected either to the sewer system or a septic tank.
1970	May	Turner Dairies, Inc., formerly the Reiss Dairy, is now in full operation. The firm purchased the dairy on March 15.
1974	May	The Exchange Club of Sikeston will present a Freedom Shrine, an exhibit of 28 authentic reproductions of historically famous American documents, to Sikeston Junior High School.
1975	May	The Sikeston Rotary Club donated \$1,000 to help pay for a new kidney dialysis machine.
1977	May	Bill Wellborn, executive director of the Sikeston Area Chamber of Commerce, announced today that the Turn In A Pusher (TIP) program is ready to start receiving calls. The program was started by the chamber in an effort to slow down and reduce the distribution of drugs in the Sikeston area.
1983	May	They say every cloud has a silver lining. Although not everyone could find silver in the recent rain clouds, residents in Mini-Farms did. As water lapped up to their front doors, Janet Hammock and Kathy Dockins decided to do some in-yard fishing. They caught 6 good-sized fish.
1988	May	The Sikeston Jaycee Pool did not open this year. Problems at the 47-year old pool have been mounting each year. The cost to repair and reopen the pool were more than could be handled by the city of Sikeston and the pool's manager, the Jaycees.
1992	May	The City of Sikeston is seeking applicants for a new citizens committee designed to look at ways to improve the city and city facilities under the recent Americans with Disabilities Act.
2003	18-May	The Travel Channel named Lambert's as the No.1 "pig out place" in the nation. The Sikeston-Miner "Home of Throwed Rolls" earned the top spot in the "Top Ten Places to Pig Out" when the Department of Tourism put the local Convention and Business Bureau in contact with the producers, who then came to Sikeston that December for filming.
2004	25-May	A new Delta Regional Authority program was announced that will help to supply doctors to the area.
2006	May	Montgomery Bank and the St. Louis Science Center are entering into a partnership to reach young people interested in the world around them. The 17,000 square-foot air supported Exploradome at the Science Center would create new opportunities between the St. Louis based institution and the Southeast Missouri region.

2007	7-May	Missouri Delta Medical Center has a new state-of-the-art CT imaging system. The new 64-slice CT Imaging System replaces the hospital's older 4-slice system.
2007	9-May	The announcement of Sikeston's first Habitat for Humanity home to be built was made by the Sikeston Area Habitat for Humanity's Public Relations/Development Committee as it begins its fund raising efforts for the project.
2008	10-May	Sikeston Area Humane Society sponsored what they hope is the first of many People and Pets in the Park. It included exhibitions on hunting and retrieving as well as dog obedience.
2008	27-May	Eagle Scouts held the first organized flag retirement ceremony at Veterans park at 6:00pm. The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #3174 hope to host it as an annual event the day after Memorial Day.
2008	May	Armadillos invade the Southeast Missouri area as they migrate from Arkansas and Oklahoma to Missouri. They have been in the Southwest Missouri area since the mid 1970's.
2009	28-30-May	Sikeston Little Theatre celebrates its 50th Anniversary with a concert.