

History Committee Data Base

October

<u>Year</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Information</u>
1861	8-Oct	Confederate General Jeff Thompson wrote his commander that he planned to cross a swamp that encompassed an area from Oran south to New Madrid, to replenish his command with new recruits from Stoddard County.
1906	Oct	Board of Alderman: "We find on investigation that the tract of land known as Wilson's Park can be purchased for \$4,500. In consideration of the offer of our mayor, E.J. Malone, to donate \$1,000 of the sum, we suggest and approve the purchase of said tract for site of the city hall, artesian well, and city park. We further suggest, that in consideration of said donation by Mayor Malone, we name the land to be purchased, Malone Park."
1914	Oct	Farmers Supply Co. advertised, "Good news for housewives": Sugar - 14 pounds for \$1 and 100 pounds for \$7; dry salt meat, ¢15 cents per pound; potatoes, ¢90 cents a bushel; Juanita flour, \$6.10 per barrel, and Best Peaberry Coffee, 5 pounds for ¢95 cents. The new Malone Theater opened October 19th with a big 7-reel feature program of motion pictures. Admission for the October 19th show only ¢25 for everybody.
1916	Oct	Milton and Ben Blanton, 11 and 9 years of age, rode a dun mare to Benton Sunday morning, bringing a 2-yr-old colt back with them. The boys left Sikeston at 8 am, reaching Benton at 1pm, where they fed their steed and dined. They went to Lambertsville for the colt. Lo and behold the colt would not lead behind the mare. It was necessary for the boys to walk and lead the colt, arriving home at 10pm.
1917	Oct	WWI: A mass meeting of the women of Sikeston was held at City Hall Tuesday to get each one to volunteer to do her "bit" in knitting or sewing for our soldiers. Mrs. C.A. Cook, chairman of knitting, got 32 ladies to assist her. Miss Mary Rodes, chairman of hospital garments, got 20 ladies to promise to assist her. Mrs. R.G. Applegate, chairman of surgical dressings, got 12 ladies to assist her.
1919	Oct	WWI: W.H. Sikes was chosen Commander of the newly organized Henry Meldrum Post of the American Legion. Sikeston's post is very appropriately named in honor of Henry Meldrum, who lost his life in France, one year ago.
1920	Oct	With Mayor C.C. White presiding, the Board of Aldermen ordered that extra police, during the Fair, be paid \$3.50/per day, for day work and \$4 for night work.
1923	Oct	The new cotton gin, located south of the Frisco station, will be ready soon for operation. The plant at the Sikeston Gin Co. has been unable to take care of all the cotton brought in.
1926	Oct	Try our new hat machine. Hats cleaned and blocked, \$1. All kinds of cleaning, pressing and alterations - Faultless Cleaners and Dryers.

- 1928 Oct The Women's Benefit Association will stage one of the most elaborate affairs ever given in the city Friday night, 8pm, High School Auditorium. Everyone is invited to see the pageant, a feature of W.B.A. rally, to be held Friday and Saturday nights with a cast of 250 people.
- 1932 Oct Charleston and Sikeston played their first annual two-game classic. The second game will be played Thanksgiving Day.
- 1938 Oct One of the most distressing features of the Jubilee of two weeks ago was the appearance of the Sikeston High School band without suitable uniforms. The Board of Education says there are not sufficient funds to buy new uniforms and instruments. The Herald newspaper will contribute \$25 to this cause. Let's see how fast the list will grow.
- 1938 Oct Digging the foundation for the new Coca-Cola Bottling Company on the corner of Front and Scott streets has begun.
- 1940 Oct WWII: October 16 was a memorable day in American history, as for the first time in peace American Citizens registered for compulsory military service under the Selective Service Act. County clerk H.C. Watkins, Jr., who is in charge of conducting registration in Scott County, has appointed a chief registrar in each precinct of the county. Harold Wallace, assistant Chief of Police, was the first person to register in Sikeston. U. T. Rabb, member of the Sikeston Henry Meldrum American Legion Post, was the first to register for the Sikeston unit of the Reserve Military Force (National Guard or Home Guard.)
- 1941 Oct 109 of the new cadets checked in at the Missouri Institute of Aeronautics at noon, with others expected tonight. This is the largest class to be received at the local air school in its year's history.
- 1942 Oct Sikeston City Council passed an ordinance prohibiting the keeping of horses and mules in town.
- 1942 9-Oct Sikeston students built a 50-ton scrap iron mountain at the old high school on Tanner Street to conclude a collection drive here.
- 1942 10-Oct Sikeston 's civil war cannons "went back into the fight" as scrap iron.
- 1947 Oct Ordered by the City Council to be closed November 1, Services of the Sikeston General Hospital will be discontinued in the face of continued and increasing financial deficits. Equipment and physical property, purchased by the city for \$20,000 on a bond issue, will be disposed of. The operation, established in 1941 as a necessary requisite for the Missouri Institute of Aeronautics, the hospital has been continued since the War (WWII) at the expense of insufficient revenue.
- 1947 Oct One of the projects for the King's Highway Daughters of the American Revolution for 1947 will be the marking of the site of Winchester, a small village which once existed south of Sikeston at what is now S. Kingshighway and Murray Lane. Winchester preceded the settlement of Sikeston.
- 1948 Oct The State Highway Commission approved the purchase of stop and go lights for the intersection of U.S. Routes 60 and 61 at Sikeston at its meeting October 6.
- 1951 6-Oct More than 100 St. Louisans will accompany Charley Stookey, whose "Town and Country" program is broadcast over KXOK Radio, on a visit to Sikeston to view the cotton harvest.

- 1952 Oct Ground-breaking ceremonies for a new addition to the Lincoln School were held Wednesday.
- 1952 Oct Peace doesn't just happen. Our troops in Korea are doing their part of the job. We can do our part by buying defense bonds. Together we can hammer out the peace we're all looking for.
- 1953 Oct All roads will be leading to Sikeston Friday night and for good reason. Possibly the most decisive football game in the state will be played between the Sikeston Bulldogs and the Poplar Bluff Mules. Because both teams are undefeated, not only is the Big Eight Conference at stake, but also the Bulldogs' long incredible string of 51 games without a loss.
- 1954 Oct So you think you could drop a bomb smack on the button? Maybe you've had dreams of riding a fast winging plane and dumping a load of explosives on an enemy target. Well, Sikeston's Civil Air Patrol is going to give all you would-be bombardiers a chance to show just how good you are. Sunday the CAP will be all set to take anybody flying who wants to go and let them try their skill at dropping a dummy bomb on a ground target. Oh, yes, it costs a buck to prove to yourself and the crowd just how good or lousy you are.
- 1957 Oct Lou Baugher, for the past 11 years associated with W.O. "Mike" Dysart at Dysart Studios, and is now the sole owner.
- 1958 Oct The 14th Annual Cotton Carnival is history. An estimated 30,000 persons attended the three-day event.
- 1959 Oct The finance committee appointed by the Board of Directors of the Missouri Delta Community Hospital met to formally launch the campaign to raise the funds required with which to build an additional wing to the hospital.
- 1960 Oct Tuesday night a special committee appointed by the Southeast Missouri Council, Boy Scouts of America, selected Eagle Scout Eddie Masters, son of Dr. and Mrs. Masters, of Advance, and a member of Troop 23, to represent the Council as "Report to the Nation" Scout - about the highest honor that can be won by a Scout.
- 1963 Oct In a brief but impressive ceremony, a beautiful hand-carved stone tablet was unveiled to commemorate the founding of Sikeston and to honor the founder, John Sikes.
- 1968 Oct The First Methodist Church congregation voted to convert the site of the old church into a memorial park and to leave the six Ionic columns standing.
- 1970 Oct Walls for the new Daily Standard press room were nearing completion by the concrete block contractor, Thomas Holmes and his assistant. Two new Goss offset presses, with 28-page capacity, will be placed in the building in late October.
- 1972 Oct Volunteers in the foster grandparent program which began today at Sikeston Regional Diagnostic Clinic, are Merle Holt, Jennie Nimmo, Nettie Cummins, Connie Havener, Irene Price, Tom Raffety, Lillie Taylor, Annie Williams, Madge Burnett and Ada Dement, all of Sikeston and Bessie Crosno of Morehouse. Jolene Walker is the program director.

- 1974 Oct When Sikeston voters go to the polls Tuesday, they will find their voting precincts now have names instead of traditional numbers. The change was made by the Scott County Court and the city went along with the change. The locations will remain the same.
- 1976 Oct E.R. "Dick" Inman, director of municipal utilities, and City Manager, Charles Church, met Tuesday morning with reporters to discuss the proposed 235-mega watt steam plant. The plant would be built with \$250 million in revenue bonds, which must be approved by local voters in the Nov. 2 general election. The plant is scheduled to be built on a 600-acre site on Compress Road near Malone & Hyde.
- 1987 Oct The Sikeston City Council approved the final plat of Hunter Acres West 9th Addition.
- 1994 Oct The Sikeston Public Library's expansion is well under way with completion of the project expected near the end of March. Workers with Bridger Construction Company are currently connecting the roof of the old library to that of the new expansion.
- 1999 Oct Through the efforts of the King's Highway Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Sikeston was named a 1999 George Washington Bicentennial Community. Throughout the year, DAR has been celebrating George Washington's life.
- 2001 12-Oct Citizens of the USA have banded together since the Sept. 11 tragedy in more ways than one. Today at 1 p.m. the majority of the nation will proudly say the "Pledge of Allegiance", including the Sikeston Kindergarten students, who practiced yesterday afternoon.
- 2002 14-Oct It wasn't the first reunion to gather at Lambert's for a meal, but it was without a doubt one of the most remarkable groups to dine there yet. Every other year since 1982, members of the 6th Ranger Battalion have held a reunion. Joining them over the years have been the prisoner of war their battalion liberated from the Cabanation, Luzon prisoner of war camp in the Philippines on January 13, 1945. Survivors of the Great Depression, the Bataan Death March, and participants of one of the most daring POW rescues in history, their memoirs are the stuff of history.
- 2002 24-Oct Attracting attention yesterday was the placement of a railroad caboose, which had been donated by the family of the late Don Lowe, next to the Sikeston Depot. Ferrell Equipment Co. generously donated their time, labor, and equipment to place the railroad ties, track, and caboose. Future plans call for wrought iron fencing and lighting around the caboose.
- 2003 19-Oct Artist Michael McClure painted the east wall of the Craftmaster's warehouse building. McClure is painting the second part of the "Historical Mural of Sikeston," a time line collage of the 50th anniversary of the Rodeo and going all the way back to the Mound Dweller Indians. Sikeston, Missouri Arts, Inc., is sponsoring the mural.

- 2005 7-Oct This is likely to be Charlie Company's last homecoming to Sikeston after a month-long deployment in relief effort for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in the New Orleans area. This deployment was "somewhat of the last hurrah," according to Capt Scot Ratcliff, company commander. "The community support for Charlie Company has been outstanding," Ratcliff said.
- 2005 18-Oct Plans are under way for the annual community Thanksgiving Day dinner, an event that fed approximately 600 area senior citizens last year. The originator of the dinner, Sikeston resident Beverly Baker, began serving the free meal to needy senior citizens in the area 16 years ago, preparing the first meals in her own home.
- 2005 28-Oct While the city is embracing the future and the technology it brings, the street department is digging up and restoring part of the city's past. Instead of laying fresh blacktop over exposed brick on streets in the downtown area, city street crews are removing the pavement and uncovering the original brick. This project also ties in with the city's work with Sikeston Area Chamber of Commerce and the Historic Midtown Development Group toward revitalizing the downtown area.
- 2005 30-Oct Around Halloween, one hears several "legends" of eerie or mysterious happenings in the area. Some of the oldest are about "the light" at Farrenburg and babies crying around several old cemeteries and historic homes in the area. The story goes that when the trains still ran around Farrenburg, a switchman would swing his lantern from side to side to alert the engineer if it were safe to cross the trestle. One night the switchman fell and was decapitated by the engine, but his ghost still walks the trestle with his lighted lantern and on Halloween night it can be seen. Strange lights have been seen floating in Hart Cemetery near the rodeo grounds in Sikeston. Rumor has it that on Halloween night a blue baby can be seen floating in the area and hear it crying. A similar story about a crying baby in a cemetery near Grant City, and some say if you go to the sewer by Lee Hunter Elementary at midnight on Halloween and shut off your car, in a bit you will hear a baby crying. There are also several strange stories of hauntings going on in and around the historic Hunter-Dawson house in New Madrid. Truth or scare? You decide.
- 2008 2-Oct Boyd Wins! Sikeston native Neal E. Boyd, took home \$1 million prize on "America's Got Talent." Family, friends, and the entire community all celebrated when this 1994 Sikeston High School graduate won the prize.
- 2008 9-Oct Although it's a year away, organizers of Sikeston's Sesquicentennial Celebration are in the final stages of setting up events and promotional materials for the 2010 yearlong celebration. Sikeston Area Chamber of Commerce is devoting a website to the Sesquicentennial, www.sikeston.net/150.

- 2008 13-Oct Sikeston's downtown and park will have new Christmas decorations. The design committee of the Historic Midtown Development Group chose a snowflake design and contacted Adam Rodden, the welding teacher at the Sikeston Career and Technology Center and he and his students saw this as a good practical work experience. Rodden said, "The city gave us the plans, a general idea of what they wanted, and the students and I came up with three different sizes." Steward Steel donated the material for the project and David Carnell painted them. Brandon Kuehn, executive director of the HMDG said, "it was an excellent community project with local business and the schools involved."
- 2008 23-Oct Members of a local church youth group will spend the night in a "box city" this weekend to raise awareness and funds for the homeless. The Youth Director for the First United Methodist Church said participants will set up cardboard box shelters on a grassy area near the church, "we will be out there all night long."
- 2009 26-Oct After officially beginning shipping items in early August, Orgill opened the doors of its Mid-America Supercenter in Sikeston on October 24 to show off its operations to guests and employees families. "We want to give you a chance to see the facilities up close," said Denny Koonce, Orgill's Vice President of the Midwest Division.