



Mountaineer Pike

Special Homecoming Edition

October 18, 2013

1930 American LaFrance Pike fire truck named "Sadie" will be in the WVU Homecoming Parade, 6:30 pm, Friday October 18th! Sadie has been restored to Pike and WVU, 50 years after her dedication during the celebration of Homecoming 1963.

Sadie will become part of the WVU Greek Traditions collections held by the WVU Alumni Association. If you wish to support this effort, TAX DEDUCTIBLE donations can be made online by going to www.wvuf.org and clicking on the "MAKE A GIFT ON LINE" icon near the bottom right of the screen. Be sure to enter into the comments section the following: "Pike Traditions Fund 2W751"

For the "rest of the story", please read on....

Across the United States in the late 1950's and early 1960's chapters of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity (Pike) were adopting the fire truck as a fraternity mascot. In the fall of 1962, the WVU chapter of Pike joined the growing list of Pike chapters of Pike owning a fire truck. They purchased a 1930 American LaFrance pumper truck from a volunteer fire department in Limestone, WV. Engine and drive train work was needed to make it drivable and the fraternity brothers were soon busy sanding, cleaning and painting to restore the fire truck. An alumnus paid to have customized gold leaf trim for the new paint.

In the fall of 1963, the fire truck was christened Sadie after the fraternity's beloved housemother, Sadie Henderson, who was mother to many, adviser to all, and the "Dream Girl" of the fraternity forever. When "Mom" Henderson entered the room the brothers stood up. No dinner could start until she was escorted to her place at the table. And no matter what was going on when she entered the room, all was set aside, as "Yes Ma'am" and "No Ma'am" were the vocabulary of choice. No higher honor could be bestowed on the fire truck but to call her Sadie. The fire truck was no longer a truck. The truck was special, and she was named "Sadie."

Sadie was polished by every pledge and active regularly during her time in Morgantown from 1962 to the early 1970's. She made her inaugural appearance in the Homecoming parade in 1963. The brothers riding our beloved truck always wore sport jackets and ties. Those were the days when the same attire was expected for football games, and a corsage of mums was common for the brothers to give to their dates attending the Homecoming Game. Sadie picked up sorority girls for listening parties. Sadie transported the brothers to Christmas caroling and Dream Girl serenades. Sadie appeared in many pictures. During the 1964 presidential primaries, candidate Nelson Rockefeller rode in Sadie as she lead his entourage from the Morgantown airport to a parade down High Street.

The years passed by and due to engine trouble in the early 70's, Sadie was sold and an era came to a close. Over the years the brothers of the 60's lamented her absence. Why could we not have done

something? If only we had known she needed special attention. Some alumni even took note of every fire truck with a passing resemblance to Sadie and wondered "Is that our Sadie?"

One evening the secretary of the Pi Kappa Alpha alumni association for the WVU chapter got a call from a dedicated brother. He was told that there was a truck that resembled our truck's body style appearing on Craigslist. A call was placed to get the particulars from the owner. The owner said beneath the accumulation of 40 years of dirt the name Sadie appeared in gold leaf script!

What a surprise! The hearts of a few local alumni from the 60's flashed back all those years. Well, it has taken 7 months to make connections and find that WVU, looking to bring back traditions of the past, may be just the place for Sadie to appear once again. With lots of help from WVU Foundation and WVU Greek Systems Services Corporation and many donations from Pike fraternity alumni, Sadie was acquired and attended to and will participate in the Homecoming parade Oct. 18th, 2013 - 50 years after her inaugural debut!

Sadie runs! For a video clip, copy/paste the following url into your internet browser.

<http://youtu.be/Q7M3MssCnIU>