

Summer 2016, Business Topic #3 - **Sadie the Pike Fire Truck, Status and Future**

Sadie the 1930 American LaFrance Pike Fire Truck was acquired by Alpha Theta Chapter in 1962 and restored to operating condition. Over the following decade, Sadie became a Pike tradition and a well-known part of the WVU campus. At some point in the 1970's, Sadie was lost to Alpha Theta.

Today, thanks to Brother Gary Earp, Sadie is once again under control of Alpha Theta alumni at WVU. Under Gary's leadership, the Alpha Theta Alumni Association (ATAA) entered into discussions with the WVU Alumni Association and the WVU Foundation to return Sadie to the WVU Campus. Under Gary's continuing leadership, sufficient funds were raised to purchase Sadie from the antique vehicle collector, who owned her at the time, and to begin her restoration. Sadie returned to the WVU campus as part of the Homecoming Parade in 2013... fifty years after her Homecoming Parade debut in 1963. Since most of the restoration up to that point involved cleaning and cosmetic touches, Sadie's appearance in the parade was on the back of a roll-back tow truck. In the ensuing months and years, Gary continued to raise restoration funds, research sources of restoration parts and mechanics capable of restoring a 85 year-old vehicle, while moving ahead gradually with cosmetic touches and initial mechanical restoration.

By late 2015, Gary had raised sufficient additional restoration funds to schedule major mechanical restoration at Wade's Garage (a Fairmont, WV classic car restorer). Gary's dedication and leadership continued after his diagnosis with a serious health condition early in 2016. He served as liaison with Wade's Garage and facilitated knowledge transfer to a new ATAA Sadie stewardship team.

Status as of Summer 2016

- New Sadie stewardship team: Morgantown residents Don McIntosh '71 (a former Sadie Assistant Fire Chief and driver) and Miguel Frisco '84, facilitated by Doug Ladish '62 electronically from North Carolina
- Sadie has been restored to safe operating condition. Reliably starts, drives and stops. Video of test drives will be posted on the ATAA Facebook page.
- Storage: Short term, stored at Wade's Garage - \$100/month (Sadie restricted funds available - 37 months of storage). Long-term, to be defined.
- Ownership: Short-term, title has been established in ATHCO name. Longer term, to be defined.
- Insurance: An undefined need. Several potentially low cost options have been identified.
- Operating Policy: Store until long-term ownership and insurance have been addressed.

Needs for next 3 months:

- Draft MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with WVU for long-term maintenance and operation of Sadie
- Investigate insurance options (liability and property) for Sadie
- Investigate long-term storage options in Morgantown
- Keep ATAA Facebook page updated on Sadie status

Need - Long-term future for Sadie defined and implemented

WVU Pikes of the early 1960's created the tradition of Sadie the Fire Truck. Over 50 years later, Alpha Theta Pikes of multiple generations have banded together to contribute their time, talents and treasure to return Sadie to the WVU campus with the goal of preserving her memory and this Pike tradition in perpetuity. Considering the time lapsed since Sadie's first WVU appearance, we the alumni of Alpha Theta have a solemn duty to write the next chapter of the Sadie tradition... whatever that future may be.

In the bonds,

Doug Ladish, doug.ladish@me.com

Don McIntosh, ddmc1952@comcast.net

Miguel Frisco, mfrisco@shaftdrillers.com