

# Alpha Theta Traditions

## Fire trucks

1930 American LaFrance Pumper “ Sadie” was purchased and operated in the 60’s. A replacement, a 194? Chevrolet came in the 80’s. Many Pike chapters have fire trucks although Pike International does not recommend them.

## Bell

A railroad engine bell was obtained from the train yard in Grafton. The bell was used by the chapter to cheer at fraternity events and WVU football games. A carriage was constructed to carry the bell. Two brothers powered the carriage and a third brother following close behind rang the bell. It was well known to the fans in Old Mountaineer Stadium. The bell has often been the target of other fraternities.

## Showboat Party

A “Showboat Party” was held every year to remember the party of 1909. The house was decorated and the brothers and dates came in costume. It was a reminder to party within reason. The results of the 1909 party are to be avoided.

## Dream Girl

A Dream Girl is chosen every year. The Dream Girl was crowned at the annual Dream Girl Formal. Several times a Dream Girl Calendar was printed as a rush tool and fund raising activity. The Dream Girl Tradition is observed in some form by most PiKA Chapters. There is a song, “The Dream Girl of Pi Kappa Alpha”, which is associated with the tradition. Individual brothers “pin mates” or fiancées were often serenaded with the song by the entire active chapter.

## The Tree

The brothers would take any brother who had given his pin to his girlfriend to the tree. The giving of a pin was the equivalent of pre-engagement. The brother would be taken to and tied to a tree in the yard of the house. He would be stripped to his underwear and hosed down by the brothers. The ceremony was often performed in the presence of the pin mate.

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## **Paddles**

Paddles are used as a remembrance of pledge hood. The paddles produced by the pledges and signed by the active brothers are often retained for life. The paddle became a symbol of the fraternity pledge at a time when they were used by the actives as a part of the pledge program. The paddles have been strictly for decorative purposes since the early 1960's at Alpha Theta Chapter.

## **Pledge Pranks and Pledge Projects**

Each pledge class tries to out do the pledge classes of the past in both categories. Every active believes that his pledge class was the best.

## **S. L. A. G.**

SLAG is a recent term that reflects the ideals that Pi Kappa Alpha was founded upon. The letters stand for Student, Leader, Athlete, and Gentleman. The term may be new but it is applicable to Pikes of all eras.

## **Founder's Day**

Founder's Day is the Annual Celebration of the birthday of Pi Kappa Alpha. It is celebrated on or near March 1. The event is an opportunity for the active chapter and the alumni to meet and become acquainted. Alpha Theta celebrated its own 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in December 2004.

## **Homecoming**

Homecoming is celebrated each fall by WVU. The chapter and the alumni get together for tailgating or other activities. PiKA has traditionally done well in the homecoming competition.