

College Helps Restore Village's Historic Fire Engine

Contributed
On a pleasant March day in 2010, Jamie Boles and his son, Glenn, made a trek to the Rowan County town of Landis in order to meet with a collector of antique fire and ambulance equipment. As Boles was talking to the collector, his son was admiring an old firetruck stored in the garage. The collector had purchased it in 1981 from an antiques dealer in Carthage, who had purchased it from a farmer who used it to water his crops. "Hey, Dad, this truck is from Pinehurst," the younger Boles exclaimed when he noticed script on the hood of the fire engine. Sure enough, the firetruck was

the very same one the village of Pinehurst purchased in 1937 from the Seagrave Company of Columbus, Ohio. They had found "Annabelle."
As the second motorized fire engine purchased by Pinehurst, Engine One proudly served the village from 1937 until it was sold to the farmer in 1973. Of course, Boles thought, this fire engine needed to be returned to the village — it was part of the rich history, the heritage and the traditions of Pinehurst and the Department. Boles set the wheels in motion for the truck to begin its relocation back home. Knowing that Sandhills

Community College has a collision repair and refinishing technology program, and thinking that this could be an interesting project for students in the program, Larry Harter, of the Sandhills Chapter of the Antique Automobile Club of America, put Pinehurst Fire Chief Carlton Cole in touch with SCC's automotive technology department chair Alex Cameron. The collision repair and refinishing technology curriculum at the College prepares individuals to become qualified technicians who possess the diverse skills required to perform quality repairs and proper refinishing techniques on automobile bodies, and to diagnose and repair mechanical and electrical systems. Coursework for students includes classroom and laboratory experiences that integrate technical application



COURTESY OF SANDHILLS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Deputy Fire Chief Floyd Fritz and Fire Chief Carlton Cole, of the Pinehurst Fire Department, present a photo to Frank Evans, coordinator of the Collision Repair and Refinishing Technology program at Sandhills Community College. The photo is of the restored fire engine that students in the program helped the department refurbish.

per exact factory specifications. There were mechanical repairs, and some had the task of tracking down or restoring items like ladders, bells, nozzles, extinguishers, wood decking and many other details of Annabelle.
After two years, the refurbishing of Engine One is now complete.
Annabelle hearkens back to a much simpler time. In 1904, the resort village of Pinehurst formed a volunteer fire department. Hose Company Number One had hand-drawn hose carts housed in the Pinehurst Resort's laundry building. In 1930, the department needed to centralize the fire suppression equipment, so it moved to the first designated location on Community Road. A 1925 American-LaFrance Brockway Torpedo triple combination pumper chemical and hose motor car was the first motorized apparatus.
In 1937, Annabelle was brought to the station. There she lived until she was sold to the farmer in 1973 to be used as irrigation equipment.
Pinehurst constructed the village government complex on Magnolia Road in 2001, where the Fire Department is now located.
And how did this fire engine get the name Annabelle?
"We are very creative here at the fire station," said Deputy Fire Chief Floyd Fritz.
"Tuns out the truck has a siren — and a bell. So, naturally, "Annabelle."
The restored fire engine will now be used for public education projects, exhibits, at civic events and in parades. There are still a few details of the truck to renew and replace, but for the most part, she is complete.
When Annabelle passes and sounds her sirens and horns in local parades, many in the community can smile with pride knowing they had a hand in the restoration.

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