

Press Release

July 25, 2012

Marshall Depot, Inc.

## **FAMOUS ENGINE COMING TO MARSHALL**

### Marshall Depot and Union Pacific to Sponsor Celebration

When Marshall Depot Board Members and Union Pacific officials emerged from the monthly Depot Board meeting Wednesday, plans they had been working on for several months had finally been formulated. One of the most beautiful steam engines in the world, The “Living Legend”, Union Pacific’s #844, will be coming to The Marshall Depot, to celebrate the Depots 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, and at the same time celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Union Pacific Railroad.

During the #844 visit on October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012, Marshall Depot and Union Pacific will partner their resources to produce a tremendous birthday celebration at the Marshall Depot and the Union Pacific rail yard near the Depot. There will be an area wide picnic on the Depot grounds with a decorated picnic basket contest. Contestants, who wish to do so, may dress in circa 1912 attire, which will add a nostalgic touch to the event. Winner of the contest will receive a \$4,000.00, round trip from Amtrak for a family of four. The winning family will travel in their own compartment and sleeping quarters, anywhere between Marshall and Los Angeles, with all meals served in the dining car. There will be a birthday cake contest among area commercial bakeries. Desserts will be Blue Bell ice cream, cake and plenty of cool refreshments. Live entertainment and other contests will add to the fun. Keepsake items from the Depot Gift Shop and Union Pacific will also be given to everyone in attendance. The train will also carry the Union Pacific Museum car and the entire event will be free.

Union Pacific will also bring its Union Pacific Kids train, which will thrill the kids with free rides throughout the celebration event.

When Engine #400 travels to various parts of the country as a good-will ambassador for the Union Pacific Railroad, it never travels alone. Hundreds of rail

fans from various walks of life follow its every move. Of course, they have to use the highway to follow the beautiful marvel while they try to get that “perfect” photo shot, and when it travels at top speed, it’s hard to keep up with. One of those “perfect shots” took place at the Marshall Depot in 2008, when it passed through, headed to Omaha, Nebraska. Claire Evans, Marshall Depot Museum Director was taking a group of Trinity Episcopal children on a tour of the Depot when the beautiful 454 ton mammoth came chugging through. A photographer from Little Rock, one of the dozens of photographers waiting for the engine, got that “perfect” shot, and the following year it was featured in the Union Pacific Calendar. Wherever Engine #400 goes, excitement follows, and with it coming to Marshall for Marshall Depot’s 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, and the Union Pacific Railroad’s 150<sup>th</sup> birthday, it will make for one of the most exciting family weekends ever in the Ark-La-Tex.

Clint Schelbitzki, Union Pacific’s Public Relations Director, speaking to the Depot Board, stated, “In 2012, Marshall Depot will celebrate 100 years of outstanding service to Marshall and the rail passenger industry, while also in 2012, Union Pacific Railroad will celebrate 150 years of outstanding rail service in America. As a gesture of appreciation toward Marshall’s Texas & Pacific Depot and the City of Marshall for its support of the Texas and Pacific Railroad, which originated in Marshall in 1873, Union Pacific is proud to announce partnership with Marshall Depot for their Centennial Anniversary Celebration”.

After the meeting, Hal Evans, President of Marshall Depot, Inc., said, “We appreciate very much this helpful partnership with Mr. Schelbitzki and the Union Pacific Railroad. This is a tremendous compliment, not only to Marshall Depot, but also to the City of Marshall”.