

## **Who Are the Sponsors of Today's Events and What Is Their Mission?**

### **The Marshall Steam Team At Auburn Heights**

The Marshall Steam Team at Auburn Heights is a non-profit support group founded six years ago to help maintain and operate the Marshall Museum which includes a premier collection of 14 antique Stanley Steam cars as well as other vehicles and a 1/8<sup>th</sup> size miniature live steam railroad. With the advent of the generous gift of the Auburn Heights Estate to the State of Delaware (effective in 2008), the Marshall Steam Team is widening its mission to become The Friends of Auburn Heights Preserve, the State Park Site which will be established here in the future and which will include over 200 acres surrounding the estate.

t

Auburn Heights and the Steam Team have hosted numerous special events benefiting non-profit organizations over the past five years, Preservation Delaware, the Lions Eye Bank, the Wilmington and Western Rail Road, and the Ashland Nature Society, to name just a few. Now we have a need in our own backyard. The money raised through this autumn weekend will be used by the Marshall Steam Team to maintain and preserve both Auburn Heights and the Marshall Museum and its collections.

Long term, the expanded mission of the Marshall Steam Team will be to provide activities that will allow the public to learn firsthand about an American way of life that flourished at the dawn of the automotive age and to preserve historic steam automobile technology by promoting the practical skills of operating and maintaining steam cars.

To accomplish its mission the Marshall Steam Team and Friends of Auburn Heights will

- sponsor interpretive house tours at Auburn Heights, the Victorian mansion that has been the home of the Marshall family since 1897 and which houses a wealth of family and local history.
- maintain and sponsor interpretive tours of the Marshall Museum, its exhibits and collections including a 1/8<sup>th</sup> size live steam railroad which circles the property.
- run and maintain the nation's finest collection of operational historic steam automobiles (Stanley Steamers) In addition to being on display at the Marshall Museum building on the Auburn Heights property, these cars will also be operated and demonstrated both on the property and off site to allow the public to observe, inspect, and ride, to experience first-hand all the sensations of live-steam automobile transportation.
- initiate outreach programs for current and prospective steam car owners, create and sponsor seminars, videos, and publications that address steam car maintenance and operation at all levels.

*Historical Note About the Marshall Home and It Relationship to The Marshall Museum*

In 1897, Israel Marshall built his home, Auburn Heights, locating it next to the paper mills which were the source of the family fortune. His son, Clarence, loved the steam technology which was the state-of-the-art during his boyhood. He operated a Stanley Steamer dealership at Auburn Heights between 1910 and 1920. Clarence began to collect Stanleys in 1940. His son Tom has continued his father's traditions, maintaining the family's collection of historical automobiles and driving them many thousands of miles over the past 60 years.