

T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History Collection

ABSTRACT

INTERVIEWEE NAME: Dudley Fricke

COLLECTION: 4700.0813

IDENTIFICATION: Friend of Steele Burden

INTERVIEWER: Douglas Davis

SERIES: University History - Rural Life Museum

INTERVIEW DATE: May 9, 1997

FOCUS DATES: 1946-1990s

ABSTRACT:

Tape 1167

Introduction; knew of Steele Burden in 1946; Worked for Dr. John Grey, an agronomist; met Mrs. Burden while pulling bull grass for Grey at Burden home; returned to LSU campus as executive assistant to Dr. Wooden, the LSU system's President, in 1957; started visiting Steele Burden at the Rural Life Museum in 1976; many discussions with Burden about developing the "President's Peninsula" where the house of the LSU president was; describes Burden as uncompromising, modest, and sometimes impatient; in developing the peninsula, Burden expected Fricke to get the blessing of the president, get the president to move his horses off the peninsula, and get the board's approval; board approved in 1979 or '80; Burden sometimes eccentric, Fricke had to learn how to deal with him; museum very special to Burden; Burden adamant about preservation of the museum; Burden as a consultant about the development of City Park in Baton Rouge; Burden's concern for authenticity expressed in story of Fricke's grandmother-in-law visiting the Hill House and recognizing that part of the house had been cut off; Burden's contribution to landscaping of LSU campus during World War II; appropriateness of Burden's ashes being released into nature; profound legacy of Burden in Baton Rouge

TAPES: 1 (T1167)

TOTAL PLAYING TIME: 37 minutes

PAGES TRANSCRIPT: 14 pages

RESTRICTIONS: None