

**T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History Collection**

**ABSTRACT**

**INTERVIEWEE NAME:** Steele Burden

**COLLECTION:** 4700.0452

**IDENTIFICATION:** LSU landscape architect and donor of Rural Life Museum.

**INTERVIEWER:** Kathy Grigsby

**SERIES:** University History – Rural Life Museum

**INTERVIEW DATE:** February 2, 1994

**FOCUS DATES:** 1930 - 1990s

**ABSTRACT:**

**Tape 642**

Family background; begins planting and landscaping on family farm; starts job in City Park in late 1920s; plants every tree in City Park; begins work at LSU in 1931 as "yard man"; relates humorous experiences at LSU; plants live oaks, crepe myrtles, and magnolias at LSU; designs and plants LSU President Smith and Mrs. Smith's garden; comments of Pike Burden's printing business; origins of Rural Life Museum; Steele's gardening style; Ione; Steele's contributions to LSU and to Baton Rouge; landscaping Anita and Payne Breazeale's house; wishes to convert City Park Golf Course in to a walking park; comments on lack of aesthetic values by LSU administrators; criticisms of American Legionnaires in Paris, 1929.

**TAPES:** 1 (T642)

**TOTAL PLAYING TIME:** 1 hour, 11 minutes

**# PAGES TRANSCRIPT:** 65 pages

**ADDITIONAL MATERIALS:** Correspondence

**RESTRICTIONS:** Joint copyright is retained by the interviewee and interviewer and their heirs