

Agency Blocking Up Large Area Near Baytown

BY CHESTER ROGERS

Chronicle Reporter

The Houston industrial real estate firm of W. G. Burchfield & Bro. is engaged in blocking up what is reported to be as much as 12,000 acres of land near Baytown.

R. O. Burchfield said, "It's kind of one of those hush-hush things. No one is talking to anyone about it." He said other real estate firms were also working on the project.

The team of Houston and Baytown real estate men has been contacting owners of land throughout the huge John Steel Survey which lies southeast of Baytown in both Chambers and Harris counties.

The Steele Survey extends southwest from the Jones & Laughlin Steel Corp. tract in West Chambers County, crosses Cedar Bayou and fronts along Tabbs Bay between the mouth of Cedar Bayou and the Goose Creek oil fields.

The real estate activity has

become widely known in Baytown and in Houston industrial circles this past week.

Offering price for the land is reported to be \$1000 an acre for interior land and substantially more for that fronting on the bayou.

D. R. Bullard Sr. of the Robert A. Welch Foundation, which owns around 400 acres in the Steele Survey, said they had been contacted by the Burchfield firm. He said they sought an option but the foundation has not granted it and were not going to.

Earl Wilburn of Baytown said he had been offered \$1000 an acre for his 600 acres. "The papers are lying on my desk now and I'm fixing to take a look at them," he said. Wilburn said he had not heard for what purpose the land is being blocked up.

Burchfield declined to say for whom he was seeking the options and for what purpose. None of the landowners contacted have been told why the options are being sought.

W. G. Burchfield & Bro. is the firm which handled real estate transactions when Jones & Laughlin planned to build a steel plant at the time but plans have never materialized.