

Milby Alumni Corner

How Milby High School got its name

March 28, 1926, was an important date for Charles H. Milby Senior High School. On that date 212 students and 13 teachers marched down Broadway from the old Harrisburg High School to 1601 Broadway, to occupy Milby's classrooms for the first time.

When Milby was originally being built, the community expected it to be called Harrisburg High School; however, since the towns of Magnolia Park and Park Place were in the district, there were objections. On September 23, 1925, a controversy arose over the naming of a new Senior High School under construction at 1601 Broadway.

The new school was to become part of the Houston ISD since Harrisburg ISD had decided to consolidate with Houston. One faction on the School Board wanted to name the new school "San Jacinto Senior High School" and another faction wanted the name to be "Harrisburg Senior High School." The president of the school board, Mr. James S. Deady, was about to break the tie in favor of "Harrisburg Senior High School" when a suggestion was made that the new school be named after the late Mr. Charles H. Milby, who had contributed so much to the Harrisburg area. The vote was unanimous for this suggestion since everyone had so much respect for Mr. Milby. He was a man of excellent character, and it would be especially appropriate to use his name for an institution where young people could gain knowledge and be taught the elements of good citizenship and character.

In the summer of 1925, W. I. Stevenson was hired as principal of Milby. At that time J. O. Webb was superintendent of the Harrisburg District, which later joined the city of Houston. In the fall of 1925, the new building at Milby was not finished, so Stevenson became principal of Harrisburg Elementary and Harrisburg High School combined. At mid-term, T. L. Barnhouse, who later became principal of Deady Junior High School, took over the duties at Harrisburg Elementary.

Mr. Stevenson and the 13 teachers, who made the trip down Broadway to Milby in 1926, served the school long and faithfully. In fact, when the silver anniversary was celebrated in 1950, there were still four of those teachers remaining at Milby, and Mr. Stevenson served as principal until June 1960.

Owen W. Conerly, Class of 1956
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