



#47: The Charles Street Stadium

The Charles Street Stadium is a football field in downtown Humble. In its heyday it was the main stadium for Charles Bender High School. But, that was years ago. The district is in the process of replacing it with a new stadium, and I recently got to participate in the groundbreaking.

The stadium's story begins with a land purchase. Charles Bender died in 1904 and his sons had been running the sawmill since his death. But, the sawmill closed in 1925 and the Bender Brothers were liquidating everything associated with it. They sold a huge, open tract of land to the school district in 1938 for \$2,500. On today's maps, it is at the corner of FM 1960 Business and Charles Street. The district purchased the land specifically for the location of an athletic field.

The architectural firm of Herick and Lindsley designed a stadium, but construction did not begin until 1941. The Charles Street Stadium was not the first high school football field in Humble. It was actually the fifth. But, it was the first field used by Humble students that was actually owned by the school district. The first game played at the stadium was in 1942. Even though it was the home field of Charles Bender High School, the stadium was not called Charles Bender Stadium. It was called the Humble stadium, because...it was located in Humble.

The stadium complex had a football field, home stands and visitors stands, a field house, a concession stand, a running track, and an electric scoreboard. My father (George Meaux) played football for Charles Bender High School, and he played many games in this stadium. Whenever I would get injured playing football, my dad would tell me of the football games HE played at Charles Street Stadium. Games he played with sore muscles. Games he played with torn muscles. And games he played with broken bones...and then he'd tell me to stop crying and get back in the game.

I have seen the old films of games that he played in this stadium. The stands were always full. The marching band played at half-time, and you can see and hear the fans enjoying themselves while rooting for the hometown team on a Friday night. On many nights, it looked like the whole town was there! In 1965, when a new, more modern stadium opened up on Wilson Road, the old stadium (which was more than 20 years old at the time) still had its uses. It has since hosted JV games, junior high games, and sometimes even little league games. But, it was no longer called the Humble stadium. It was just referred to as the Charles Street Stadium.

There were many days when I would go to the Charles Street Stadium to cheer on family and friends at various events. I always enjoyed being at the stadium because it always seemed to be the place to be! But, the stadium's glory days were quickly fading. It didn't have the amenities of modern stadiums, and it couldn't attract the big games anymore. I feared that at some point it would just be torn down and the world would be a little emptier. But instead, a new stadium will take its place. A new stadium that is attractive and has modern amenities. This place will once again attract big games and many other community events. And the stadium will once again be the center of cheering crowds.

Many memories were made in the old Charles Street Stadium, and we cherish those memories. But, now we look forward to the opportunity for the next generation to make their memories in the same place where we made so many of ours. In our new...wonderful...Charles Street Stadium!

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