

## Tripod: Unofficial Mascot of SHSU

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Adapted, by permission of *The Huntsville Item*, from Tripod. (1985). *Huntsville Item*.

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On Tuesday, January 9, 1962, a man's best friend died. He had been the unofficial mascot for Sam Houston State for over fifteen years. The exact date of his arrival on campus is uncertain. Some reports indicate he was here in 1941, while other reports state 1948. He just appeared, with his crippled left front leg. He was a mixed breed dog, described as a "mustard-colored mutt." He was immediately "adopted" by the student body. He had no master and no permanent home. No one seemed to know how he had become lame.

Tripod, as he was named by the students, loved a parade and football game. He managed to be on the scene of all major activities. He ate at dorms or fraternity houses. He slept in apartments and dorms. He never lacked for food, affection, or medical care. He made his annual visit to the veterinarian, carried by a friend. He always managed to have a new collar when one was needed.

On Friday, January 12, he was buried on the hill in front of Old Main. Huntsville Funeral Home furnished a baby casket, and the Student Senate served as pall bearers. A three gun salute was given by the ROTC. Dr. Harmon Lowman, President of Sam Houston State, paid tribute to Tripod. The band was on hand to play. Hundreds of students attended the last rites. Two full pages in the "1962 Alcalde" were dedicated to the services for Tripod.

Death was attributed to old age and freezing weather conditions. Later a monument was erected to the memory of Tripod, the unofficial mascot. Engraving on the stone reads: "TRIPOD, 1941-1962, Beloved mascot, loyal supporter, friend of Students."