

## Big Tex Dies in Blaze of Fire

Contributed by Tom McGregor  
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A Lone Star state icon, 'Big Tex,' a 52-ft. tall statue, was killed in a fire during the Texas State Fair, but at least he was still wearing his boots.

The Houston Chronicle reports that, 'this year's fair was supposed to be a celebration for Big Tex, marking his 60th birthday. Instead, the beloved cowboy was hauled from the grounds on a flatbed truck two days before the end of the fair in a procession resembling a funeral.'

Sue Gooding, fair spokeswoman, said, 'Big Tex is a symbol of everything the state fair stands for. Big Tex is where my parents told me, 'if you get lost, meet at Big Tex.'

According to the Houston Chronicle, 'the cowboy with the 75-gallon hat an 50-pound belt buckle was easy to spot and served as a popular meeting place for people coming to the fair or attending the annual Texas-Oklahoma football game at the nearby Cotton Bowl. But all that remained by noon Friday were hands and shirt leaves on a burned skeleton.'

Big Tex was originally built in 1949 and the State Fair paid for its debut in 1952 for only \$750.  
To read the entire article from the Houston Chronicle, link here:[Tmcgregordallas@yahoo.com](mailto:Tmcgregordallas@yahoo.com)