

new school building was completed, the building that is now the junior high school.

"Kenneth Cox was the first person to call me Doc. During the first Montezuma football game of the 1928 season, one of the players was having leg problems. I went into the gym to offer my assistance to the coach and recommended a few stretching techniques. Ken was captain of the team and said something like,

"Thanks, Doc," and it stayed with me all through the years."

Badger was mutually liked and respected by faculty, students and parents alike.

Darrell Brand served as principal a few years after

father who worked as a meat cutter. He had an older sister Opal, who taught country school, and two younger brothers.

In an interview with *The Republican*, in Nov. of 1990, Badger shared some of the following stories of his life with then editor Catherine Stephens.

Badger started grade school in a class of 26 students, but by the time he graduated high school only 13 were still in school. Of those 13, he was the only one to attend college.

"My folks bought a graduation suit for me, so I would have something nice to wear while I was in college. I remember the material as a kind of green burlap," Badger joked.

"I arrived in Montezuma the year the

Badger had retired. Having been a teacher during Badger's administration he remembers what it was like working with the man.

"I don't want to say he commanded respect, but you respected him a great deal. One reason was because of his wisdom and the other reason was the fact that he had been here so many years," said Brand.

"The foundation of our school system began with Mr. Vanderwal, Doc Badger, and Irving Gabriel. Those guys were here forever and they built a very strong foundation in terms of belief systems and in the way things should be. They were all

BADGER

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