

# Badger left a indelible mark on the community

## BADGER

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very fair and they always cared.

"If you kept your eyes open and your ears open you could learn a lot from them."

Lew Lundy came to Montezuma in 1959 as a coach and a history teacher while Badger was still administrator.

"I learned a lot from him. I found out that the things he stood for, I stood for. He was not afraid to tell you how he felt about something," said Lundy.

Badger's deep personal faith showed through in his work.

"His faith was very important to him.

He was a very, very solid Christian. The people in the community really admired Doc as a person and as an educator," Lundy said.

Larry Homes started teaching at Montezuma in the early 1960s. He, like the others pointed out how Doc's humor in addition to his faith helped him to survive.

"The Monte girls basketball team was going to a district or regional tournament at LeGrand," Homes said. "At that time we were really big on riding the pep buses to the games. Doc called ahead and spoke with the principal to find out when the doors opened and to insure the students on the pep buses would get seats." The

pep buses showed up at Le Grand to find the doors already open and the seats nearly all taken.

"Doc was livid" Homes said.

"He told the principal 'you promised these kids seats now you're going to find them seats.' So he lined the students up and said 'ready, CHARGE!' And they made space for the Monte students. People had to squeeze way over, but they did it." Homes said.

Badger's personal commitment to the school ran long hours, said to be the first one there in the morning, and often the last to leave at night, his dedication surrounded the staff.

Badger believed in seeing the job

through. In his opinion, a high school diploma was a necessity whether a student planned on attending college or working on a farm.

Badger said "One of the most important things is that a child needs to have a well rounded education. Academics, music, speech and sports all have something to add to the individual."

Badger believed in the integrity of the individual, that every child needed to feel special. His faith supported that belief and compelled him to see it through.

"I like to compare kids to apple trees. You can plant all of the apple trees you want, but only God can make them grow," Badger said.