

"Doc" remembered by those he touched

By JOHN DARDA
Assistant Editor

R.J.H. "Doc" Badger died Monday, Dec. 4 at the Iowa Methodist Medical Center in Des Moines. He was 98.

Hanging on a wall in a hallway of the Montezuma Community School is a collection of class photographs, some dating back to the 1920s.

Running your eyes across them is a history lesson in popular culture. Hairstyles lengthen and shorten. Clothes change. Class mottoes reflect the sentiment of the times.

If you were to take a graduating senior from 1928 and compare him or her to one from 1970 it would be mind boggling to imagine how their high school experiences were different. Even more mind-boggling is the fact that they had the same principal: R.J.H. "Doc" Badger.

His funeral service on Friday packed the United Methodist Church with family, friends, educators, and admirers. The Masons and the Eastern Star honored him. State Rep. Danny Carroll, a personal friend of Badger, spoke of the man with such humor and eloquence the congregation was both laughing and crying at once. This was a man who touched lives.

An active member of the Lions Club and the United Methodist Church, Badger spent most of his life in Montezuma.

Having served as principal at Montezuma High School for 42 years Badger has left an indelible mark on the community.

Robert John Helwig Badger was born Jan. 29, 1902, in Murray, Iowa, to an Irish immigrant



R. J. H. "Doc" Badger

"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."

—"Doc" Badger
