

Placer County sheriff discusses career, realignment

By Richard Chang, Sacramento Bee

Placer County Sheriff Ed Bonner has passed two milestones – 40 years serving in the same agency and winning a sixth term. Bonner began his career as a Placer County sheriff's deputy in 1974 after graduating from UC Berkeley. The Placer choice was an easy one, and not just because he was a local product who grew up in Loomis and graduated from Del Oro High School.

"Placer County called first," Bonner said, chuckling as he explained that he had also applied to the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department and Roseville Police Department.

On June 3, Bonner was elected to a sixth term after running unopposed. The 63-year-old sheriff has never faced a challenger.

The *Sacramento Bee* sat down with Bonner to talk about his career and other issues facing the sheriff's office.

How did you rise through the ranks?

I was always a good student. In the sheriff's office culture back then, education was not required. Having a university education helped me prepare for advancement. When I started, I was the most junior deputy, badge No. 39, but in six years was promoted to sergeant. As a deputy, I worked in patrol, at the jail and as a detective. Each experience was challenging and increased my potential to be promoted.

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