

District superintendent says farewell

ADAM KAYE
STAFF WRITER

RANCHO SANTA FE — The longest-serving school district superintendent in the county, who retired last week, says school is still his favorite place.

"I'd give anything to be on the other end of my career," said Roger Rowe, 71, "to start it all over again."

Rowe's 36-year stay as chief of the Rancho Santa Fe School District surpasses that of most superintendents by decades. The Association of California School Administrators reports the average su-

perintendent works in a single district for three to five years.

"It would be safe to say this is one of the longest tenures we've heard of," said James Morante, a spokesman for the California School Boards Association.

Now the educator, sportsman and retired Navy captain plans to fish in Alaska and Baja California with his two sons and to visit the southern hemisphere.

"I'd like to say I've been to Tierra del Fuego," he said.

Rowe reflected upon his career as he sat in an empty classroom on Wednesday. He had emptied his office so Dan

Vinson, the district's new superintendent from Santa Clara County, could move in.

Although Wednesday was Vinson's first day, staffers continued to bring their questions to Rowe. One teacher fought back tears as she hugged the superintendent and said goodbye.

Rowe hired each of the district's 41 teachers.

During his tenure, the district's enrollment more than quadrupled, from 174 to 774 students. Rancho Santa Fe Elementary and Rancho Santa Fe Middle schools share

➤ **FAREWELL**, B-10



BILL WECHTER / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Rancho Santa Fe schools Superintendent Roger Rowe retired last week after 36 years as schools chief. Rowe hired each of the district's 41 teachers.

P-1177 BX 21