

SV's only police chief retires after 20 years

By PAUL BEATTY

Sentinel Staff Writer

SCOTTS VALLEY — He chose his 20th anniversary to turn in his badge.

Scotts Valley's one and only police chief, Gerald Pittenger, officially announced this morning he will go into retirement Nov. 1.

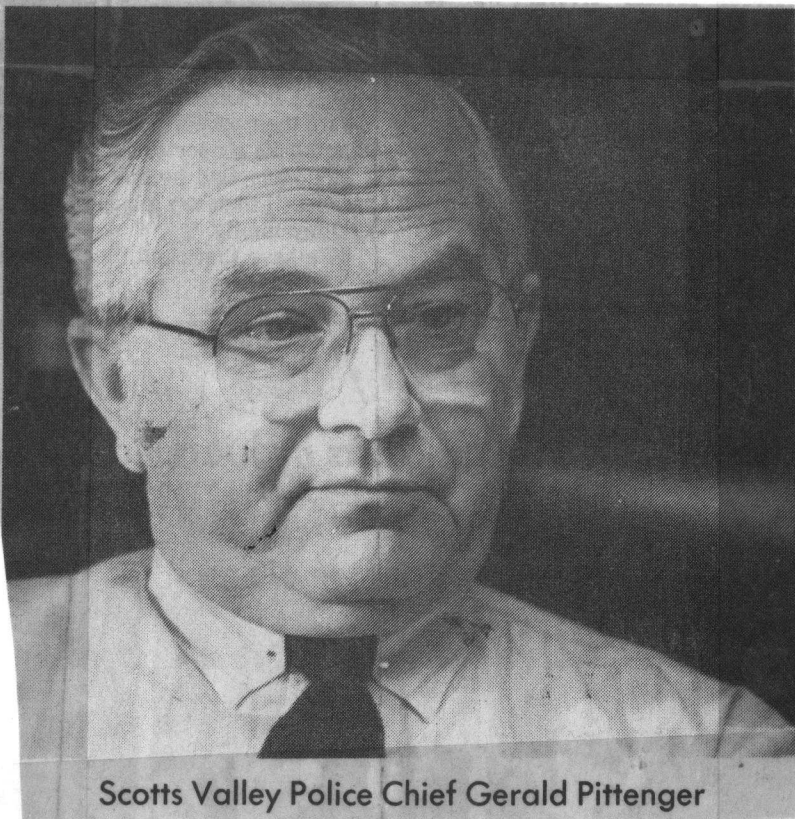
He is the oldest-career chief left in this county and his career is as old as the city he serves.

He leaves with accolades from his department and his new boss, City Administrator August Caires, himself a former police officer. "Pittenger does a phenomenal job. I've had so little trouble with the police department, it's incredible. The guy is respected and loved by his own men."

Pittenger didn't come in as chief, but as a "deputy chief" and it wasn't

an easy hiring.

When put on the payroll in November 1966 as a one-man department, three months after the city was incorporated, Pittenger was working as "a private patrolman." But he came highly recommended by former sheriff's Sgt. Lowell Rountree. "I helped train Jerry and he has more guts than almost anybody in this room," Rountree told the city council on Nov. 24, 1966.



Scotts Valley Police Chief Gerald Pittenger