

Big - P

35-Year Career

SC Chief Pini To Retire

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Santa Cruz Police Chief Geno Pini today announced he will retire from the post he has held for the past 25 years.

Pini, 55, one of the longest-serving police chiefs in California, said he will formally retire July 3. However, an accumulation of leave and sick time means the chief probably will clear off his desk by mid-April.

No one has been named to replace him.

Pini's career at the Santa Cruz Police Department spans 35 years.

He joined the force in 1947 at the age of 21 and advanced through the ranks to lieutenant.

In 1957, he was appointed chief of police. Pini was 30 and the youngest person ever to be appointed chief of the Santa Cruz Police Department.

He succeeded Al Huntsman, who retired after 23 years as Chief of Police.

Pini is the city's 19th chief since 1867.

Pini's term as police chief generally has been

quiet although it has included some of the most turbulent times in Santa Cruz.

During the 70s, his department was involved in the arrest of two mass murderers — Edmund Kemper and Herbert Mullin.

During the same years, Santa Cruz was rocked by massive anti-war protests. A total of 133 persons were arrested during one confrontation in downtown Santa Cruz which brought charges of violent behavior against law enforcement.

During the 80s, the Police Department also came to the limelight when two officers were suspended on charges of brutality, but later were ordered rehired by the city Civil Service Commission.

Pini's tenure also has seen other changes.

During his term as chief, the department began a modern dictating system for police reports and an electronic data file for operational and management decisions.

Officers in the field got their own radio transceivers, several policemen took to motor scooters for the patrol of difficult areas, and a

Community Awareness Program was started under Pini's term as chief.

The department also has begun a formal narcotics investigation section and a computerized system for predicting crime incidence and manpower allocation.

Pini said he is looking forward to a less structured and demanding life during his retirement, but said he will miss the Police Department.

"I've lived in this building more than I've lived at home," said Pini in an interview from his wood-paneled office. "I have real opposing emotions. I'm not sad to be going, but I certainly will miss this place and the people here."

Pini, who is past president of the California Police Chief's Association and has held a myriad of state posts, said he plans "to do a lot of things I haven't been able to do in the recreation area." Those activities include golfing and surf fishing.

Pini is a graduate of the FBI National Academy in Washington, D.C., and attended police science courses at San Jose State College.

He is married and has three children.