



Retiring Police Chief Al Huntsman sits at his desk in city hall last week. Huntsman will retire on January 1 after 23 years of service to the city.

He was one of the youngest police chiefs in the state when he took the job. Said to be one of the best interrogators in the state, Huntsman plans to leave

the field of crime and enter the Arizona desert as a prospector on his retirement. He holds an engineering degree from the University of Colorado.

## Chief Of Police Al Huntsman To Retire

The chief of the Santa Cruz police department retires on January 1 of next year.

Police Chief Al Huntsman leaves the city after 23 years as head of the department.

Admired throughout the state and other sections of the U.S., Huntsman at 64 years of age has served the city well during his years as police chief.

Huntsman said yesterday, "It's not been an entirely smooth road by any means. But policemen don't expect it."

He added, "The job has been terrific, and most of the credit is due to the citizens of Santa Cruz who have been very cooperative when I've undertaken certain clean-up projects."

He referred to his early work in the police department of cleaning out the gambling dens and moving prostitutes from the city streets.

"I've worked with 13 mayors and approximately 20 councilmen, and two city managers. I've enjoyed working with all of them," said Huntsman.

Holder of a mining engineer

## New Fires Threatening Southland

San Bernardino (AP).—Dry desert winds whipped new brush-fires across mountainous areas of Ventura and San Diego counties yesterday as a six-day blaze in San Bernardino county was finally brought under control.

Fifty-mile-per-hour winds sent flames racing across 12,000 acres of timber and brush in a matter of hours yesterday in the Cleveland National forest 50 miles northeast of San Diego.

Stiff winds meanwhile pushed flames across 300 acres on the boulder-studded slopes of Box canyon, a badlands location for countless western movies, on the Ventura-Los Angeles county line.

Near San Bernardino weary fire-fighters surveyed 15,296 acres of blackened watershed where more than 1400 men finally surrounded a fire which started Monday. One man was fatally injured fighting it.

Many firemen from the San Bernardino fire were being transferred to the San Diego blaze, which reportedly started when a house burned on the Inaja Indian reservation.

"Seventy-five acres were in flames in almost a flash," said Walter Puhn, supervisor of the national forest. He said that at one time winds forced the fire forward at 1000 acres an hour. Two troops of Boy Scouts were evacuated as flames moved their way.

degree from the University of Colorado, Huntsman worked with the Washington, D.C., police force before coming to Santa Cruz.

When he reached this city he worked for 10 years with the Santa Cruz Portland Cement company, before taking the job of police chief.

When the chief arrived here, he didn't have much to work with. "There was one old patrol wagon, a touring car, no radio for communication, and practically no records system," says the chief.

Today the police department has a fleet of automobiles, all equipped with three-way radios and the records section compares favorably with any in the state, he says.

Said to be one of the best interrogation experts in northern California, Huntsman has aided the treasury agents in cracking a multi-million dollar narcotics ring with headquarters in Santa Cruz, and pinned down a double murder during the war, "practically single-handed," said an observer.

In addition to leading the police department, Huntsman has participated in many civic functions. He was president of the Central Coast Counties Peace Officers association, composed of minor judges and law enforcement agencies; was head of the Santa Cruz Softball league; president of the Santa Cruz Boys' club, and president of the Santa Cruz Seahawks.

Appointed to the job of police chief on July 3, 1933, Huntsman was instrumental in the organization of the Boys' club as a method of answering a big problem of juvenile delinquency in this city.

Huntsman was also very active in the Boy Scout council.

When asked what prerequisites a police chief needed—and he should know—Huntsman answered, "Treat everybody on an equal basis, and treat people the way you'd like to be treated yourself. This makes a difficult and delicate task easier for yourself and others. Public relations is one of the most important parts of good law enforcement."

The police chief plans to go prospecting in Arizona when he quits the service. "I'll still have my headquarters here in Santa Cruz, though," he said.

The police chief lives at 116 Berkshire avenue.

His son, Perry, works at the post office and Huntsman has three granddaughters, Alline, 4, Dorothy, 8, and Christine, 9.

Residents of the city plan a testimonial dinner for the chief which will be held at the Deer Park Tavern on Monday, December 3, at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets for the dinner can be

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bought for \$5 each of the following men: Roy Johnson, at the County Bank, main branch; Eugene Prolo, Dr. A. E. Allegrini, Skip Littlefield, Louis Haber, Malio Stagnaro, Bob Klein, Paul Levy or Sam Leask III.

Skip Littlefield said yesterday, "There's a maximum of 250 tickets available for the dinner."

Speakers listed for the evening include a number of well-known law enforcement officers from the principle cities of northern California, said Littlefield.

for an Heights \$1500, for street; S company \$11 cific ave \$900 to building, ta Cruz R to reroof Paul W. struct a ca street; a n \$550 to re stall gutter