

EOC Aide Receives Award For His Project FIND Job

3-10-68

Joe Gaxiola, 75-year-old farm worker and a staff member of the Santa Cruz County Economic Opportunity Commission, has returned from Washington, D.C., where he testified before a Congressional committee, received a national merit award, and visited the chambers of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives.

The award was conferred by the National Council on the Aging in recognition of Gaxiola's work with the EOC's Watsonville Area Service Center.

It cited him for proving "that new careers can be successfully undertaken late in life in areas not related to former occupation, and that, in dealing with older people, energy and human sympathy are the most essential qualifications for achieving results."

Gaxiola, a native of Mexico, heads the Watsonville section of Project FIND which seeks to alert the elderly poor to the many programs that are designed to benefit them.

The citation noted that Gaxiola was instrumental in organizing 100 elderly poor to meet with the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors in a successful effort to help save the community action program.

While in Washington, Gaxiola also testified before a sub-committee of the U.S. Senate studying problems of the aged. The panel's chairman is Senator Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass.

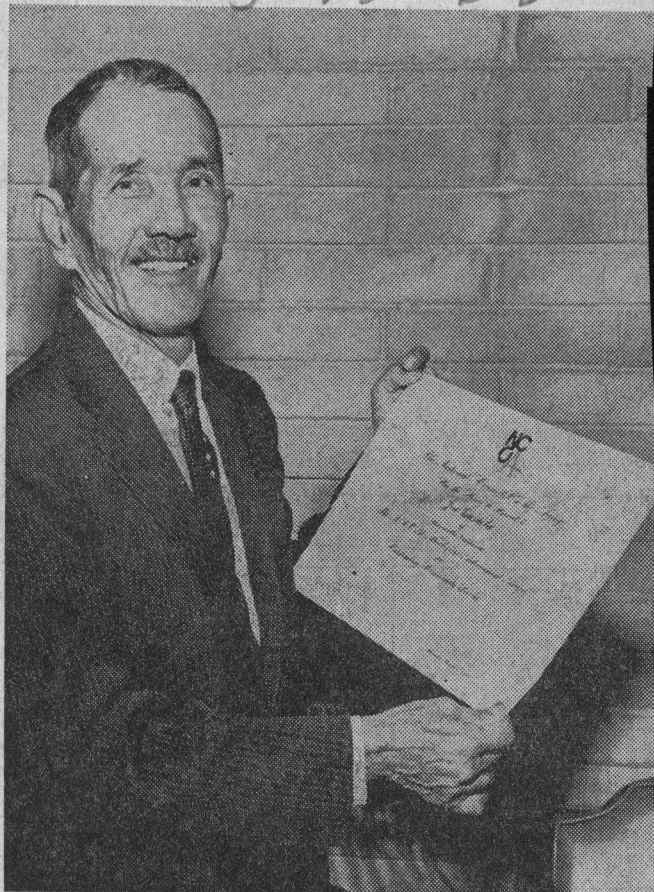
Gaxiola urged the Senators to develop jobs for persons over 50 years of age.

He also was a luncheon guest of Congressman Burt L. Talcott, R-Salinas, in the House restaurant in the Capitol building.

Some 1200 persons attended the meeting of the National Council on the Aging at which Gaxiola received the award.

He was one of five recipients of awards in the 1968 program.

The council is a national, voluntary agency to provide leadership for organizations and individuals who work with aging and elderly people.



Joe Gaxiola

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