



# 1988 Inductees



## J. Evans Rasmussen

**J**. Evan Rasmussen was instrumental in promoting and organizing the first rural electric cooperative in South Dakota. He sold memberships in several rural townships in Clay and Union counties and in 1938 was elected to the initial board of directors of the Clay-Union Electric Corporation of Vermillion. He served on the Clay-Union board until 1939. He was elected again in 1944 and served as secretary until 1977.

Rasmussen also served on the board of directors of East River Electric Cooperative from 1954 until 1977 and was secretary for 18 years.

He was also a member of the board of Dakota Telecommunications, Inc., at Irene from 1965 until 1989 and was -secretary of that cooperative. He was a member of the board of directors of the Beresford Farmers Cooperative Elevator and a founder of the Tri-County Farmers Union Oil Company at Beresford.

Rasmussen's service to East River Electric was recognized when the cooperative power supplier's largest substation, located nine miles east of Vermillion, was designated as the J. Evan Rasmussen Substation. He also appeared in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) film "The Quiet Revolution."



1905-1990

## John Skage

**J**ohn C. Skage was one of the original incorporators of the Deuel County Farmers Union Oil Company. Beginning in 1931, he sold \$10 shares of stock until \$1,700 was raised and the co-op opened for business at Brandt in 1936.

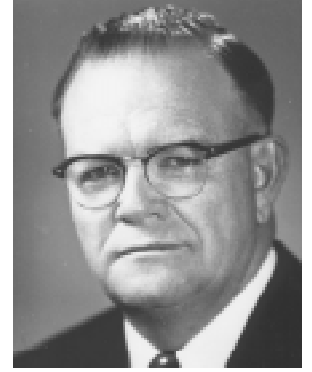
Skage served as manager of the Deuel County Farmers Union from 1936 until 1960 and saw it become one of the largest farm

supply cooperatives in South Dakota. The original station at Brandt was ultimately joined by stations at Clear Lake, Toronto, Gary and Astoria.

Following his retirement as Deuel County manager, he was employed as a fieldman by the Farmers Union Grain Terminal Association (now Cenex Harvest States Cooperatives) at Sioux Falls.

Skage was also active in organizing local and county units of the South Dakota Farmers Union. He was elected state vice president in 1936 and became president in June 1938, when President Emil Loriks resigned to run for Congress.

He served as Farmers Union president from 1938 until 1944. He was honored with the farm and ranch organization's Award for Meritorious Service in 1986.



1904-1989

