



# 1997 Inductees



## G. L. Moseson

**G**. L. (Gus) Moseson grew up on a farm near Howard in Miner County. After graduation from Augustana College and three years of managing a banana plantation near Bluefields, Nicaragua, he returned to the farm. He helped to organize the Miner County Farmers Union and served as president.

He served on the boards of Farmers Union cooperatives, was secretary-treasurer of the Framnes Farmers Fire and Lightning Mutual Insurance Company and was president of the South Dakota Association of Mutual Insurance Companies.

In 1937 he was hired to manage the Farmers Union Co-op Brokerage at Sioux Falls. As World War II loomed on the horizon, he became convinced that it was necessary to shore up sources of supply and the finances of the brokerage by associating it with a regional co-op that was basic in production of oil and also owned oil refineries.

Following an intense effort South Dakota Farmers Union members and the Farmers Union Central Exchange (now Cenex Harvest States Cooperatives) were convinced that joining the organizations would be to their mutual benefit. As a field representative and state area manager for the Central Exchange, Moseson helped organize many co-op oil companies across South Dakota. He retired from Central Exchange in 1961. He served as executive secretary of the South Dakota Fertilizer Association and played a key role in removing the state sales tax on the sale of fertilizer to farmers.



1894-1973

## Ben Radcliffe

**B**en Radcliffe learned the value of cooperation during the depths of the Great Depression. After service with the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and work as a fruit picker and gold miner in California, he returned to South Dakota and farming in 1942.

As a Spink County farmer, he recognized that farmers had to “extend their influence beyond the farm gate” and became active in Farmers Union, local government and cooperatives.

He served 11 years on the Spink Electric Cooperative board of directors. He also helped to organize and was president of a local credit union affiliated with the Farmers Union Oil Company at Redfield. He was elected to the state legislature in 1954 and served four terms in the House of Representatives.

In 1955 the Farmers Union board of directors was expanded and Radcliffe became the first chairman of the newly established District VII Farmers Union organization. He was elected vice president in 1958 and became South Dakota Farmers Union President in 1961 following the death of President Harold Golseth.

During his 20 years as SDFU president, Radcliffe served as a member of the nine-man National Farmers Union Executive Committee and serving as chairman for three years and was a delegate to International Federation of Agricultural Producers meetings.

As Farmers Union president, he gave strong support to the Farmers Union education program and summer camps. He also led in establishing the Farmers Union scholarship program in 1961.

