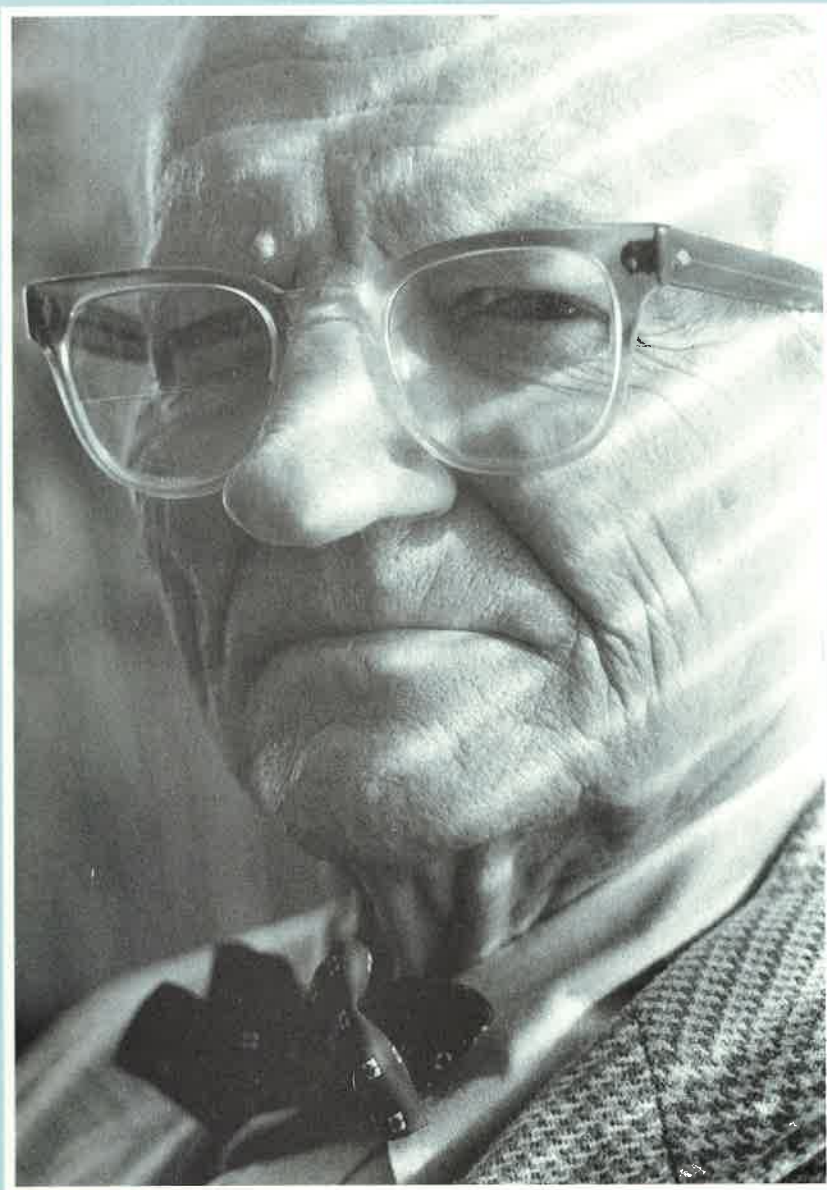


# COOPER FOUNDATION



2001 / 2002  
BIENNIAL  
REPORT

EN: "JACK" THOMPSON  
1913 - 2002

## JACK D. CAMPBELL ELECTED CHAIR OF COOPER FOUNDATION

Jack D. Campbell was elected to a 3-year term as chair of the board of the Cooper Foundation, in a revision of board responsibilities upon the death of E.N. "Jack" Thompson, long-time chair, past president and trustee. Jack Campbell is currently the longest serving trustee of the Foundation, having been first elected to the board in March of 1974. He has served in many capacities including secretary-treasurer, vice-chair, and as chair of various committees.

Jack is a past general agent and an associate with Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Co. in Lincoln and president of Compensation Programs Inc., a Nebraska-based employee benefit organization. He is a Chartered Life Underwriter (CLU), Chartered Financial Consultant (ChFC) and is past national president of the American Society of CLU. He is a past board member of the National Bank of Commerce and Norwest Bank.

The founding president of the Nebraska Foundation for the Humanities, Jack has also served in various leadership positions on the board of the Nebraska Humanities Council. He was a major force in creating the Nebraska Cultural Endowment and serves on its board. The Nebraska Cultural Endowment was established in 1998 by the legislature and is the first such endowment in the nation to combine the arts and the humanities.

Jack graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with scholastic distinction, and was a member of the business honorary society, Beta Gamma Sigma, the Innocents Society, and was captain of the varsity swimming team. He is past president of the Nebraska Art Association, the Wagon Train Project, the Lincoln Library Board, and the Nebraska Library Commission and is past treasurer of the Lincoln Community Foundation. He is a life trustee of Nebraskans for Public Television, a trustee of the University of Nebraska Foundation, and received the Alumni Achievement Award from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Jack and his wife, Sally, have three children. Dan and Kathy Campbell live in Phoenix. Amy Lamphere and her husband, Jim, live in Lincoln, and Peter and Patti Campbell live in Bellevue, Nebraska. The Campbells have four grandchildren.



*Jack D. Campbell*



COVER PHOTO BY JEFF HALLER

*Jack's life,  
particularly his time with  
the Cooper Foundation,  
provides those who knew him  
a rich and enduring legacy.  
As trustees of the Foundation, we will  
remember Jack's kindness, civility,  
open-mindedness, fairness,  
his comforting smile,  
the twinkle in his eye, and yes,  
his ever-present bow ties.*

*— The Board of Trustees of the  
Cooper Foundation  
February 28, 2003*

## E.N. "JACK" THOMPSON: A TRIBUTE

Jack was elected to the Cooper Foundation board of directors on May 23, 1953. He was elected Secretary in 1954, President in 1964 and Chair in 1990. He died on December 7, 2002, just short of two months after his wife, Katie (Edith Katherine Clarke Thompson), died.

*When I think about Mr. Thompson, I think about the huge impact he had on so many different people. He genuinely valued people, and found them interesting and worthwhile, and people responded to that and were in turn inspired by his belief in them. When people refer to Jack Thompson as a "true gentleman" this is what they mean. This worked in his favor all the time, of course – people afforded him the same consideration and really listened to his ideas, and trusted his judgment. Years later, they remember the things he said and continue to learn from them.*

*His warmth and sense of humor, his endless quest for knowledge, his unwavering certainty, his expectations of excellence, his travels and spirit of exploration, his devotion to his family, the things he said, the things he loved, the people he loved ... that's the context in which he lived those historical events and experiences and what made a truly extraordinary life.*

— Victoria Kovar, Lincoln, Nebraska

Jack was born in York, Nebraska to Arthur Weimer Thompson and Viola Natalia Swanson Thompson. Both of his parents had been born to farm families in York County, Nebraska. His father was an auctioneer with a growing reputation. By the time of his retirement in the 1950's, he was called by *TIME* magazine the world's greatest auctioneer, a reputation earned through a long career in which he sold the first \$50,000 bull and cried the first \$1 million sale.



Jack Thompson (second from left) at the Daily Nebraskan offices

Jack was in junior high school when his family moved to Lincoln. He graduated from Lincoln High School and went to the University of Nebraska where he was an excellent student (Phi Beta Kappa) and member and officer of many student organizations. He also continued his interest in journalism, first discovered at Lincoln High and which would play an important role in the rest of his life. Perhaps most important, Jack met Katie (Edith Katherine) Clarke at the University.



Jack Thompson and Katie Clarke in the early 1930s

He attended the College of Law at the University of Nebraska for one year. Then, in 1934, he and Ellery Davis traveled together to New York City; Ellery to attend graduate school in Architecture and Jack for a year of post-graduate work at the Columbia School of Journalism. They shared living quarters that year and would remain life-long friends. In fact, Jack and Katie, and Ellery and his wife, Pring (Elizabeth), died within a few months of each other.

Upon his return to Lincoln, Jack and Katie were married at St. Matthew's Church on August 7, 1935. Jack described that afternoon as "hotter-than-the-hubs-of-hell."

Their honeymoon was actually a year long, in 1935 & 1936, in Europe. Jack had won the Columbia School of Journalism Pulitzer Traveling Fellowship which allowed them to travel in Europe, primarily London, Geneva and Berlin, while he was a volunteer reporter (a stringer) for the Associated Press. The first-



Jack Thompson (first on right in row behind table) shares a smile with staffers at the United Nations conference in San Francisco, 1945

hand experience of witnessing the build-up to World War II would affect their thinking the rest of their lives, as did the opportunity to tour in Europe and to attend concerts, plays, museums and art galleries. In an interview with Ed Hirsch in 1997, he recalled, "That kind of experience ... just changes your life in so many ways that you don't realize until much later, and it changes your perspective. It gives depth to things that you had read at some time and had forgotten, but they come alive."

*Not all have the ability of taking a basic concept and bringing it into practical reality. Only a few could influence and build individuals around them into effective leaders themselves. Truly, he was both a friend and mentor to me.*

— Jack Campbell, Lincoln, Nebraska

When they returned to the United States in 1936, they moved first to Des Moines where Jack worked for the Des Moines Register and then to Washington D.C. in 1937. There, he joined two other life-long friends from the University, Gene Robb (at the Hearst Corporation) and then Bill McCleery at the Associated Press.

In 1939 he became field representative and assistant secretary with the National Municipal League in New York City. He and Katie found an apartment at 45 Christopher Street in Greenwich Village. In 1941 and '42 he was also working for the National Resources Planning Board in Washington, D.C. as a consultant. And by now Jack had also enrolled in New York University's College of Law from which he graduated in 1943, the same year he was admitted to the New York Bar. During

this time he commuted from New York to Washington, D.C. by train. Jack credited Katie with helping him get through law school by reading cases and prepping him for class and tests. Jack noted, in remarks to the Kiwanis Club in 2000, "Katie readily adapted to life in New York, London and Washington, DC. She soon learned the subway systems and found all the interesting galleries and museums. Katie also worked with Anna Lord Strauss, then national president of the League of Women Voters, to re-establish their downtown branch in Greenwich Village."

Their children were born in New York City at Flower Fifth Avenue Hospital; first Kit (Karen Katherine Thompson Dimon) in 1942 and then Art (Elwood Arthur

Thompson) the following year. The growing family needed a larger apartment which Jack and Katie found on MacDougal Alley, just off Washington Square. Both Jack and Katie loved living in New York City, especially Greenwich Village.

In 1943 the family moved to Alexandria, Virginia, just outside Washington D.C. when Jack joined the Bureau of the Budget as an administrative analyst. This work led to the Department of State where he was Special Assistant on the staff of the Secretary General (the Secretariat) of the Conference on the Founding of the United Nations in San Francisco in 1945. Later in 1945 he was appointed Assistant to the Director, in the Office of U.N. Affairs and, in 1947, was appointed Deputy Director under Secretary of State, Dean Rusk.

*He demonstrated all we consider the most essential of United Nations colleagues, an intellectual who was committed throughout his life and who understood the importance of global thinking and action.*

— Natalie Hahn, New York City

1948 brought another move to New York City when Jack was appointed Secretary of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. The family lived in Old Greenwich, Connecticut, where Katie was involved with the Playmakers (community theatre) and with the Riverside School PTA.

In 1950, Sam Waugh called from the First Trust Company to ask Jack to move back to Lincoln to become Secretary. He and Katie decided to do just that and moved to Lincoln that year. Jack was elected a director in 1951, Executive Vice-President in 1953 and President in 1954.

*Jack hired me my first job out of college – at the First Trust Company. Early during the first year, he was to write something for one publication or another – he asked me to “look it over and let me have any corrections or suggestions you have.” As I recall, there were few suggestions, but ... he thanked me for those and incorporated them. ...A week or so later ... I was asked to compile some biographical information about him ... (and) I was stunned to discover that he had earned a Pulitzer in Journalism! I was apologetic – but ... he brushed this off saying graciously that I had done what he requested. He was certainly the bright spark at the Trust Company those years...*

*It was great fun to reconnect with Jack later...I was already handling Cooper Theatres advertising when he joined Cooper – so I have lots of memories of all the things associated with that endeavor; screenings, manager’s meetings (at which Jack and Katie always hosted wonderful parties), planning the new building, working on the annual reports etc. Jack was unfailingly a fine leader and a generous and delightful man.*

— Marg Edholm, Yalaha, Florida

Jack led the First Trust Company to even greater levels of profitability, so much so that in 1961 the National Bank of Commerce (NBC) merged with the First Trust Company. After the merger Jack became senior vice-president of NBC’s Trust and Savings Association and a member of the board. In late 1963 the board of the Cooper Foundation asked Jack to become President, effective in January of 1964.

At his death Jack had served the Foundation longer than any other trustee, just five months short of 50 years. And he was crucial to its growth and development.

When Jack was elected a trustee, the Foundation’s assets were \$2,877,963 and grants paid since inception in 1934 were \$897,666. The Foundation’s source of income was, as it had always been, from Cooper Theatres. The Foundation had been the owner and manager of that business since Joseph Cooper’s death in 1946.

When Jack assumed the presidency in 1964, Cooper Theatres was operating in Nebraska, Minnesota, Colorado and Oklahoma, but net assets had declined by 11% to \$2,557,169. Grantmaking had continued, but at lower levels, and Jack was faced with protracted negotiations with the Internal Revenue Service concerning the Foundation’s non-profit status.

The theatre chain prospered under Jack’s leadership and in 1972 he successfully concluded negotiations with the Internal Revenue

Service, preserving private foundation status. In 1975 he turned his attention to the sale of the theatre business and in 1979 the sale of our theatre properties except for the Cooper Plaza in Lincoln.

Between 1953 and the end of 2002, Jack’s last as a trustee and as Chair, net assets had grown five-fold to \$14,735,437 and grants since inception had more than quadrupled to \$13,559,889.

*(Jack) had a great influence on me. If ever I had a doubt about the right thing to do, I’d think what would Jack do? ... He was always very supportive and, I think, genuinely interested, in me and my career. ... He was a true thinker and had a wonderful curiosity.*

— Tracy Black, Lincoln, Nebraska

His service to other local, statewide and national organizations was just as significant. He served on many boards, including the University of Nebraska Foundation, Nebraska Wesleyan University Board of Governors, Mid-America Arts Alliance, Ne-



Mel Glatz, designer of Cooper Theatres, and Jack Thompson

braska Art Association, Council on Foundations, the Institute for Global Ethics advisory board, and was a co-founder of the Lincoln City Library Foundation and the Lincoln Community Foundation. He and Woody Varner co-chaired the \$10 million campaign for the Lied Center for Performing Arts, one of his many activities in support of the University of Nebraska. He enjoyed participating in the Roundtable discussion club and for many years was a member of the Round-Up Riders of the Rockies, an organization of 150 horsemen from across the coun-



Jack Thompson reviewing a new campaign of the Cooper Theatres

try who meet each summer in Colorado for a 100-mile trail ride.

*I vividly remember meeting him for the first time in 1983 when I interviewed for a position at the University of Nebraska Foundation. Although I was more than a bit nervous, Jack immediately put me at ease in an almost fatherly sort way and, by the time I left, he had me brimming with self-confidence. I'll never forget the experience! ... Among other things, I have learned from observing and interacting with Jack the value of listening first and then speaking, the joy of lifelong learning and involvement, a never ending commitment to one's community and living one's life in a principled manner.*

— Tim Thietje, Lincoln, Nebraska

As President, and then Chair, of the Cooper Foundation, Jack was directly involved in making grants valued at over \$12 million, 82% of the dollars ever granted by the Foundation. He sought innovative ideas that had potential for major impact, and he initiated projects where he saw a need. Chief among these were the Food Bank of Lincoln, the Excellence in Teaching Awards, two statewide studies of higher education, the E.N. Thompson Forum on World Issues, and the Merit Scholarships at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

*The first week I was on the job (executive director of the Food Bank of Lincoln) I got a call from (Jack) wishing me well, and encouraging me. ... His love of ideas and ability to "imagine greatly" both had a significant impact on the birthing of our organization. Now 20 years later the Food Bank can claim 20,000,000 pounds of distributed food due largely to the efforts of the group of committed citizens led by Peg Huff and Jack. The Food Bank turned out to be a pretty good idea, didn't it?*

— Scott Young, Lincoln, Nebraska

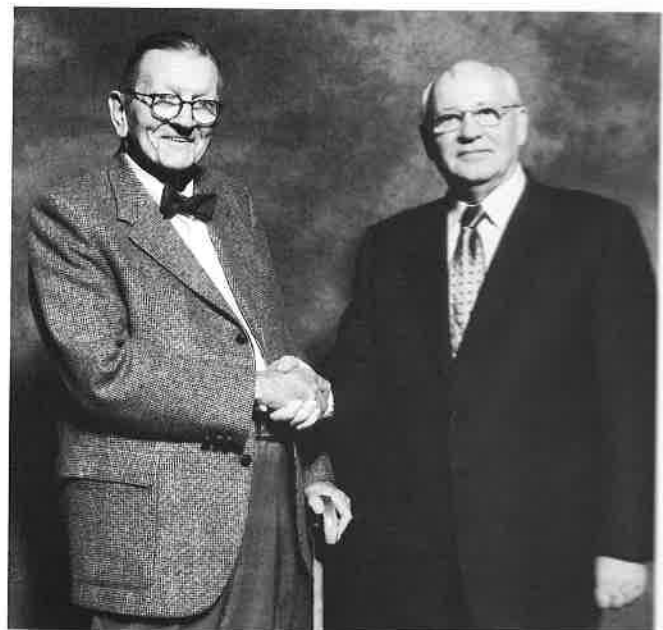
The Forum was originally titled the Cooper/UNL Forum on World Issues. On April 26, 1990, Jack's leadership as its creator was recognized by the University of Nebraska and the trustees of the Foundation. Martin Massengale, then Interim President of the University and Robert Dobson, chair of the Cooper Board, officially renamed the lecture series in his honor.

Katie and Jack created the Thompson Family Fund in support of the Lied Center for the Performing Arts Program Fund, the Elwood N. and Katherine Thompson Distinguished Professorship of Modern World History at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the Thompson Family Fund of the Cooper Foundation, and the endowment for maintenance of the grounds of St. Mathews Church.

*Jack's utter zeal for history came home vividly for me when he phoned to congratulate me on the publication of my last book. I sent him a copy and was pleasantly surprised when he called back just a few days later to tell me that he had already read the book. I genuinely appreciated his interest in my research and his insights into my interpretations. This was yet another pleasant reminder of Jack's contribution to intellectual discourse at the university.*

— Kenneth Winkle, History Department Chair  
University of Nebraska – Lincoln

Jack was honored many times for his service to his community, state and university. He received the Nebraska Humanities Council's Sower Award, the Nebraska Arts Council's Leonard Thiessen Award, and the University of Nebraska Friends of Lied (Center for the Performing Arts) Award. He also received awards



Jack Thompson and former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev,  
E.N. Thompson Forum, 2002

from the Nebraska Press Association, the University of Nebraska Colleges of Journalism and Arts and Sciences, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Distinguished Service Award and the University of Nebraska Builders Award. Doane College, Nebraska Wesleyan and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln all awarded honorary doctorates. The University of Nebraska Foundation gave him the Perry Branch Award, Lincoln High School its Distinguished Alumni Award, and the Lincoln Journal-Star selected him for its "100 People who Helped Build Nebraska."

*Somewhere in this class, in every class I teach, there is another E.N. 'Jack' Thompson. He or she will go on to do incredible things, inform people, change the world and the community for the better. ... Someday the next Mr. Thompson will in some way touch other people's lives by the life they lead, their ideas, and their incredible, overwhelming desire to learn ... my words are meant both to Mr. Thompson for reminding that it is possible to be knowledgeable without being arrogant, critical without being cynical and open minded without being naive. But to you all, study hard, graduate, travel, see the world, change it and others for the better, and learn, if nothing else, learn more.*

— Patrice McMahon  
Assistant Professor of Political Science  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
to her students after Jack's death

Jack is survived by his children, Kit and Gerry Dimon and Art and Carol Thompson. By his grandchildren: Bill & Terri Dimon, Katie & Tom Graf, Sarah & Al Linderman, Doug & Liz Thompson and Anne & Bradley Brandt. And by his great grandchildren: Walker & Francine Dimon, Eli & Kit Graf, John & Anna Linderman, Ry and Megan Thompson, and Madalyn, Will and Caroline Brandt.

*Our family will always treasure our last day with Grandad. He lived a remarkable life and left us with many warm memories and experiences. He led his life in charge and remained in charge until the very end. He also led his life loving his family, his friends and a good party. We were honored to join him in celebrating his life at a family party, one last time.*

— Anne Thompson Brandt



Jack and Katie Thompson in the late 1990s