

## Cook Lougheed Archive

Cook Lougheed  
6700 Snowberry Court  
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## Lougheed says he is "making payments on his debt"

*This article is based on an interview conducted in December 2007.*

Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne donor, Cook Lougheed, has led a very successful life — to say the least. Lougheed attributes much of his success to his spirituality and Boy Scouts. The skills and problem-solving strategies he learned through Boy Scouts helped him to become a successful entrepreneur. His experiences taught him the importance of hard work and determination. These imperative entrepreneurial skills paired with his moral values, honesty and integrity turned out to be a model for success.

Cook became a Boy Scout in 1933. Boy Scouts has been very influential in Cook's life. He was an Eagle Scout at age 16 and has since served the local, regional, and national Boy Scout organization. Not only was he the Anthony Wayne Boy Scouts Council's vice president and president, but he also was honored with Silver Beaver in 1969, Silver Antelope in 1977, Distinguished Eagle Scout in 1977 and the Cross Flame & Sword from the Methodist Church for his Boy Scout work.

Cook demonstrated maturity and dependability from an early age. In fact, he was only eight years old when he got his first job! A local veterinarian paid Cook to collect discarded bottles.

Later in his childhood he also had a paper route. His business potential became evident at a young age when he became the neighborhood fix-it boy. He bought broken bicycles from other kids, repaired them and then sold them. As an eighth grader, Cook got an after-school job as an usher at the Scottish Rite Theater. By the time he was a sophomore at North Side High School, Cook was hiring and managing all the ushers at the Scottish Rite! When he was a senior in high school he was a Boy Scout, a football player and a part-time worker in the hardware department at Sears. This busy schedule taught Cook how to be responsible and the importance of time management.

Playing football paid off. Cook received a football scholarship to Ball State University. Cook valued an education even though it was expensive despite his scholarship support, and required many sacrifices. For instance, he sold his 1939 Buick Roadmaster to help finance his education at Ball State. While going to college at Ball State, he held part-time jobs in a local factory and in the university bookstore. He was drafted in 1942 and consequently signed up for officer's school in the Marine Corps, staying in the Reserves until ordered to report to Purdue University.



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Although he wanted to be a math and science teacher and coach football, the Marines encouraged Lougheed to pursue a degree in engineering. Cook decided to pursue a degree in civil engineering. He was also a member of the Purdue football team of 1943. This began a Purdue football legacy — his son and grandson would later play football for Purdue, too.

Cook met his wife Jeanne while at college; after being married for two years, the newlyweds moved to Fort Wayne. He learned about construction and estimating while working for May Sand & Stone Corporation. Within four years of working for May, Cook was in charge of bidding, field supervision and engineering in its construction division. However, Cook wanted new opportunities and experiences so he joined the Old Fort concrete business. These early jobs made him realize how much he wanted to run his own company. Consequently, Cook created Earth Construction and Engineering Inc. with Al Bergdall, a crane operator from May. Cook became the sole owner within a few years and the company grew quickly. Earth Construction and Engineering Inc. strived to do the job right the first time, on schedule, and always put the customer first. Cook managed to balance his busy career with spending lots of time with his wife and family, and he attributes much of his success to his supportive family, especially his wife, Jeanne.

Cook's business skills seemed to come almost naturally. For example, once when he needed sand for a project, he purchased a property with sand, using the sand and transforming the land into Earth Industrial Park, an 18-acre property on which Earth Construction built its own office.

He also created Land and New Development Inc. At one time, Cook was president of 11 different companies, involving real estate and lake developments and equipment.

Cook always loved the challenge of finding a good property and turning it around for a profit. Consequently, he began to develop large residential communities, most featuring innovative human-made lakes, walking trails and other unique trend-setting landscaping. His residential communities include Sunnybrook Acres, Loch Nest, Bittersweet Moors, Woods and Glens, Dells of Bittersweet and the exclusive Lake Trails Estates. Lougheed did not stop with residential buildings. He also expanded his expertise to include commercial buildings, including the Metro Building downtown. At one point in time Cook actually owned the oldest building in downtown Fort Wayne at 818 South Lafayette. He donated the building to ARCH, a nonprofit historical preservation group.

In addition to his entrepreneurial success, Cook has volunteered with many local organizations. He has served the Fort Wayne Zoological Society for 34 years (two years as board president). The development of the African Safari Veldt was one of his greatest accomplishments. He has also served the Association of Building Contractors, Greater Fort Wayne Chamber of Commerce, Fort Wayne Civic Theatre, Fort Wayne Rotary Club, Kiwanis, and his local church, to name a few. He served Parkview Hospital for 30 years. In fact, what was once known as the "Old Frances Slocum School" has been renamed the Lougheed Center to honor Cook for all his years of service on the Parkview Board.

Cook and his accomplishments have truly been blessings to the Fort Wayne Community. His exemplary character and community contributions will have a positive impact on the Fort Wayne Community for many years to come.

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"Today," Cook says, "I give back because I owe this community a lot. It has done so much for me. The Bible verse that says 'to whom much has been given, much will be required' is very significant to me." This is why Cook has chosen to give to the Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne — he wants to give back to a community that has given so much to him.

## May 2004 Acceptance speech — Junior Achievement "Man of the Year"

*This is a speech given by Cook Loughheed in May 2004.*

Thank You for this Acknowledgement

or

Payment on Account Receipt

I am very pleased to receive this acknowledgement and I would like to explain why I am pleased and why I say it is a "Payment on Account Receipt."

This has started me to think — thinking of why — why I am so fortunate to be in this position. As I glided back over the years, I only remember how much I have enjoyed in life and all the wonderful things that the Good Lord has given me — my wife, my family, good health, business, friends and enemies. Yes, I am grateful that my enemies have been so few and so weak. Everything has been pluses.

So how did I reach here? Two basic philosophies stand out in my life.

1. I have always believed in a Heavenly Father and have wanted to have a place in Heaven.
2. I have always been bound by a high sense of being responsible — such as I always wanted to do my share, pay my own way, pay my debts in full.

Do I serve to earn a place in Heaven — NO! For one cannot earn a place in Heaven by good deeds. It is only through the grace of God that we can reach Heaven. So why work and serve others?

It has taken many years of living for me to understand my own thinking on this. To put it in the simplest terms, being so blessed, so lucky all of my life and having enjoyed living in this community. I have a very strong sense of debt to repay someone for all that I have received.

So I accept with pleasure this Honor as a receipt of payment on my debt. To me this says, "Paid on Account," not in full, but some of the debt has been paid and for this I THANK YOU!