



1951 and 1954

Edwin M. Watson headed the Board of REALTORS as President in 1951 and 1954. He formerly served as the president of the Chamber of Commerce in 1949.

- The size and number of “For Sale” signs on property was a big issue. Open Listings instead of Exclusive Right to Sell Listings were the vogue wherein, a seller could promise to pay any number of real estate offices a commission for securing a buyer for their property. Thus, each office placed their “for sale” sign on the seller’s property causing a multiple of real estate signs by the different brokers to appear on a seller's property. Some brokers went so far as to place multiples of their office signs on the one property.

- Board discussed commission splits between offices, the size of “for sale” signs and limiting the number of signs on a property.
- Board members wanted to control the number of people coming into the “field of real estate” thus, applicants were voted “in or out” by secret ballot.
- The monthly Board meeting was attended by 8 REALTORS and 3 Associates.
- Port Royal lots sold for \$50.00 per front foot: “Two references required”.
- Xmas trees were sold for 0.85 cents and up at Sunshine Market on Fifth Avenue, S.
- M. H. Davis planned the 800 acre Naples Park subdivision. Lots to sell for \$130.00.
- REALTOR Lorenzo Walker and his brother R.L., offered lots in Aqualane Shores for \$2,500.
- Movie actor, Gary Cooper came to town to film “Distant Drums” with REALTOR W. Roy Smith, Sr. As an Indian chief. The county offered to build a road to the remote Rattlesnake Hammock movie set if the city provided two trucks.
- In 1954 the U.S. Congress added “under God” in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.