



1955

W. Roy Smith (the W. stands for Walter) was the President of the Naples on-the-Gulf Board of REALTORS in 1955. He was father to another Board President W. James Smith, Board President in 1982.

REALTOR W. Roy Smith served seven terms as Mayor of Naples, 1946 to 1960. He was the first officially named Mayor when Naples became a city in 1949. As Mayor in 1951 he bought the County's two-thirds share of the then abandoned Naples Airport for little more than eight thousand dollars. He was President and Founding member of the Bank of Naples (circa 1949) and subsequently Director of Barnett Bank of Naples.

According to his son, REALTOR, Jim Smith. "Before the Bank of Naples came to the community residents had to travel to the Bank of the Everglades in Everglades City or go to Ft. Myers."

"Always the visionary, he encouraged and supported the planning for the Naples Memorial Hospital. The lack of doctors in the area forced people to go North to Lee County for medical emergencies."

According to STEPS THROUGH TIME-NABOR FROM THE BEGINNING, W. Roy Smith, "also had a Fifth Avenue furniture store, office supply store, real estate sales office, Standard Oil dealership and an insurance agency."

"Longtime Mayor of Naples whose administration was responsible for much of the ambiance that is now Naples, in 1947 formulated what is now known as the Naples Plan. The project solicited three hundred thousand dollars in exempt donations from residents (population approximately 1,700) for much needed improvements including street paving (three and one -half miles), Cambier Park (named after the city engineer), a mosquito control program, and T-groins along the beach. He also oversaw the construction of a new jail, fire station and city hall" Naples Daily News-Lighthouse Project.

In 2004 he was inducted into the NABOR Hall of Fame.