



**1966**

**Les Whitaker, Sr.** served as President of the Naples on-the-Gulf Board of REALTORS.

Les Sr. was the first half of another father-son team to serve as presidents to the Naples on-the-Gulf Board of REALTORS. He was followed in 1972 when his son, Lester W. Whitaker, Jr., served as president.

Lester Whitaker, Sr. was a member of the REALTOR Public Relations Committee of FAR.

Les Sr. served as a Collier County Commissioner in 1965 through to 1968 where he served several terms as Chairman of the Board of Collier County Commissioners.

He was Chairman of the Naples Exchange Club.

He was named REALTOR of the Year by the Naples on-the-Gulf Board of REALTORS in 1968.

Les Whitaker, Sr. donated the land for Youth Haven located on Whitaker Road in Collier County.

During his presidency a lease was signed for a new Board office on Tenth Street and Fourth Avenue, S.

The first sales contract was approved by the Naples on-the-Gulf Board of REALTORS and the local bar association; a single page 'fill in the blanks' document with two carbon pages attached provided free of charge by Lawyers Abstract Service.

Also, in 1966 REALTOR David C. Jones, (past Board President, 1956 and 1957) was elected President of the Florida Association of REALTORS (FAR).

“Alligator Alley (now I-75) opened to traffic, connecting Fort Lauderdale with Naples.” (the toll booth was under construction on what is now Beck Blvd. off county road 951, now called Collier Blvd.) Drivers used Alligator Alley free of tolls for almost a year while the toll booth was under construction

“The Florida Development Commission predicts that rapid growth in Collier County coastal areas will push its population from 30,000 to 41,800 by 1975, and 110,000 by 1985. It also predicts that heavy development will create traffic problems on the two lanes of U.S. 41.” Naples Daily News

“Fire destroys five stores in downtown Immokalee on May 18, causing \$300,000 in damage. The blaze begins in a skillet at the Coffee Cup restaurant. Deputies rescue 25 migrant farm workers who had been sleeping above the Western Auto store.” Naples Daily News.

June 13, 1966: “Ruling in the controversial Miranda vs. Arizona case, the Supreme Court holds that confessions given to police are invalid if the suspect has not been told of his rights.” Naples Daily News