



In 1969, Earl Frye became the President of the Naples-on-the-Gulf Board of REALTORS. In a conversation with Mike Hughes, (Board President 2015) Earl remembers driving from Cincinnati to Naples with his family in his station wagon in 1962.

In 1963, Earl and Wes Downing (Board President 1960) joined forces and Downing-Frye & Associates, Inc. was formed. Earl and Wes enjoyed developing in the Naples area and are credited with developing over ten real estate projects in the Naples area. They offered a variety of residential ownership types in addition to architectural styles: Port au Villa, a cooperative club at 2100 Gulf Shore Blvd.; The Meridian, a “hi rise” condominium, on Gulf Shore Blvd.; the Wilderness Country Club and Golf Course, land lease apartments, on Goodlette Road.

Besides developing, Earl loved banking. He chaired numerous banks in the area and went through a variety of successful mergers.

According to J. Ernie Carroll, Executive Officer of the Board, “Under Earl's term as president he contributed substantially to the business organization of the Board and brought progressive thought to the organization, not the least of which was an ability to delegate responsibilities and authority to get things done.”

On April 18, 1969 fifteen offices of the Naples MLS connected to Realtron our first 'phone in a cradle' computerized MLS system but after a nine month trial the service was abandoned due to static and malfunction of the telephone lines to the main frame of the computer located in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Earl was successful in formalizing an Associates Division of Board Membership with the approval of both NAR and FAR. (At this time in NAR history only brokers could use the term REALTOR.)

Earl encouraged the membership to look for land to build a REALTOR headquarters.

“He also started a project of several years duration in getting the Board of REALTORS and the Multiple Listing Service right: that is, in compliance with the rules and regulations of both NAR and IRS. It couldn't be accomplished in one year and a great deal of the work was left to Earl's successor, Ad Miller for the year 1970. Earl's business acumen moved the board forward, ready for the next decade.” per J. Ernie Carroll.

Earl assisted in getting the land donated for the NCH hospital on Immokalee Road as well as the land donated by Les Whitaker, for Youth Haven on Whitaker Road.

According to Earle Frye in conversation with Mike Hughes in 2019, “Downing-Frye Associates, Inc. was on Fifth Avenue, S. in the early days and then moved 'out in the sticks' to the Moorings area. They later sold that building and moved to 3411 Tamiami Trail where the Frye family has worked for over

thirty years”.

Earl was inducted into the prestigious NABOR Hall of Fame in 2009.

According to Mike Hughes, "Earl was truly an early real estate pioneer in the Naples area. It was said, 'If Earl Frye gave you his word, you didn't need anything in writing.' "

2015 NABOR President, Mike Hughes, credited Earl and Earl's son, David, with getting him started in real estate (industry) back in the 1980's.