



1973 Thomas E. McBride served as President. He had served on many Board Committees prior to his presidency of the Naples on-the-Gulf Board of REALTORS.

During 1973, all local Boards and State Associations were furnished detailed information regarding the newly approved Associate membership in the National Association of REALTORS (note: name change from NAREB) that had been approved by more than seventy-five percent of the local Boards of REALTORS at the national convention in Hawaii in November 1972. In 1973 one requirement was that all state associations and local Boards amend their by-laws, where necessary, to comply with the program by the date it was to become effective, January 1, 1974.

The program did not provide for an Associates Division, but rather for Associates to become members of the National Association and to serve on its committees and board of directors. In accordance with the by-law changes, the Associates Division of FAR ceased to exist on December 31, 1973.

President McBride made the necessary changes together with J. Ernie Carroll, Chairman of the Associates Committee, and the new executive vice president of the Naples-on-the-Gulf Board of REALTORS, Carter E. Bryan.(J.E. Carroll went to work for John R. Wood and Associates and Carter E. Bryan left his post as an English Literature teacher at Naples High School to join the Board.). Thus, the twenty page document of By Laws of the Naples-on-the-Gulf Board of REALTORS was revised in September 1973.

President McBride appointed a committee to, “Get the Board Building built! No more talk! Let's do it!”

This was the year of heated debates in the community regarding an I-75 new route along Alligator Alley and Growth versus No Growth advocates. Tom spent many hours at the courthouse working to defeat the proposed density restrictions. At his installation, Tom had stated, “If Naples tries to exist with the attitude of, 'I've got my toe in paradise and everyone else can go somewhere else.' Naples will deteriorate and die. When anything ceases to grow, it dies.”

Tom continued to work hard for the Board before and after his presidency. He was an advocate of extending the new-member Orientation classes to two and a half days with emphasis placed on ethics.

Despite high interest rates and tight money, sales for 1973, as reported by, Carter E. Bryan, the new executive vice president, “The Board shows \$53.5 million in closed land sales, for an unusually good year for land sales.”

On a more personal note, Tom and his wife, Betty, played Santa Claus in their home to many a foster child throughout the years.

In August 1973 the Naples area first McDonald's fast food restaurant opened in the Gulf Gate Plaza on U.S. 41 East.