



## CELEBRATING 100 YEARS...



**George Smith**  
CBR President 1993

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY 100 Years of Activities

Happy Birthday – and it’s so good to know that someone or some thing is older than I am. The CBR staff suggested our 100th anniversary be commemorated by asking various Past Presidents to share their thoughts regarding their year, along with memories of years past.



*George Smith and Myrna Kobre at the 1993 President's Ball.*

When asked about my thoughts, I went back to the day in 1950 (or maybe '51) when I walked into the Columbus Real Estate Board (before the name change) which was then located on the 10th floor of the Buckeye Building at 42 E. Gay Street.



*1993 CBR President George Smith accepting a ceremonial shovel at the groundbreaking for Board headquarters on Airport Drive, from Jack Ruscilli, whose company served as general contractor on the project.*

The office consisted of three crowded rooms and the Board secretary (no titles back then) was a lady named Lenore P. Hansen. As a secretary/receptionist and a bookkeeper, Ms. Hansen administered the affairs of the Board and appeared to be quite good at it. Sometime thereafter a young man named Dwight Swepston succeeded Ms. Hansen and stayed until he moved on to a family business.

Everybody’s friend, Larry Chambers followed Dwight into what he thought would be a part time job – and he stayed with the Board for many years. Larry brought the organization along quite well

during a membership growth period and instituted many programs still in effect today.

C. Dale Cook succeeded Larry for a short period of time and another man – who graduated from that state up north – Ken Sampson – succeeded Dale and was very successful during his years of administration. I assure you efforts were made to get all of Kenny’s maize and blue sweaters and neckties, but we weren’t very successful. However the Board continued our growth and success because of – or in spite of – Ken’s educational background.

After Kenny retired, Brad Johnson joined our Board and proved to be an able administrator. When a large developer offered Brad a position he couldn't refuse, his departure created a vacancy and Larry Metzger, who I believe is one of the very best administrators in the U. S. joined our Board as the CEO. Without a doubt, Larry and AEO Stan Collins have molded our board into one of the most successful trade organizations within our national association. Not enough can be said about Larry and his staff.

The results speak for themselves.

In reflection, our past executive officers collectively made our Board what it is today—

But, it's obvious they didn't do it by themselves!

Over the past 100 years they've had the help of hundreds of committee chairs and thousands of members – who, with their individual expertise, ethics and commitment to getting the job done, were the “oil” that made the “machine” run.

I wish I could be given the space to mention the many individuals who have contributed their time, money and efforts to our success. But, if I mentioned any one of our outstanding men and women, I would have to include hundreds more...so I again wish to thank all of you who have so generously contributed to the success of our Board.

As for 1993, my year as President, my proudest moment was putting a shovel into some very hard dirt where our membership headquarters now stands. With the help of Pat Grabill, Charlotte VanSteyn and many others, our current headquarters was designed, built and occupied in what has become a prime location in central Ohio. And thanks to the many who had the faith to invest their money, and the good management on the part of our current executive staff, it's paid for!

I will defer to others, perhaps on our 150th anniversary, to judge our many

other activities during my year as President. I assure you it was personally rewarding.

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!



*George Smith and CEO Larry Metzger are greeted by the “King” himself, as Elvis entertained the crowd at an RPAC Auction.*



*George Smith speaks about his fictional magazine cover at the 1995 RPAC Auction.*



*(left to right) David Cheses, who donated the land for the new building; Bob Weiler; George Smith; Bill McMenemy, and Pat Grabill at the 1993 groundbreaking for new Board headquarters, 2700 Airport Drive.*