



## CELEBRATING 100 YEARS...



**Rupert "Twink" Starr**  
CBR President 1973

The year was 1973, and I had been sworn in as president of the Columbus Board of REALTORS®. Our Board was known as one of the best in the USA! I was honored, humbled, scared and told by a dear friend, that as a single man I would never make it to President. But I did. WOW!

Yes, we had a good year. We had a good start from the planning and talents of those before us. My officers were Tom Caito, President-Elect; Larry Horn, Vice President; Robert Weiler, Secretary-Treasurer; and E. Dean Potts, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer. It was Ken Sampson's first full year as CBR's Executive Vice President and Jim Owen was our Immediate Past President.



The CBR staff included Brad Johnson and Gail Mitchell, Board Services, Jan Gunderson, Membership, Stan Collins and Kathy Montag, Bookkeeping/Accounting; Mike Gautier and Jean Lammen, MLS;

Gerry Hawkes and Shari Walters, Realtron; and Pat Halverson, Executive Secretary.

For the Ohio Association of Real Estate Boards (OAREB, now OAR), Everett Brown served as President of the Associates Division; Don Kelley, President of the Ohio Chapter AIREA; Ken Sampson, Chairman, Executive Officers Committee; Jim Owen, Chairman, Membership Services; Larry Horn, Chairman, Education; and Donald Casey Hambleton, Chairman, Scholarship.

### Goals

Our agenda for the year centered around three specific goals:

- Represent all of the diverse members; increase their membership and participation
- Give members more for their money; better services and better meetings
- Work with city and state agencies to better represent homeowners

It was also time for women to take their place in leadership roles and to one day begin serving as president. I appointed Myrna Kobre (East Area Association President) to the high profile leadership position of Membership Chair. Her abilities and leadership skill led to her becoming president in 1979. Women were up front now and taking on leadership roles. Margie Coyle (Holzer) became president in 1988. Many women were to follow and do much of the business — exactly as some of the old timers feared.

### Legal Issues

Brad Salt, who was president in 1971, warned us of looming legal challenges: price fixing by fee schedules, independent contractor status, city landlord-tenant bill; blockbusting and steering, which had

become illegal with the 1968 Fair Housing Act. Both Toledo and Cleveland boards were sued by the Justice Department for violations of the Act. We did the right thing and no suit. The National Association of Real Estate Boards (NAREB now NAR) President J.D. Sawyer was fighting the government over rent controls. In Ohio the age of authority was lowered making it possible for 18 year olds to sign real estate contracts legally. Our legal council at the time, Searles Morton, retired and Norm Smith of Porter Wright became our attorney.

### EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

#### Forecast Night '73

"What will be in '73" was the theme of our January dinner meeting, which featured a panel of speakers including Oscar Thomas, Sr., Dick Benjamin, George Eckleberry and Marvin Yerke. Harley Rouda moderated the program and our promotion for this meeting was "Pay \$6 just to hear Marvin Yerke. Consider the balance as a bonus". A typical, clever and humorous remark by George Smith, our Columbus REALTOR® editor.



*Luau 1973. If you can identify the people in this photo with Twink Starr, please call Marqué Bressler at 614-475-4000 x236.*

#### Saturday Night Luau

This April event brought back so many wonderful memories for those who had traveled

in 1971 to the National Convention in Hawaii, that 120 of the 187 who made the Hawaiian trip, unpacked their aloha shirts, mumus, and, along with a stuffed Gorilla, sang Tiny Bubbles and danced the evening away to Bob Ebright's ukulele (Bob's wife Nancy, chaired this event).



### Speaker Norman Vincent Peale draws sell-out crowd

"Give members more for their Money." And, boy did we. At great expense, we brought in Norman Vincent Peale as our keynote speaker for the REALTOR® of the Year Presentation, where Oscar Thomas, Sr., was our celebrated honoree. That year, the Selection Committee comprised Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice C. William O'Neill, Judge George Marshall, Mayor Tom Moody, and CBR's 1970 and 1972 presidents John Hill and Jim Owen, respectively. Senator John Bricker gave the invocation. This event was a sell out (600 people). Peale's presentation on "The Power of Positive Thinking" played well to our largest audience to-date and received a standing ovation from all in attendance.

### Board Lot Sold

A lot we purchased in 1964 on East Broad Street as a possible site for our board building was sold in 1973 by super Saleslady Martha Knepper (Richard Higgins). In our great wisdom, we purchased the lot for \$86,000, and sold it for \$59,000. Thanks Martha. The loss reduced the Board's profit for the year 50 percent. Martha kindly accepted an engraved plaque and her 1973 dues were paid in full. (A commission also!).

### REALTOR® "R" Logo Introduced

We received early a free car bumper sticker, a 6" window decal and a large window poster of the new REALTOR® "R" logo. Lapel pins were in short supply. The new logo became effective January 1, 1974.

### REPEC (now RPAC)

To counteract restrictive ordinances against

our industry, Ed Leppert, Chairman of the Real Estate Political Education Committee (REPEC), encouraged all REALTORS® to give \$99 to REPAC and for associates to give \$25. The total amount raised in '73 was \$7,000. Jim Owen and Harley Rouda became our two Life Members, each giving \$1,000.



*Pictured from l to r are Bob Schritzing, CBR's Assistant Executive Officer Brad Johnson and Twink Starr.*



*Pictured from l to r are Joe McKinnon, Twink Starr, Mike Griffith and Cam Taylor at Sales Associates Day.*

### Largest Sales Associates Day held at the time

At Sales Associates Day, Leo Nachtrab (Metzger Brothers) was awarded the 1973 Associate of the Year award. Joe MacKinnon (Larry Wade), who was the 1972 honoree and chairman of the event, presented the award. Sales Associates Day drew 550 people, which at the time was the largest associates day ever held, and featured seminars with two nationally known inspirational speakers.

### "What will be in '73": A great MLS Service

MLS Committee Chairman Cam Taylor touted the creation of the new photo guide magazine featuring properties for sale. Over 30,000 copies were distributed at 110 drop-off locations. Back then, a 1/2-page ad in the guide sold for \$9. Our sales figures in 1972 were \$10 million, and \$17 million in 1973.



*Pictured here with Twink are Senator & Mrs. Bricker and John & Dorothy Galbreath.*

### First Citizen of the Year Award

Dick Royer chaired our Annual Business Meeting and, after conducting business and listening to music by Scarlet and Gray Cornerstone, CBR's 1939 President John W. Galbreath introduced Senator John W. Bricker as the Board's first Outstanding Citizen of the Year honoree. In his remarks, the Senator said "He might want to make a few changes in his past life, but there are two things he would never change: 1) His friendships and 2) Columbus being his home forever. The town of Mt Sterling, population 1,200, was noted for three famous residents: Senator Bricker, John Galbreath and Twink Starr. And, as Twink's Mother would say, "Not necessarily in that order."

### President's Ball

A fitting end to the busy REALTOR® year was to celebrate with a Christmas gala, where sales leaders, staff, committee chairmen and officers were recognized. That evening we splurged bringing in a nationally known Orchestra, Sy Oliver, from the Rainbow Room in New York City and Tommy Dorsey fame.

In closing, CBR in '73 was a great year thanks to all of the members and staff, many not named here. I thank you again for the honor and opportunity you gave me to be your president, which was most fulfilling and rewarding. I encourage all of you to be active in our wonderful Columbus Board of REALTORS®.

I may not be the richest, I may not be the smartest, but I am what I am and I'm happy. I am happy to have had a good and long life (I'm 86 years old of which 53 where spent with my life partner), and in having made so many great and wonderful friends. Many of the best were and are REALTORS®.