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The more things change...

The Frenchman, Jean-Baptiste Alphonse Karr, is credited with coining the phrase “the more things change, the more they stay the same.” That was back in 1849. Rock music fans may have danced to Bon Jovi’s rendition recorded in 2010, *“The more things change the more they stay the same, the same sunrise, it's just another day. If you hang in long enough they say you're comin' back, just take a look, we're living proof and baby that's a fact...”*

I recently attended the fall conference of the Utah League of Cities and Towns held in Salt Lake City where there were several sessions and discussions about “change.” One of the “hot topics” of the conference was the current housing shortage being experienced here in Utah and the on-going discussions and debates over housing density and housing affordability. One presenter stated that we are not just experiencing a population increase, but also cultural changes. “We are not just growing; we are changing” the presenter repeated multiple times.

I was recently going through some old boxes from storage and found an item that I had packed in a sheet of newspaper, Deseret News, dated July 8, 1980. I was interested to see what had changed in the past 38 years. I saw there was an advertisement from a local business systems company offering a sale on items such as portable electric typewriters, Victor calculators, and Record-a-call answering machines. The newspaper listed telephone numbers to call for information, news tips, sports scores, and classified ads, long before there was a website or app that put everything at our fingertips. Technology has unquestionably changed in many ways and continues to do so.



As I scanned the headlines of this single sheet of newspaper, what caught my interest was not so much what has changed since 1980, but I was intrigued by what has stayed the same. One headline in the opinion section declared “*U.S. needs a new trade policy*” and another, “*Party platforms: puffs of hot air.*” A reader had written in to the forum to voice her offense to the language in a production at the Capitol Theatre. Immediately above an article about a series of seismic activity at Mount Saint Helens was an article about the extreme weather “*Heat spreads – toll reaches 200*” citing a heat wave in Texas, Tennessee, Arkansas, and several other states. The Chicago airport recorded its first ever 100-plus temperature. There were also violent thunderstorms and high winds in Michigan, damaging winds and hail in Mississippi, and 64 mph winds in New Orleans. Also catching my attention was the headline “*Greenspan proposes new curb on spending*” quoting Ronald Reagan’s new top advisor on the federal budget, Alan Greenspan, saying “despite the Senate’s rejection of the Republicans’ \$36.1 billion tax cut plan, a significant tax reduction is still needed to restore vitality to the economy.” The more things change, the more they stay the same.

As we look to the future in Murray City, it is certain that things will change, and not everyone will agree on what change is good for the city and what is not. Demographics are changing. We need to embrace change while endeavoring to maintain a quality of life that we enjoy and a city we can be proud of. What I hope will not change is our spirit of community as we move forward in addressing the challenges and opportunities of the future.