

Music Music Music

John Murphy

My lifelong love of music is well documented in previously-published stories. My passion for music was furthered by playing in the Maysville R1 band for eight years, and enjoying listening to several kinds of music on the radio during my teenage years.

Enjoying good music is a lifelong habit that continues to be very enjoyable to me. I started by listening to an AM radio. Then I discovered FM radio! I thought FM was quite an improvement. As I got older, I was able to buy a few records and a record player. I enjoyed listening to records, and I could listen to the style of music whenever and wherever I desired. I enjoyed immensely being able to listen to records where the artist and type of music could be selected and played at will. This went on for years, adding my favorite records to the collection, until my library included over 600 records that were available to be played. I just knew that I had everything I ever needed for listening to music for years.

Then our kids started to tell me how far behind I was and that we needed to look at CDs, as they were so much better! All the while they were reminding me how far behind my records were and that technology had improved so much we needed to modernize and get with the program. Then our music selection changed dramatically again.

I said I enjoyed many styles of music but this teenage “music?” It sort of reminds me of years ago when Dad would hear Elvis come on the TV and would tell us to change the channel, because that guy wasn’t fit to watch. I do not know what he would think if he saw the performers and heard some of the music of today. Actually, maybe I do know!

Many CDs were purchased by our boys, and I don’t know how many speakers--the bigger, the better--along with amplifiers and all kinds of stereo equipment. How could I forget the lighting equipment and all the accessories! Our neighbors were tolerant, because the sound was deafening. The boys had a DJ service for quite some time, playing for dances and several different activities.

After the DJ service and back to “normal” music with my CDs, I again thought we were as modern as we could be and set for life, with numerous good CDs and an extensive collection of audio tapes in my collection. My old car even has a CD player and an audio tape player as well!

Then a **crisis** appeared! I read that Best Buy is phasing out CDs, and other retailers are expected to follow as well. My prized CD collection is now like me--antique! My extensive audio tape collection was already phased out 40 years ago. Oh well, the story of my life-- 25 to 40 years behind the times!

I think I will take my stack of CDs and pile them beside the stack of unused vinyl records. Come to think about it, I might as well stack one of my most-prized possessions, the collection of audio tapes beside the records and CDs and go back to listening to the transistor radio! I have one that still works!