Buried treasure

WGN’s record trove finds a new home.

By John Dugan

“Grew up thinking WGN was a very boring station. I’d never want to listen to them in my life,” says Dusty Groove proprietor Rick Wojcik. Wojcik preferred Steve Dahl’s gamely record of WGN talk radio staple Wally Phillips, “Oh Wally. But isn’t it true what they say about WGN? It’s a holler—perhaps, yes. I bet we’ll hear a lot more from him now.”

But there’s more to WGN than Wojcik ever gave it credit for.

WGN Radio sits on one of the region’s best preserved and most sprawling collections of vinyl records for three decades—right in the heart of Chicago. “There was this crate-digger’s dream that was right there on Michigan Avenue,” says Wojcik, who typically buys records from garage sales and collections as well as radio stations. The records, remarkably, weren’t stored at some forgotten water-damaged warehouse; they were in giant, Eighth Floor}

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