

WLS Hit Parade Music Surveys Series: The Seventies 1970-1979 from the Rich Gardner Archives

WLS Hit Parade Music Surveys Series: The Seventies 1970-1979. Immerse yourself in the golden age of Chicago radio with this meticulously curated three-volume series, presenting full-size facsimile reproductions of WLS Musicradio surveys from the pivotal 1970s.

Not just lists of songs and albums; they are vibrant snapshots of a transformative era in music and culture, offering a week-by-week chronicle of Chicago's evolving sonic landscape. Trace the dynamic shifts in popular genres, from the infectious energy of the British Invasion and the soulful sounds of Motown to the burgeoning rock scene and the early whispers of disco. Witness the ascent of legendary artists whose music defined a generation, all reflected through the lens of Chicago's most influential radio station. Discover the personalities behind the voices that filled the airwaves – iconic DJs like the irreverent Larry Lujack and the knowledgeable John "Records" Landecker – and understand how their on-air presence and carefully curated playlists shaped the city's musical identity. Witness the evolution of the "Silver Dollar Survey" into the "WLS Hit Parade."

Uncover the rich tapestry of Chicago's local music scene, influenced by national trends yet possessing its distinct flavor. Learn about the key factors that propelled Chicago bands to success, including the support of local radio and the vibrant network of local venues. These surveys provide a tangible link to a time when radio held immense power, and physical records were the primary means of music consumption. This series is an invaluable historical resource, offering a nostalgic journey back to a vibrant musical past and illuminating the enduring legacy of WLS on the Chicago cultural landscape.

About the author



Rich Gardner is a passionate music enthusiast who has been deeply connected to radio and music since the 1960s. His love for music began in childhood when he listened to WLS-AM 890 and WCFL, often accompanying his father in the family car. This early exposure sparked a lifelong hobby of collecting phonographs, records, music surveys, and memorabilia. Rich

actively pursued his passion by collecting WLS Surveys from the 1970s through the 1980s, compiling his own lists from countdown shows, and placing ads in the Chicago Reader during the 1980s to locate older surveys. He went to great lengths to preserve and recreate missing surveys using modern technology, demonstrating his dedication to documenting and sharing the history of Chicago radio and music for others to enjoy.



Also in the archives:

WLS / Z-95 Music Surveys Series: The Eighties 1980-1990 – Vol 1-3 WLS Silver Dollar Surveys Series: The Sixties 1960-1969 – Vol 7-9



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WLS Music Surveys Vol 4, 1976-1979



WLS Music Survey Vol 5, 1973-1975



WLS Music Surveys Vol 6, 1970-1972



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