

## Artifact of the Week:

### Atwater Kent Model 812

**M**ost 1930s console radios were attractive pieces of fine wood furniture. Circa 1930, “highboy” style consoles with tall legs were popular. Then “lowboy” cabinets with shorter legs reigned for a few years. By the mid to late 1930s, nearly all consoles had no legs, with the wood front extending down to the floor.

This 1932 Atwater Kent 812 is a good example of a lowboy design. It is a high-end, twelve-tube model. That extra performance would likely have come at a high price. The quality cabinet also had sliding doors that can be closed when the radio is not in use. The vertical slit portion of the escutcheon just below the dial housed a “Tune-A-Light”, (sometimes written as “Tune-A-Lite”), a long slender neon bulb tuning indicator that was a predecessor to the green “Magic-eye” tubes used in later 1930s radios. The height of the Tune-A-Light’s bright glowing column varied as a station came in tune.

We appreciate your support of the museum so that historical artifacts like this one, and the stories that go with them, can be preserved for future generations. THANKS!

