



Artifact Showcase:

1941 GE L-513

This five-tube AC/DC General Electric radio is typical of modest table models of its era. What is somewhat unusual is that the right side of the dial is labeled "Police." At the time, police departments generally used AM communications between headquarters and police cars, and most police transmitters operated at frequencies just above the regular AM broadcast band.



For radios of this era that featured shortwave bands, often the lower frequency shortwave band might extend from 1500 kilohertz to perhaps 5 Megahertz, which would have provided access to all police radio systems. That lower frequency band was often labeled the "Police Band." To keep the cost down, this radio's broadcast band was extended to 1700 kHz, which would have provided police calls *only* if your local police department's transmitter was in the narrow frequency range between 1500 and 1700 kHz. A buyer might have been quite disappointed to find that the new radio could not receive police calls from his or her local police department.

Today police radio operates at much higher frequencies.

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!