



Artifact Showcase:

Philco 50-T-1479

Philadelphia-based Philco was the number-one manufacturer of radios during much of the 1930s. The company had been experimenting with television during the 1930s, and after WW II, began offering TV sets like this 1950 model. At the time it was common for companies to offer consoles containing a television set, a radio, and a phonograph. The more expensive cabinets often had doors that could be closed when the unit was not being used, thereby making for an attractive item of living room furniture.



These sets were bulky and very heavy, so when one stopped working, a family would have to call a service technician to make a house call. The serviceman (and it those days it was almost always a man) would appear with a suitcase-like tube caddy full of replacement tubes, and a tool box, and strive to get the set working. Most of the time the problem was a defective vacuum tube. If the problem were something more complicated, such as a burned out power transformer, the technician would have to remove the chassis and take it back to the shop. Many service shops would offer the loan of a small portable TV for the customer to use until their set was restored to working condition.

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!