

Use of Staggered License Plate System Saves \$100,000 Yearly

Salem—(U.P.)—Use of the staggered license plate system in Oregon has resulted in saving \$100,000 a year in license plate costs, Secretary of State Earl T. Newbry said yesterday.

License plates for the 1949-51 biennium cost the state \$379,632.62. And despite increased cost for plates and a big increase in the registration of motor vehicles in Oregon, the plate cost for the 1951-53 biennium was \$188,066.66, or a saving of \$191,565.96 for the two year period.

The five-year license plate, issued on a staggered or monthly basis, was authorized by the 1949 Legislature at Newbry's request.

Under Oregon's new plan, motor vehicle plates will be issued every five years, with new plates scheduled for issuance in 1955. In the between-years, a small metal tag is issued validating the year.

Records of the department show that during the five-year period 1947-52 Oregon had its greatest growth in motor vehicles.

Assistant Secretary of State William E. Healy, who prepared the report, said at the end of 1947 there were 535,000 motor vehicles in Oregon. By the end of 1952 the number had increased to nearly 750,000.

The actual increase in the number of motor vehicles in Oregon since 1947 is 47 per cent. License revenues have gone up from about \$6,000,000 a year to nearly \$12,000,000, or an increase of 98 per cent, Healy said.

In the same period, receipts from the gasoline tax have increased by 44 per cent, from \$23,000,000 to some \$34,000,000 a year.

Healy said refunds of gas tax for non-highway use presented a rather remarkable aspect. These funds in 1947 totaled some \$3,000,000. Despite the large increase in use of gasoline and a one-cent increase in the tax, refunds in 1952 did not reach \$3,500,000.

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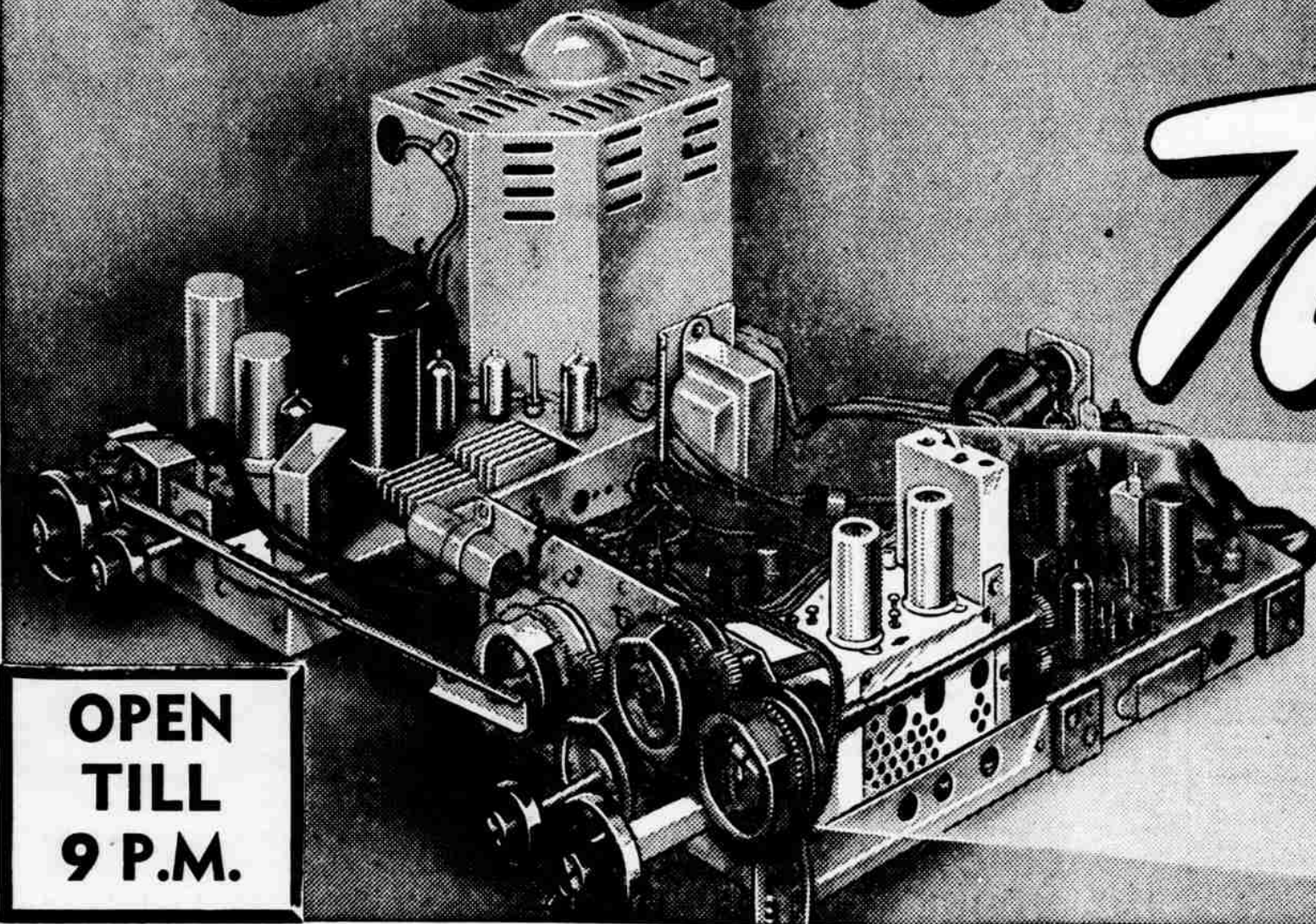
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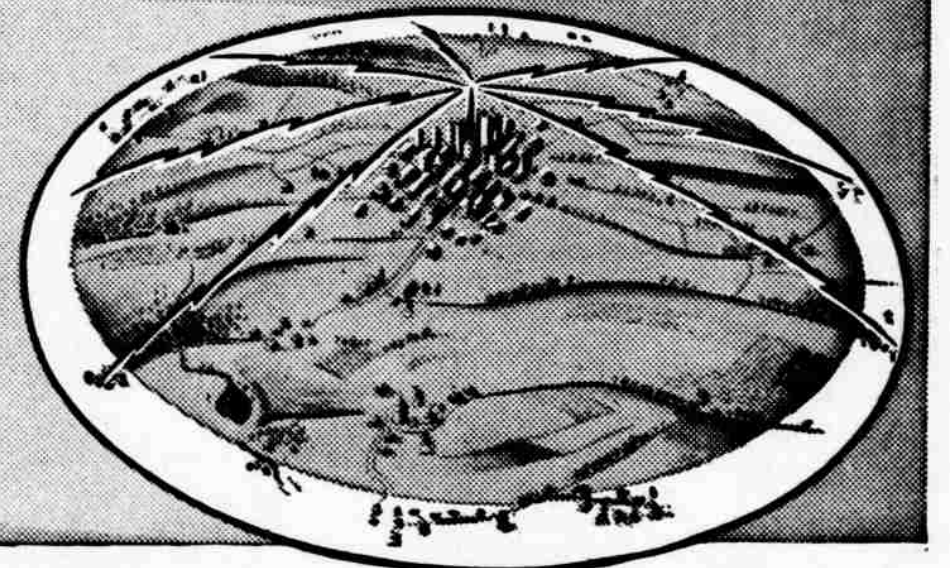
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