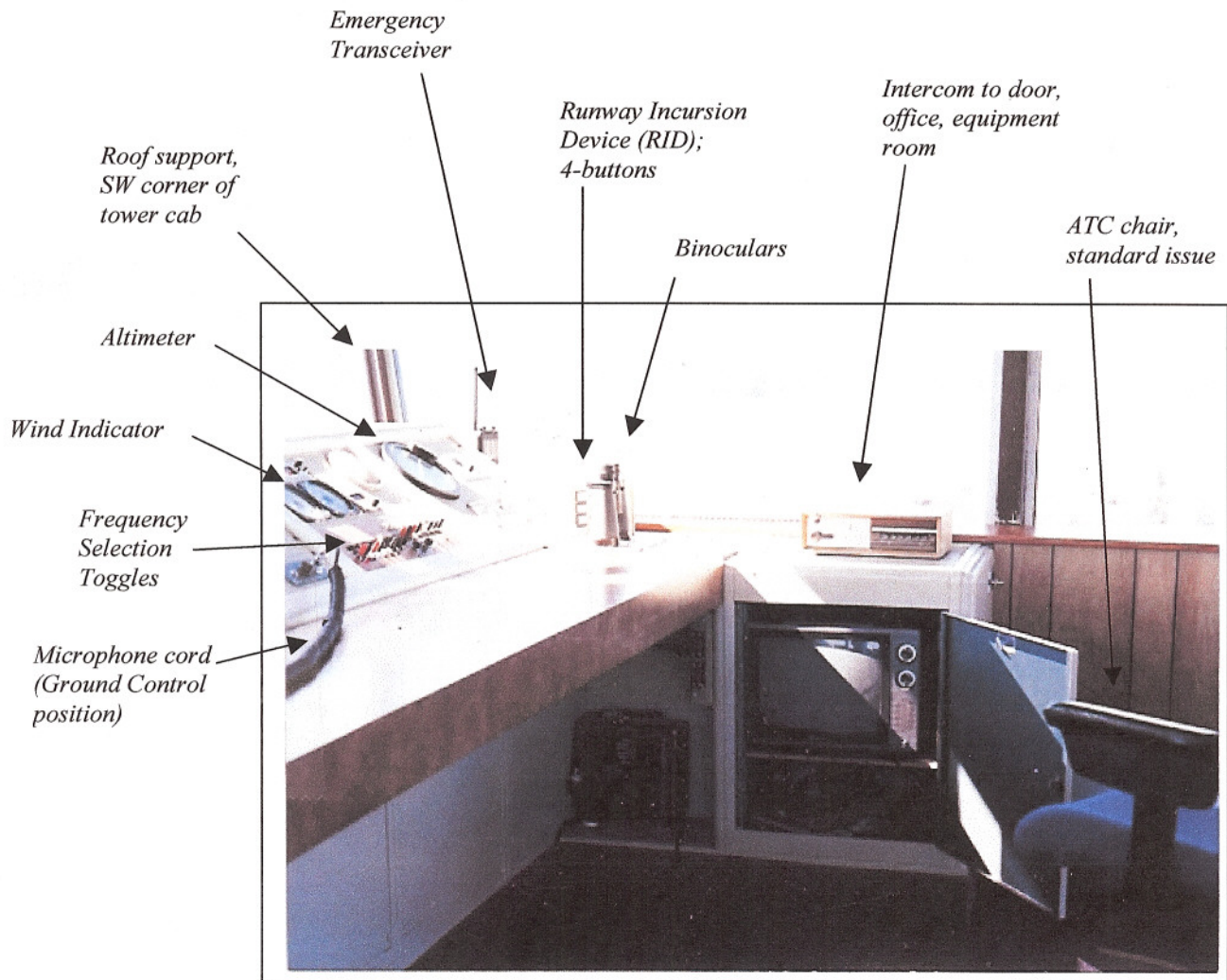


Television in cabinet, at Troutdale FAA Control Tower (Troutdale, Oregon)



View, looking West, inside the tower cab at TTD ATCT. Picture shot Summer 1989, after the near-midair collision at PDX attributable to a TTD controller distracted while watching the NCAA basketball playoffs on this TV.

The TV was purchased collectively by the tower controllers, then installed into the cabinet, with internal antenna and power connections. Prior to the use of this cabinet, the TV was stored downstairs, and brought upstairs for viewing, generally only during slow traffic periods. Troutdale was an extremely slow tower, yet was vastly overstaffed in the late 1980's to enhance statistics that FAA needed to present to Congress each year. Essentially, after the Controller Strike of 1981, there was great pressure to rebuild the numbers of "full performance level" or "FPL" controllers, to show Congress that FAA's mission was not compromised by the Reagan firing of thousands of controllers. The number of FPL's, and the percentage of controllers fully certified, became the prevailing metrics used each year during Congressional budget proceedings. Thus, FAA had an incentive to build and maintain staffing levels with large numbers of under-worked but certified controllers at their slowest and least complex towers.