

Museum showcases early TVs

Groups can visit — or revisit — the television sets of the past at the newly opened Early Television Museum in downtown Hilliard, Ohio, just outside of Columbus.

Steve McVoy, owner of one of the world's largest collections of rare televisions, is sharing his interest with the public at the museum. McVoy, who worked in a TV repair shop as a boy, founded the Early Television Foundation two years ago. The foundation is dedicated to the preservation and restoration of television receiving equipment and camera equipment from the early days of television.

The museum's collection is divided into

seven major areas: mechanical TV from the 1920s and 1930s; electronic TV from before 1946; American sets from 1946 to 1950; British sets from 1946 to 1950; European sets from 1949 to 1952; early color TV from 1954 to 1955; and early television cameras. Of the approximately 100 sets in the museum, about half are operational.

Spotlights illuminate each set, and many posters describe the history and technology of the sets. The decor of the rooms match the era of the television sets displayed.

Also featured is a 60-line flying spot scanner TV camera. Visitors can see their friends as they would have appeared on



Postwar TVs at the Early Television Museum

mechanical television in 1930.

The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, from noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday, and during the week by appointment.



The 1938 DuMont was the first electronic TV set sold to the public



The 1949 Emerson 608 has a 16-inch screen. The picture tube tilts into the cabinet when not in use.

On the weekends, an attendant can take groups through the museum and answer questions. McVoy can provide tours to groups at other times, but those tours must be scheduled in advance. Because of the explanatory posters, many people tour the museum without a guide.

There is no admission charge, but donations are welcomed. •

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