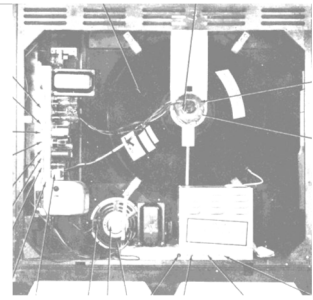
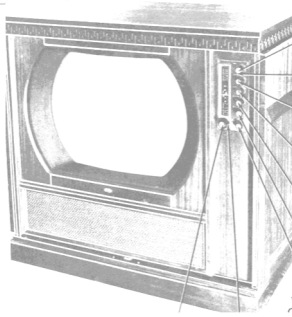


May 2026

Volume 3 Number 6



WHAT'S NEW IN OLD TVS

The Newsletter of the Early Television Foundation

Greetings Early Television Fans,

This is Volume 3, Number 6 of the Early Television Foundation Newsletter. **The next Zoom meeting is on June 27 at 8 PM . Newcomers Always Welcome**

This month, Steve McVoy tells us that the convention and the auction sales, including the proceeds from the sets donated by John Folsom's estate have given the Museum's budget a substantial boost. There were 126 attendees at the convention and many became members. He was also happy to say that there was a good mix of enthusiastic and younger first time attendees. That's always good news. Steve also reported results from the convention survey. He found two primary complaints. First was the cold weather. As I've always said if Ohio didn't have bad weather, it wouldn't have any weather.

The second was the lack of food at the dinner with no apology from the restaurant. Time to bag the "old bag of nails". Remember, this years sweepstakes prize will be the rare 21" RCA 21CT55. You can get your tickets now !!

We want to hear from you !

Newsletter@earlytelevision.org

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ETF Board of Directors

Dave Abramson
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In This Issue:

The new sweepstakes prize the RCA 21-CT-55 21" color

Mystery Picture answer and a New Picture

**My Favorite TV:
Co-editor Robert Ring remembers his favorite TV was in black and white**

**Join or Renew
your Membership**

**Many
2025 members
need to renew**

We are always looking for:

- **Letters** from members
- **Tech Tips** from service experiences
- **My first TV** (family stories?)
- **My favorite TV** (and why)
- **Stories** of working in the business.
- **Articles** that can be added in whole or in parts.

This Year's Sweepstakes Grand Prize
The RCA 21-CT-55

21-inch RCA COLOR TV



You get all this with New RCA VICTOR 21-inch COLOR TV

Now you can enjoy the world of TV entertainment as never before! Exciting new RCA Victor 21-inch Color Television brings you huge, life-size pictures of life-like beauty—in full natural color.

You'll see spectacular musicals . . . dramas . . . sports . . . history-making events . . . and a growing host of other color telecasts . . . see them all with breathtaking brilliance as real as life!

And through the magic of RCA Victor

Compatible Color Television, you'll also see black-and-white telecasts in black and white—with greater-than-ever detail and depth.

You get all this, plus tasteful Contemporary styling in a compact console cabinet finished in luxurious mahogany. In every way, new RCA Victor Color Television is your finest investment in home entertainment. See it yourself . . . and you'll agree!

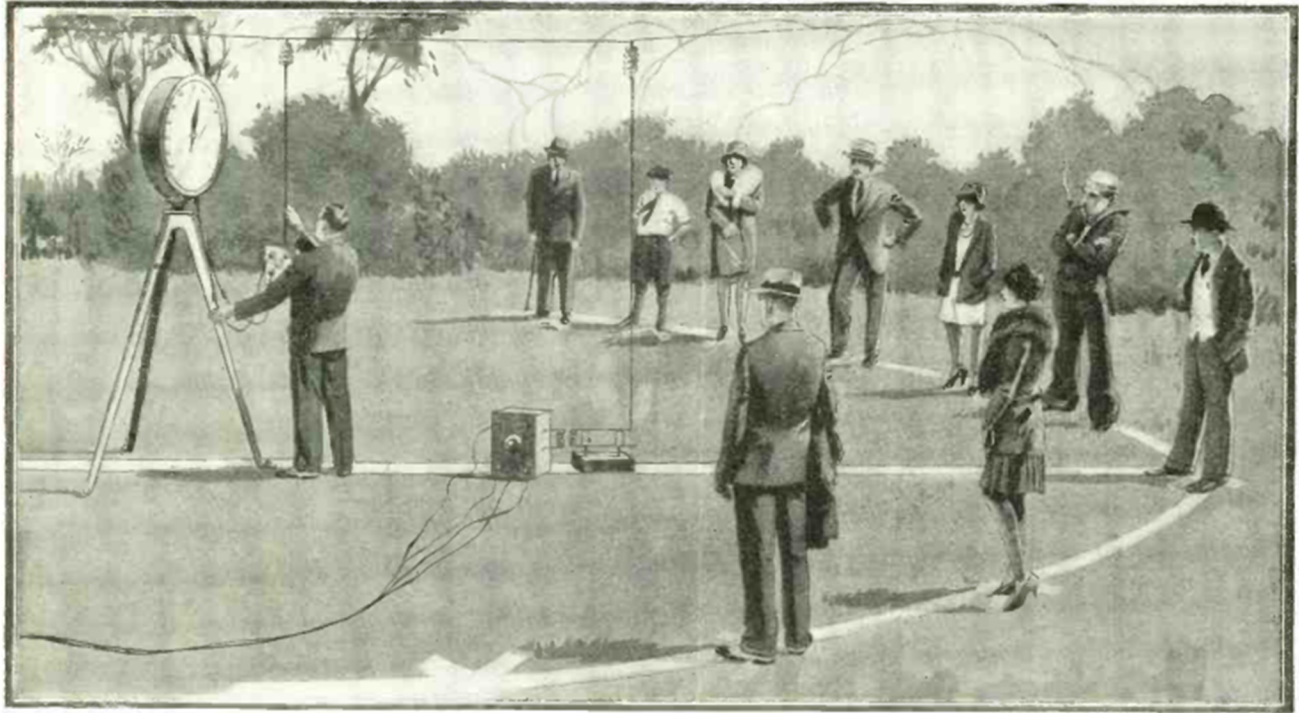
Presenting the NEW
RCA VICTOR
21-INCH **COLOR** TV

The RCA
21-CT-55
is not just
another
“Roundie”

This TV is a
RARE BIRD



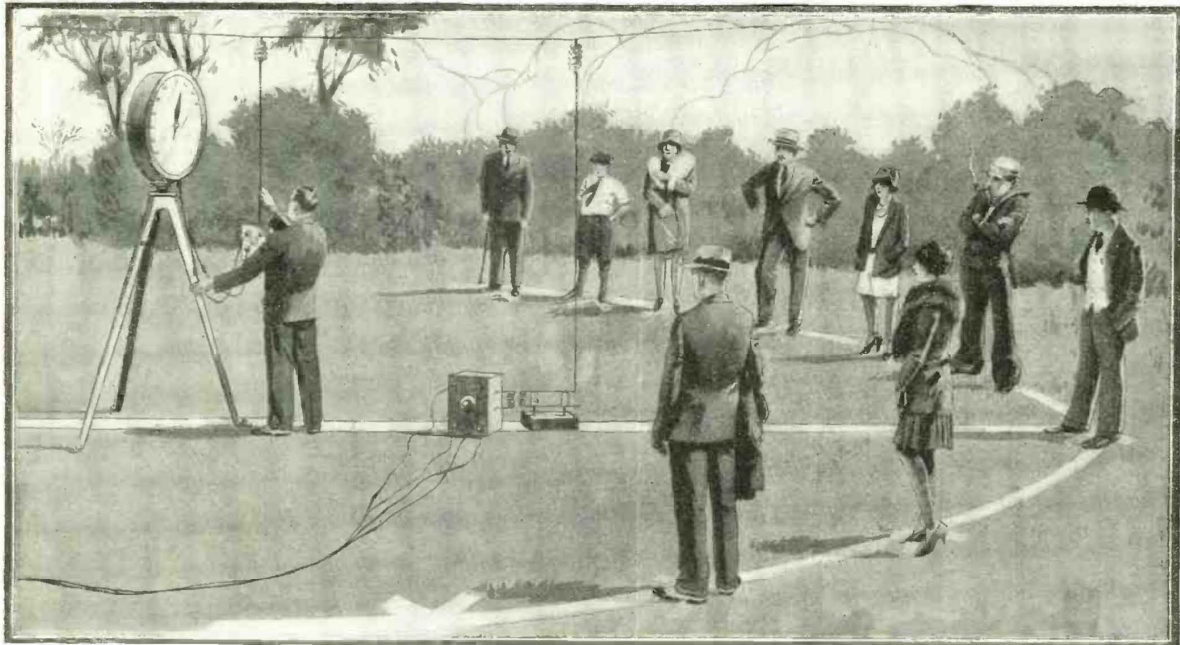
This model marked a transition from the 15 inch CT100 to the CTC 4 chassis. For that reason only 3000 were made and only about 30 survive.



Each individual who steps into the line increases the strength of the signal received on the receiving aerial alongside of the indicator, which, as a matter of fact, could be put much farther away. Each individual is a re-radiating aerial for the ultra-short waves.

Human Radio Reflectors, or Everyone His Own Aerial

Our thanks to James Hawes who sent last month's Mystery Photo. In 1929 these people lined up in a semi-circle for a scientific test. As the caption tells us they were acting as radio reflectors and careful measurements were taken on the large meter. I learned a long time ago that humans are great TV signal reflectors. All I had to do was walk around a TV running on rabbit ears or a small TV with a built in antenna and the tv would look crazy. Of course there could always be some wise guy sitting comfortably telling me to stand right there until the program is over. You can read more about this "important" experiment on the next page.



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Human Radio Reflectors, or Everyone His Own Aerial

Interesting Tests Give Remarkable Results on Short-Wave Transmissions

By A. Binneweg, Jr.

STUDENTS at the University of California have discovered that the human body acts as an efficient radio reflector. In actual tests, the approach of a human body toward a wire, suspended in space, has been made to actuate a powerful electric horn. Several persons standing around a three-meter transmitting aerial

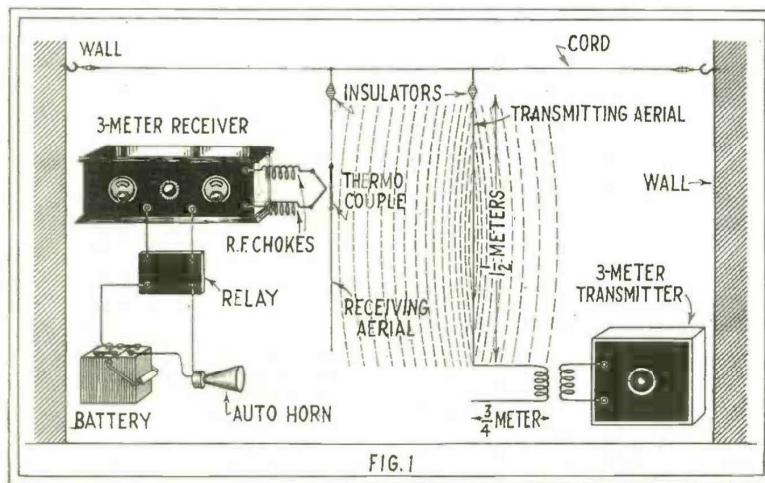
have served as a radio reflector to direct transmission in the opposite direction.

The effect is a mysterious one, since the spectators cannot see what takes place. One walks up to such a system of wires and hears the horn sound but cannot in any way feel the presence of the radio waves actually reflected from the body, nor see

any of the apparatus used, if it is placed behind a screen. At certain definite fractions of a wavelength from the antenna, the presence of a body causes the horn to sound and, if the adjustments are sufficiently sensitive, the device will operate while the approaching person is still at a considerable distance from the transmitting equipment. The experiment is an extremely novel one and, when performed before a group of visitors, always proves of exceptional interest.

It is well known that radio waves may be directed in a given direction by suitably arranging a system of wires around the transmitting aerial. At a wavelength of about three meters it has been found that these wires can be replaced by human bodies and the same effect will result. Some persons are better "reflectors" than others, when a definite wavelength is used; and each person has his own "natural frequency" at which reflection will be a maximum. In the future, who knows but that the police may classify criminals, not by their fingerprints alone (although perhaps these will also be used), but by their "natural frequencies"?

As the human body grows, its natural frequency decreases in value and thus a growing person "tunes" his body over a definite wavelength range. A baby has a much higher natural frequency (perhaps this explains the reason of those high-pitched "squeals") for given conditions, than an adult. This fact may prove of considerable value to the medical profession, as will be explained later.



In this case, a blank wall reflects the short waves and, at the right distance, will send them back in phase with the transmission. The thermocouple in the resonant aerial then generates a current amplified through the receiver.

This months photos aren't really a mystery as the photo shows the name of the company and their products. This photo and on the next page, look to be photos taken for advertising. I'm hoping someone can add some information about this company. The Chicago address makes me think it is from the early 1930's when there was a TV boom ti the Chicago area. Please pass on any info you may have. Thanks





NEW RCA VICTOR TELEVISION



LEAN, CLEAN
AND MIRROR-SHARP
black-and-white TV

PERFORMANCE-PROVED "LIVING COLOR" TV

RCA sales
brochure
circa 1957

The CTC 5 line of RCA Color Sets were being promoted in 1957 but the majority of TV sales were 21" black and white. And one of those sales went to our co-editor's home.

This month
Robert Ring
tells us about the
Langston, his
Favorite TV



THE LANGSTON *Super Model, 21T840 Series*
262 sq. in. viewable picture, 21-in. tube (overall diagonal).

New RCA Victor "glide-along" *Super* console offers room-to-room viewing. *Mirror-Sharp* picture, *Silverama* Aluminized Tube, Balanced Fidelity Sound, "One-Touch" Control. Styled in high-fashion Mahogany grained or Limed Oak grained finishes. Height, 33-11/32"; Width, 24-1/4"; Depth, 17".

My Favorite TV submitted by Robert Ring

I remember our first TV was a GE locomotive style. Small, but then again, so was I. It occupied a very central part in our living room sitting on a very stout table. Kids usually sat on the floor, in front of that small screen-10 inches, while my parents sat further back and probably saw very little. My parents were the first ones in their apartment building to own a TV, and neighbors would gather at their small apartment on Saturday nights to watch the boxing matches. That TV successfully made the move to suburbia and was attached to a stacked dipole antenna that frequently ate the paper kites that I would fly.

One day the picture went from a full screen to nothing. I called my mom, who was in the kitchen and of course, she wanted to know what I did to break the set. A few phone calls later, a man showed up with a large case filled with bright handled tools. I watched him remove the back cover and spend some time reaching into the back, removing what I now know were tubes. After about a half hour he pronounced his verdict: It needed to go to the shop for repairs. Can there be a worse thing when you are a kid? The TV came back a week later, but the picture just didn't seem as good as it used to be. I think, but I don't know for sure, that the set now have a picture tube booster, among other new parts. I guess my parents must have been talking because one Saturday evening, two burly looking guys arrived around 7:15. I know the time because Walt Disney was going to be on in 15 minutes and I was ready to watch. Regardless of how blurry the picture may have been. The burly guys gently moved the old set over to another corner and then disappeared back outside. At that point I had no idea what they were going to do next as my parents had never told me and my brother that they had purchased a new set. The same two guys, one tall and one shorter, came back in with that TV set that had a screen that easily looked to me to be truly gigantic.

They hooked up the antenna wire and then checked with my very picky mother about the exact location of this huge TV set. After several “nudges” my mother pronounced herself satisfied and the set was turned on with what I thought was a very loud and commanding click. Proudly it was announcing that it was “working.”



The screen flashed, probably the two installation guys said a silent prayer that it still worked, and there on that amazing-sized screen was the intro to Walt Disney’s show. There was a part in that intro where there was an animation of a volcano with lava flowing out of it. This time, on this new set, seeing that picture, I was astounded. Never in my short life had I ever seen so many different shades of gray! With sharpness and contrast that we didn’t know could actually exist.

I begged them not to change the channel but my mom wanted to be sure that all the channels came in- 2,4,5,7,9,11 and 13 (Hey, we were close to NY.) Finally, they came back to Disney and while my parents signed some papers and tipped the guys, my brother and I became part of the television screen. The picture was just that good! Color TV didn’t come to our until much later. It just wasn’t that important to my father.

Don’t you have a favorite TV that brings back many great memories? Then just send your story to

newsletter@earlytelevision.org