

WORKINGTON'S SLICE OF TV HISTORY

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A Workington woman is donating one of the first televisions to be built in the world to the National Media Museum in Bradford.

Joan Crellin, 82, inherited the television which was built in 1929 by her father's brother Harold Dunn, of Roper Street, after Mr Dunn's son Eric had nowhere to keep it and sister Valerie, who lived on Westfield Drive, died.

Mrs Crellin, of Infirmary Road, decided to donate the television, which she has had for 11 years, to the museum in Bradford where it will be permanently displayed.

She said: "I don't really want to let it go but it would either just be up in the loft or cellar.

"My lodger Brian Walker contacted the Helena Thompson Museum in Workington but they couldn't find a permanent place for it so he rang round a few other museums until we settled on Bradford."

Mr Dunn, who always had an interest in electrics, built the television from scratch, based on TV pioneer John Logie Baird's system.

Mr Dunn was a motor engineer and said he just decided to have a go at making a set.

Made out of an assortment of improvised materials, the set took up about half of Mr Dunn's living room, but the image was only about one-and-a-half inches by two inches.

He had to use a special punch to make holes in the receiving disc, the motor came from an old klaxon horn and the screen was the lens from the oil lamp off an old car lamp and there were also bits of Meccano in it.

The sound was received from Birmingham and the picture, which featured singing and dancing, was from Alexandra Palace in London, although at the time it was thought the maximum range from London was 50 miles.

Two separate receivers had to be tuned together to get the sound and the picture to coincide.

To receive the picture, Mr Dunn built a wooden chassis which was mounted on a aluminium scanning disc 30 inches in diameter. Mr Dunn had made it himself, and punched 36 holes in it.

The disc went round an inch at a time and the holes scanned the picture which was received on a homemade tube.

Mr Baird sent Mr Dunn a letter of congratulations when he was convinced that the Workington television was receiving broadcasts.

The postmaster general, who was responsible for the BBC transmissions, sent an expert to check on Mr Dunn's claims. The expert was also convinced.

The television will be on display in Bradford in around six months.

