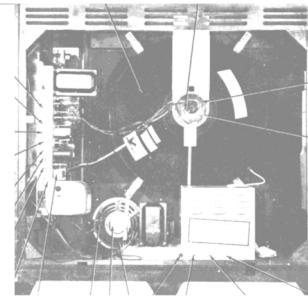
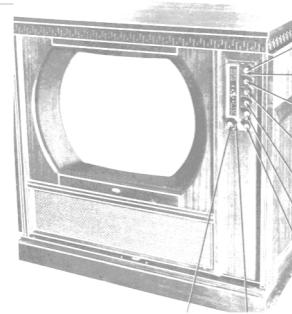


January 2026

Volume 3 Number 1



WHAT'S NEW IN OLD TVs

The Newsletter of the Early Television Foundation

Greetings Early Television Fans,

This is Volume 2, Number 12 of the Early Television Foundation Newsletter. **The January Zoom meeting will be on Saturday, January 30 at 8 PM.**

Dave Sica opened the December Zoom meeting with a sad announcement of the passing of John Turner. About a year ago, John gave a zoom presentation of his incredible collection of Helical Scan Video Tape machines. It soon became obvious to us that his knowledge of this equipment was also incredible. On the next few pages I have some screen shots of John's zoom presentation as well as a short remembrance of John provided by Dave Sica. This is followed by a presentation submitted by Dave Arland as he takes us along on his trip to the MZTV Museum in Toronto. Steve McVoy tells us that once again, last years members have been slow about renewing their membership for 2026. It's getting cold in Columbus and Steve needs to pay the heating bill so follow the link on the website and enjoy the ETF in 2026.

We want to hear from you !

newsletter@earlytelevision.org

Editors: Mike Molnar & Robert Ring

In This Issue:

Sad News about John Turner and his collection of VTRs
Dave Arland takes us to the MZTV museum in Toronto

Join or Renew your Membership

**Over 100
2025 members
need to renew**

Board of Directors Early Television Foundation

Dave Abramson
Chuck Conrad
James O'Neal
Dave Arland
Geoff Bourne
Bob Dobush
Dave Sica (Secretary)
Matt D'Asaro
Blake Hinkle
Dan Jones
Steve McVoy
(President, Treasurer)

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.

Pictures from John Turners presentation during an ETF Zoom meeting

Dave Sica tells us about his friend

John was one of those people who enjoyed his work so much that it was also his hobby. He was giddy with excitement showing

how he was working on an item in his collection of vintage video recorders, most of which he had been involved with since they were current technology, dating back to the quadruplex and EIAJ days. Although he designed many of the major broadcast television installations in the New York area, he was just as happy sharing his expertise by troubleshooting an old EIAJ or U-Matic machine with a friend.





About a year ago John Turner gave us a Zoom presentation showing us his fabulous collection of Helical Scan video tape recorders. All machines he had meticulously cared for over the years



Our condolences to John's friends and family.

We also regret the loss of this collection of artifacts that John enjoyed showing us

ETF member Dave Arland did some traveling to Toronto and recently filed the info for this report :

The MZTV Museum itself is both the namesake and passion project of Canadian media pioneer **Moses Znaimer**, who made his mark by founding more than a dozen popular TV channels and stations.

Eastern Ontario viewers know

Znaimer's work as a producer with such channels as CityTV, MuchMusic and MusiquePlus, Fashion Television, and Space. Now in his early 80's, Znaimer remains active promoting the interests of baby boomers – the more than 16 million Canadians he calls "Zoomers" (that is, "Boomers with Zip!")



The MZTV Museum is part of Toronto's ZoomerPlex" in the Liberty Village neighborhood, downtown.

Znaimer's collection also includes TV sets owned by Elvis and Marylin Monroe, which were acquired at auction. It was Znaimer who acquired the famed Arnold Chase collection from Connecticut, which included hundreds of TV sets and the jewel in the crown – the 1939 Lucite RCA TRK-12 displayed in the 1939-40 RCA World's Fair exhibit and later exhibited during television's 50th anniversary celebration at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. In his Toronto museum, Znaimer calls the showcase TV the “Phantom Teleceiver,” which was constructed of the new Lucite material in 1939 to prove to fairgoers that no magic was involved with television broadcasting and reception. (The actual Lucite TRK-12 was heavily damaged after being rammed with a forklift during a labor strike. Rebuilt for the Smithsonian exhibition, only the lid of the TRK-12 remains relatively intact and dates from 1939.)



The famous RCA TRK-12 created for the 1939-40 New York World's Fair is the MZTV Museum's crown jewel.

The famous RCA TRK-12 created for the 1939-40 New York World's Fair is the MZTV Museum's crown jewel. The photograph shows the television set in a clear acrylic display case, which is a stack of components including a vacuum tube chassis and a large lens. The display is part of a museum exhibit with informational placards.

PHILO T. FARNSWORTH

Forgotten Genius: The Boy Who Invented Electronic TV



A blade from the famous Farnsworth plow.

Exhibits are elaborate with an informative timeline that traces the history of television through the lens of the early pioneers – including Philo Farnsworth (whom Znaimer believes is underappreciated), John Logie Baird, Charles Francis Jenkins, Allen Dumont, Vladimir Zworykin, and David Sarnoff. Artifacts from each of television's founding fathers are on display, including one of the plow blades from the Farnsworth family plow that the 14 year old inventor was using when he conceived the concept of scanning lines in a future TV camera.



The MZTV Museum is inside a former TV studio, with climate-controlled display cabinets for the rarest objects.

“Society turns into a culture when it shows an interest in preserving its past. In the personality of an individual collector, such an impulse to gather, preserve, understand and pass along can be highly developed,” Znaimer explains. “In my own case it also had something to do with a ‘love at first sight’ response to the beauty of a Philco Predicta. I set out to acquire one, and then a few other, older pieces; but experienced surprising difficulty in finding

Felix the Cat played a starring role in RCA's early TV experiments in New York.



The MZTV Museum works to tell the story of the medium to "contribute to the understanding of the impact of television on the people who watch it, and to recover the names and reputations of the Pioneers who invented it," according to its website. Together with original papers, discs, books, magazines, toys, spare parts, and other pop culture artifacts and ephemera, the collection offers over 10,000 objects to scholars and students as well as the general public. About 100 of Znaimer's sets are on display, with another 200 in storage.

The MZTV Museum itself grew out of a touring exhibit 33 years ago and has been a permanent installation in a former TV studio in downtown Toronto's Liberty Village for the past 23 years. Like Hilliard's Early TV Museum, the MZTV Museum is focused on preserving and promoting

the history of TV receivers rather than TV programs. The MZTV Museum is part of ZoomerPlex, a 2.6-acre state-of-the-art production and live event complex in Toronto's Liberty Village. In Zoomer Hall, Znaimer shoots original TV series. The 150-seat theater also hosts concerts, screenings, live shows, political debates, and town hall meetings.



Moses Znaimer's collection began with the Philco Predicta, and all of the Predicta sets have been restored and are running dai-



So just remember, Central Ohio isn't the only place in the world celebrating the television receiver. Just seven hours drive from Hilliard is Toronto's MZTV Museum, saluting both unusual examples of TV's past as well as the inventors and promoters who made it all possible.

The extensive collection at the MZTV Museum is similar to the breadth of screens at the Early TV Museum.



The MZTV Museum is open Tuesdays through Saturdays (and is closed Sundays and Mondays.) Weekday hours are 2:00PM to 5:00PM. Saturday hours are longer, from 10:00AM to 6:00PM. Adult admission is \$10, and details are on the museum's website: WWW.MZTV.com

Thanks to Dave Arland for providing us with information on this wonderful travel destination!

If you read this delightful newsletter all the way to the end and haven't renewed your membership.....SHAME ON YOU !!!!!