

City to host early TV buffs

By KEVIN CORVO

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Hilliard will become the television capital of the world this weekend. The vintage television capital of the world, at any rate.

About 70 collectors of antiquated sets will travel to Hilliard from throughout the country and as far away as Germany when the city hosts what is billed as the world's first convention of vintage-TV collectors.

The convention will be held Saturday and Sunday at the Early Television Museum, 5396 Franklin St., in Old Hilliard.

"The idea started out as a swap meet and evolved into a convention," said Steve McVoy, curator of America's only museum dedicated to early television.

McVoy, a Hilliard resident, opened the museum in November 2001. The museum features changing exhibitions of his personal collection.

He said the number of visitors to his

■ The convention will be held from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday at the Early Television Museum, 5396 Franklin St. For information call 771-0510.

museum has continued to increase.

"It is about 100 a month now. I've had people here from 30 states and six countries," he said.

The convention schedule for Saturday includes a flea market from 9 a.m. to noon. A \$10 admission fee covers the cost of a buffet lunch.

Speakers scheduled Saturday afternoon include Alex Magoun, curator of the David Sarnoff Museum in Princeton, N.J. Sarnoff, who served as president of NBC, was instrumental in driving the technology that created modern television.

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Tours of the museum will be offered in the morning and between 5 and 7 p.m. Saturday.

Sunday's events include an auction at 10 a.m., followed by panel discussions on restoration and collecting. Museum tours will be offered between 2 and 5 p.m.

"Virtually all the major collectors I've met during the past year are planning to attend," said McVoy, whose interest in television can be

traced back to his childhood, when he began working at a TV repair shop in Gainesville, Fla.

McVoy was 11 years old when his family got its first television set in 1954, a 21-inch, black-and-white Admiral. The only station it received was a CBS signal from Jacksonville, 80 miles away.

The museum is open from 10 to 6 p.m. Saturdays and noon to 5 p.m. Sundays. Appointments for visits at other times can be made by calling McVoy at 771-0510.