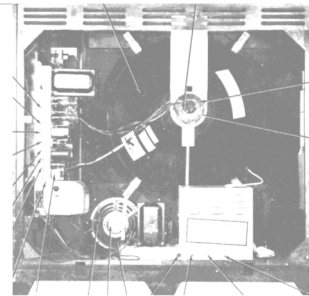
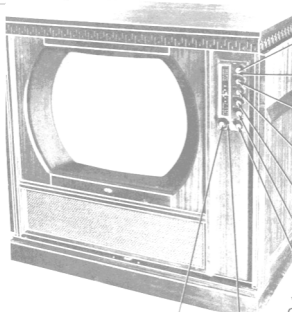


August 2026

Volume 3 Number 8



WHAT'S NEW IN OLD TVS

The Newsletter of the Early Television Foundation

Greetings Early Television Fans,

This is Volume 3, Number 8 of the Early Television Foundation Newsletter. **The next Zoom meeting is on August 29 at 8 PM . Newcomers Always Welcome**

Okay, now I'm sure you're saying, Why should I believe the ETF Newsletter? On July 25th, at 8 PM, thousands of us waited for the Zoom meeting to start. We waited and waited and waited. It never happened. Unfortunately, for all of the technical talent on the ETF team, we were unable to notify all of the waiting early TV fans, that for reasons, technical or otherwise, the meeting would not happen. Our sincere apologies. But our undaunted research staff is on the job, working on a plan to have Zoom meetings start automatically, without someone there to press start.

So, on the 29th, we'll all be there and Steve will give us an update on museum news. You can be sure he will remind you to purchase your sweepstakes tickets, that the fall swap meet is on October 17 and as always, if you haven't renewed your membership, the time is now.

We want to hear from you !

Newsletter@earlytelevision.org

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In This Issue:

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

Co-Editor Robert Ring tells us about an RCA Statuette standing on a shelf in his living room

**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.

It Seems only 12 months ago we celebrated the first full year of the newsletter. Now we made it to two and starting our third. Thanks members for your encouragement.



But we need members to contribute. I'm starting to run out of things to say. I don't want to resort to making up television history. I may tell you how Tesla invented television!

Please contribute and make this next year the best!!!

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

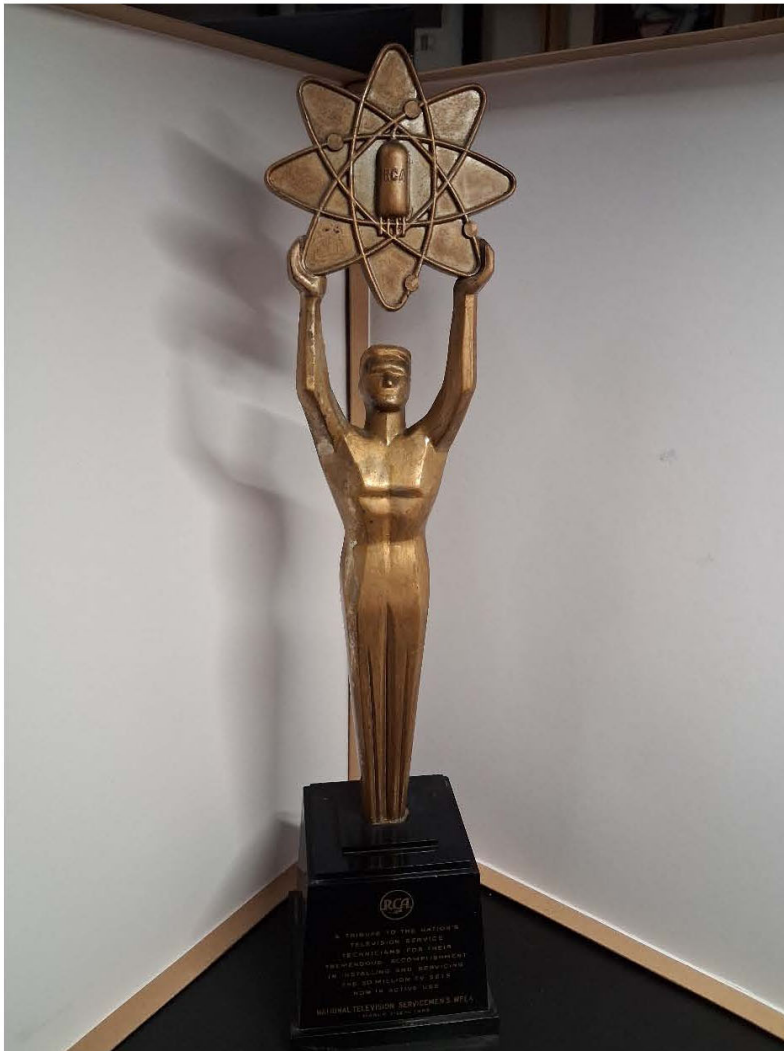
RCA **COLOR** TV with 21AXP22 CRT

This RCA Model as well as the RCA CTC 4 and CTC 5 stressed the technology of their time and thus required a lot of service. See how RCA honored these service technicians on the next page.



This month Robert Ring tells us the story of a statuette that found its way to a place on a shelf in his home

I've had this statuette of a man for a long time (mine's a golden toned figure). He's holding what looks like an atom with a television tube in the center of the atom.



I bought it off E-bay many years ago only because I had never seen something like this. Surprisingly it turned out that my wife liked the way it looked as much as I did and she encouraged me to display it in the living room which I did. (Imagine that, I was amazed!) The message on the front of the pebble-filled base? (It's heavy and there are a lot of them in that base so maybe they aren't pebbles but this *is* RCA.)



“A tribute to the Nations Television service technicians for their tremendous accomplishment in installing and servicing the 30 million TV sets now in active use”

National Television Serviceman’s week March 7-12 1955.

I never really thought much about my purchase but my interest in the history of the piece started stirring when I showed it to my friend, Mike Molnar. When he told me that **he** had never seen something like the statuette that I had, I knew I needed to do more research.

When I tried to get more information from the internet, I was initially unsuccessful, but I did notice that even the ETF did not have this statue on display, or at least I had never seen it there.

Time passed and I decided to try an AI assisted search and the flood gates opened:

"NATIONAL TELEVISION Servicemen's Week, a nation-wide tribute to the 100,000 technicians who service the 34,500,000 television sets of the American public, was inaugurated on March 7 at the close of NBC's unprecedented telecast of "Peter Pan."

With 62 stations of the NBC network carrying the filmed award ceremony in color and 13 more stations in black and-white, W. Walter Watts, RCA Executive Vice-President, Electronic Products, presented a symbolic



statuette to Robert Hester, of Mission, Kansas. Mr. Hester was chosen to represent the country's TV technicians because of the location of his service business near the television geographical center of the United States.

The statuette is a 14-inch gold-finished figure of a man holding aloft the symbol of electronics. The figure stands on a black plastic base (they never said what was inside the base either) inscribed with an RCA dedication to TV technicians.

The idea of a "National Television Servicemen's Week" was originated by RCA as a public recognition of the contributions of technicians to the establishment of television as a national service. In order to make the "Peter Pan" colorcast and the statuette presentation ceremony available to the maximum number of viewers, RCA arranged for the placement of RCA 21-inch color TV sets in key cities throughout the nation. Nearly 4,000 personnel from RCA distributors were invited to viewing rooms to witness the 2-hour broadcast as guests of RCA sales representatives in the various regions.

In addition, RCA awarded prizes totaling \$10,000 to radio-TV service dealers responsible for the most effective promotions of National Television Servicemen's Week in their respective neighborhoods. The prizes include complete sets of five RCA test instruments for color TV servicing, one set to be awarded in each of the company's eight sales regions."

The internet also says that there were two colors used in the statuettes- gold and silver.

The gold statuette seems to be harder to find as it may have been used for higher tiered regional winners and the silver ones were used for more local awards.

For at least four years after that, RCA did some sort of recognition award program for the servicemen, but it appears that the statuettes were only used in that first year.

My award guy seems to love being in the high perch in my living room, holding his electronics symbol high while my wife and I take a well-deserved nap. Perhaps we are dreaming of somehow getting a silver statuette to keep the gold one company.



To all of those who were able to keep the early color sets running, you deserve our respect and admiration as well as from all the kids wanting to get back to their favorite programs