Broadcast Museum Opens Near D.C.

Charles Rhodes

The national capital area now has a museum celebrating the history of radio and television. From an 1898 Spark Transmitter to an HDTV receiver, The Radio-Television Museum in Bowie, Md., portrays the development of broadcasting. The setting is a 1905 farmhouse fully restored, with its original exterior appearance respected and, inside, air conditioning and all the other modern necessities. Wheelchair access and handicapped parking are provided. The building is situated on an acre of land in a residential neighborhood.

The farmhouse was purchased, fully restored, and then leased to the Radio History Society by the City of Bowie to maintain the corner's rural heritage and prevent further development. The museum is but minutes from Interstate 95. Bowie is on U.S. 50 between the national capital and Annapolis, Md.

Non-profit preservation

This museum was created by the Radio History Society (RHS), a non-profit corporation with the purpose of preservation of the history of radio and television. This is done through public exhibition and interpretation of radios of the past and present in the United States. Radio developed very differently in all other parts of the world as those broadcasters were government entities. "This setting is ideal for our purpose. We want to serve not only the residents of this immediate area, but the traveling public," said Ken Melgren, vice president of RHS. "With its convenient location near two Interstate highways, adequate parking and restaurants nearby, it is ideal for our needs."

Exhibits go back to 1874, with the story of the first Atlantic Telegraph Cable. That was the start of instant communication between North America and England in the form of Morse code — dots and dashes. Expositions go back to 1874, with the story of the first Atlantic Telegraph Cable. That was the start of instant communication between North America and England in the form of Morse code — dots and dashes. From an 1898 Spark Transmitter to an HDTV receiver, The Radio-Television Museum in Bowie, Md., portrays the development of broadcasting. The setting is a 1905 farmhouse fully restored, with its original exterior appearance respected and, inside, air conditioning and all the other modern necessities. Wheelchair access and handicapped parking are provided. The building is situated on an acre of land in a residential neighborhood.

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