



K2TQN

OLD RADIO

Tuned-Grid Tuned-Plate 75 Watt Transmitter

I think every collector would want to find something outstanding for their collection. I really like to collect well-made homebrew items. When I passed up going to a local auction in Pennsylvania one day, I knew down deep that I was making a mistake.

Several months later, when I received my monthly *Antique Radio Classified* I read the Auction Report of the Smith Auction of June 17, 1995 by my friend Ray Chase, KA2KQG. Ray is always reporting on interesting radio auctions via the *Antique Radio Classified*, such as the Estes Auctions that I wrote about in my July 2006 column. (You can get a sample issue from their Web site, www.antiqueradio.com.)

Page 18 had the listing and photo of a great looking transmitter, one that I could have bid on if only I had not stayed home. I enjoyed kicking myself several times that day, resolving to find the buyer and try to purchase it from him.

A couple of years later I heard a mention of that transmitter in a conversation at a local hamfest. I immediately said that I would like to find it. One collector standing nearby spoke up and said that he owned it and wasn't doing anything with it. I offered to buy it but he said, "I won't sell it, but I will trade it for something interesting." So now the challenge was on. After offering several things in my collection I determined that I would have to trade a high-end receiver to get it.

Another year passes and I found myself at a north Jersey hamfest. One seller brought his father's rack-mounted National HRO receiver in pristine condition. It was expensive, but I thought this might be the one to get my trade. That night I called him on the phone and made the deal. The next weekend I drove to his location and made the trade.

It was disappointing to find the transmitter had been damaged by rough handling. Several knobs and insulators were broken and several pieces of original wood molding had been broken as well. Also the plate lead coming out of the DeForest 52 tube was broken off at the glass line. (The large 52 tubes are rare and hard to find, I was to discover.)

I put the transmitter into my storage area



Transmitter as found with broken knobs, insulators, and 52 tube plate lead and broken trim moldings.



Restored transmitter with new knobs, new 52 tube, tube socket and new trim moldings.

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