

Tube of the Month The 750T

As a young man when I was just getting serious about chasing DX, I was lucky to be around hams that became famous for their pioneering work. I once met an older ham who heard of my interest in old tubes. He said that if I came over to Moraga he would give me an old 750T for my collection. He was Reg Tibbetts, W6ITH, and he told me some tales of ham radio and tubes. Eimac has began business in 1934, the year he graduated from UC Berkley. He was a great builder of equipment and by 1936 had six separate transmitters build into nine six-foot racks. Reg was a "phone" man and wanted to run the legal limit on AM phone, class A. Tubes that would take that power and frequency were not available. His friends at Eimac had been making a very nice tube, the 300T, but it was just too small. Reg convinced them to make an upsized tube that they called the 500T. Reg was in business and a monster amp with a pair of 500Ts was on the air. Eimac added the 500T to their tube line and before WWII, changed its name to the 750T and later to the 750TL. It was 17 inches tall and was the first of the big glass tubes produced at Eimac. By WWII having a big rig had its downside. The Navy came to his shack and hauled away the racks. It seems they were short on panel meters.

Reg's first big project was to build and sell the 5-meter portable transceivers that were used during the building of the Oakland-Bay Bridge. After the War, he worked for UPI and installed shortwave stations all over the world. He had an interest in a plantation on the French side of Saint Martin and wanted to run his ham gear from there, but there had never been ham radio on the island and there was no prefix allocation. On the plane to Saint Martin, Reg composed a letter authorizing him to operate under the call FS7RT. He somehow convinced the Governor to sign the letter and he began operating. The French telecom people didn't know what to do, but eventually the FS prefix became official.

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