

Wauneta native collects train sets

Written by Wauneta Breeze

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Bob Whiting proudly shows off two items from his train collection. Shown on the left is an HO and on the right there is a ON30. Also pictured is the article Whiting wrote for National Railroads magazine and an old picture of a train in Cumdres & Toltic train stations that Whiting took himself. (Christi Christner | The Wauneta Breeze)

By Christi Christner

The Wauneta Breeze

Trains have been a vital source of transportation for the last 200 years. Not only have they helped shape transportation today but they have also made a well-known hobby, train set collecting.

Collecting train sets is something you don't hear about every day. Bob Whiting, a local Wauneta citizen, has been collecting trains since the age of six.

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His father was the one that started Whiting's passion for trains. Growing up, Whiting's dad would set up a train set, tracks and all, under their dining room table during Christmas.

Over his lifetime, Bob has collected over 30 different train sets. He has taken some of them to various places. One of those places is El Dorado Manor in Trenton where he had it on display for the residents.

Whiting also has a module in McCook at the Highplains Railroad Club that is three feet long by two feet long.

He has written a couple of articles that have been published. One of his articles was on National Railroads and the other was a hobby article.

Before he retired Whiting worked for the government in private industry.

Whiting has also ridden on Excursion Railways, M-Tracks, and other train like devices through the United States and Canada.

Since he has retired Whiting has had lots of time on his hands. He helps out with auctions sometimes but his favorite thing to do is work on his train modules.

Currently Whiting is creating a module that is ten feet wide by fourteen feet long. On this module is a ON30. This module takes up most of Whiting's basement.

ON30s are slightly smaller in stature than other trains. Bachmann Trains have been distributing them in the most recent years.

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Train collecting is Whiting's passion. "If it wasn't for my father I wouldn't be doing what I love." Whiting says.