

MMR_0603 O'Connell, Mike



After 46 years in the business, Chooch Enterprises founder Mike O'Connell is retiring. He made the O Scale Hall of Fame Chicago – 2014

Mike O'Connell founded Chooch Enterprises, Inc in 1975; makers of exact O scale buildings, detail parts, rolling stock and scenery details. Mike and a number of close friends are building a 3,200 sq feet P48 layout in Maple Valley, WA. The layout is based on a Northern Pacific, Great Northern and Pacific Railway & Navigation theme, using most of the products Chooch has made over the years.

Walthers now owns the well-known Chooch Enterprises model railroading company. The sale means the popular resin and flexible vinyl scenery products will continue to be available to modelers. O'Connell says all orders placed after Oct. 1 would be forwarded to Walthers for fulfillment. "After some 46 years in business, I want to thank you all for your support!" O'Connell says. "It's been a wonderful time for me. Imagine having a dream come true; making a living creating products for our great hobby!

“Now I hope to have time to REALLY work on my layout!”

Mike's layout:

Proto: 48 Pacific Railway & Navigation Co.

Layout Tour on Youtube!

Facts & features of layout:

Name: Pacific Railway & Navigation Co.

Scale: Proto:48 (O fine scale)

Size: 40 x 60 feet

Prototype: Northern Pacific; Great Northern; Spokane, Portland & Seattle; and PR&N

Locale: Pacific Northwest

Era: mid-1950s

Style: walk-in multi-deck

Mainline run: approx. 1,200 feet

Minimum radius: 84"

Minimum turnout: no. 7 (spurs), no. 8 (main)

Maximum grade: 1.75 percent

Benchwork: modular

Height: 40" to 90"

Roadbed: cork

Track: handlaid code 100 and code 125 rail with cast-resin pre-ballasted ties

Scenery: plaster cloth and Sculptamold

Backdrop: hand-painted on 1/8" tempered hardboard

Control: NCE DCC with wireless throttles