

Car collector casts quite the collection

photo and story by Bruce Hill, Jr., USACE Public Affairs

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Albuquerque District members are collected, whether in their business attire, or steel-toed boots and hard hat, or battle dress uniform.

But catch a glimpse of them outside the Corps, you may find a collection of different sorts.

Bob Liddy, Equal Opportunity Manager for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Albuquerque District, is a collector of miniature diecast automobiles, currently managing a sizeable collection of approximately 300 of the mini auto replicas. His collection is of cars that are of most interest to him, and to a level that might turn any part of a household into a mini auto showroom.

"I built and collected plastic models since I was nine or 10 years old at a one to 24th or 25th scale. I saw a friend who had a diecast metal car at about a one to 19th scale and I was impressed with its size, detail and finish."

Later as an adult, I happened upon a diecast metal car at a store one day. It was a 1957 Ferrari 250 Testa Rossa. It was expensive, but I liked it enough to buy it.

From that point on, Liddy was hooked, amassing hundreds of the diecast autos between 1990 and 2007.

Liddy settled into the Albuquerque District in 2005. While he spends his fulltime civilian duties working on personnel issues as the EEO Manager, Liddy devotes his off time to collecting and occasionally selling off some of his mini replica automobiles, making room for cars of greater interest



Bob Liddy, a member of the Albuquerque District, is seen with the first of hundreds of diecast cars he collected over the course of 17 years, a red 1957 Ferrari 250 Testa Rossa (left). On the right is his most recent, a 2007 Ford GT 500.

down the road.

"Most are for sale, but there are a few I'm holding on to," he said. "There are some I still have a particular interest in and am hanging on to, which is about 50. Some are unique and limited production models."

Some notables in his collection include a 1932 Packard Dietrich, an early 1930's Deussen Phaeton, a 2006 Corvette, and his latest, a 2007 Ford GT 500.

"They were unique cars for their era," said Liddy.

Liddy also, offers a bit of simple advice to new collectors.

"Buy what you like. Collecting is a fun hobby." 🏠