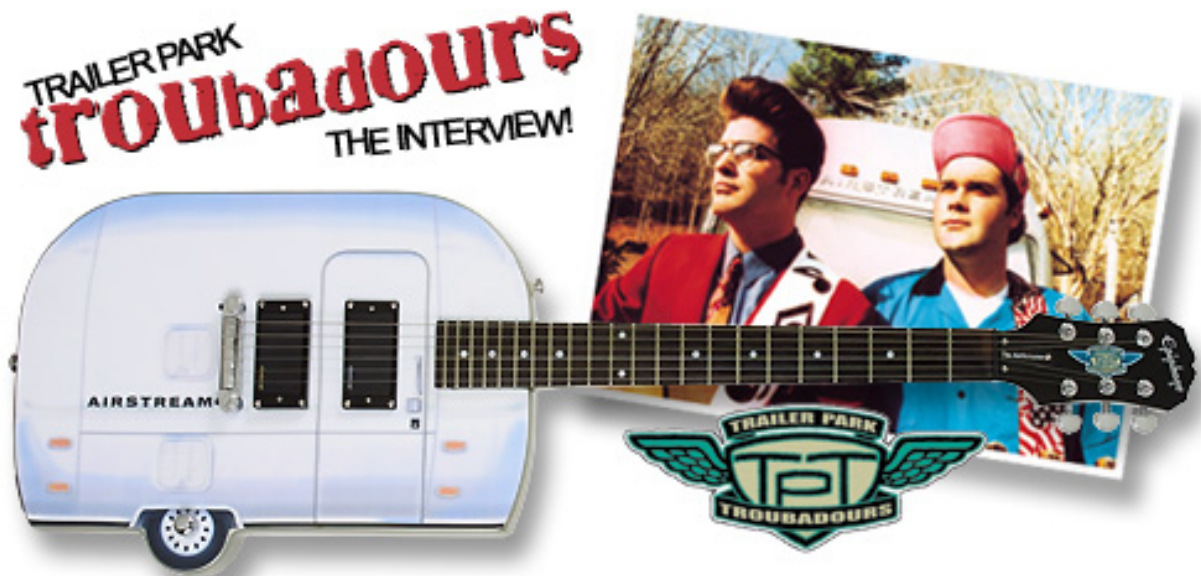


Monday, March 01, 2004

## Trailer Park Troubadours - The Interview



On the east side of a small Kentucky town called Screamin' Holler, between the railroad tracks and Route 7, there's a trailer park called Pine View Heights. It's a quiet little community where you can leave your door unlocked at night and walk down to the County Seat Grocery for a can of snuff, an RC Cola, and a couple



of lottery tickets. Neighbors watch out for each other. Children play carelessly through the streets and culdesacs. And elderly people watch your every move, and talk about you at the Post Office. Emerging from this small town atmosphere are two young men named R.J. "Antsy" McClain and Stephen Foster Fleming III. (His friends call him "Flem" for short.) Antsy and Flem are third cousins twice removed, and grew up four trailers down from each other in Pine View Heights.

At a young age, the boys began to look at music as a way of unwinding at the end of a hectic day, relieving stress, and hopefully, impressing girls. From these

humble beginnings, the boys have since taken their "folkabilly" music throughout the country, to appreciative, easy-to-please audiences. Now touring with a three-piece back-up outfit called The Sons of Hitches Band, they have expanded, giving their audiences the same old Troubadour sound, only louder. And.... they even have their own [Epiphone Signature model](#) shaped like their beloved Airstream!.

Recently, Epiphone representative Will Jones had the opportunity to chat with founding Troubadours member and guitarist Flem.

**EPI:** How did you guys get started?

**FLEM:** Well, Antsy and I, (third cousins, twice removed) were just sitting around the kitchen table and started writing songs about life, life experiences, life around the trailer park and the next thing you know this whole [Trailer Park Troubadours](#) thing got happening.

**EPI** Your band name bids me to ask... are you guys fans of another legendary Epiphone player, Ernest Tubb the Texas Troubadour?



**FLEM:** Yes, we love those guys...the music pioneers who sang about life...our music is kinda folk, kinda country...songs about real experience...that's what Tubb's all about.

**EPI:** How did you personally get started on guitar?

**FLEM:** Back at the age of 10, I picked up an old classical in the back of my mom's trailer, found myself a Mel Bay book of chords and taught myself to play. Never had formal lessons, probably never will, I don't want to ruin a good mediocre player.

**EPI:** Tell me how the Airscreeamer came to be.

**FLEM:** Our guitarist and co-manager Jimmy Jackson had a crazy idea...what if we had a guitar shaped like our Airstream trailer! We get more comments about that guitar than even my FlameKat.



**EPI:** So you have a FlameKat!

**FLEM:** Got two! I can't get enough of those Kats! I've got one of the first FlameKats off the line and I've also got a WildKat. I love the sound! It's a true semi-hollow body and the size, style and shape fits our personality. I've not found another guitar on the planet like it.

that you'd like to do?


**EPI:** What have you not done

**FLEM:** TV, film, and eventually Vegas...we like to transport our folks to another world for two hours...forget about their bills, their worries and just be entertained.

**EPI:** Vegas! That's pretty tall thinkin'. Where else would you like to tour?

**FLEM:** All kinds of far away and exotic places like Montana and Wyoming!

**EPI:** In your Airstream?



**FLEM:** Yep. We travel in the Airstream everywhere we go. It's our home away from home at any given time. You just can't beat the glamorous life of a jaded rock star!!!

**EPI:** So was guitar your first choice as a musician, or did you lean more towards sousaphone?

**FLEM:** Actually sousaphone wasn't my first choice either, it was harpsichord. I always wanted to be a harpsichord star...but I just never made it that far...but the girls would have loved it.

**EPI:** have you ever had a "wardrobe malfunction?"

**FLEM:** Not yet...with the clothes we wear you just can't go wrong...heck, our fans dress up in polyester and plaid and upstage us, and we wear some really loud and proud attire.

**EPI:** finally, what advice would you give to the kids out there who want to get started on guitar?

**FLEM:** DON'T DO IT!!!.....You're better off being a Nintendo star!!!

For more information on the Trailer Park Troubadours, visit [www.unhitched.com](http://www.unhitched.com).