



Flxible Lifestyle

The Willmores cruise the USA in vintage glory

Meet Ben and Karen Willmore, who travel America in a 1963 Flxible Starliner. Ben's interest in Flxibles began after seeing the Robin Williams comedy *RV*, which showcased a vintage Flxible Clipper. He earns his keep as a top-notch Photoshop expert, while his wife, Karen, is a photographer and graphic designer. Both love the Flxible's sleek stylings.

Since 2006, the Willmores' roaming ways have been part and parcel of their marriage. Such is Ben's passion for the motorcoach lifestyle that before he restored his Flxible he and Karen toured the United States in a 1997 Prevost XL.

They drive for weeks to see America's roadside gems, living wherever they've parked. Their most exciting destina-

tion? "Our favorite place is wherever we haven't been yet and are about to explore," extols Ben.

Flxible buses are iconic Americana. First produced in the 1920s, they were once familiar sights on highways. The peculiar name dates to the company's 1913 origins as the Flxible Side Car Company, a maker of motorcycle extensions in Loudonville, Ohio.

The Willmores love meeting other Flxible fans at Flxible bus reunions, or "rallies" as they are known among members of the Flxible Owners International

Club. A typical get-together might include a pilgrimage to Loudonville for a taste of the now-defunct company's origins. These biannual bus fests attract around 50 Flxibles and their owners. Sadly, Ben explains that while his bus often wins an enthusiastic thumbs-up from motorists, "fellow Flxible buffs are few and far between because these buses are rather rare."

One thing's for sure, no matter what interstate xit the Willmores take nxt, they'll surely arrive relxed, for wherever they are, "x" marks the spot.

—*Shelby Nathanson*

Xtra Info

Read about the Willmores' lifestyle at www.digitalmastery.com/creative-cruiser. For info on joining the Flxible Owners International Club, write Ronnie Brannon, treasurer, at P.O. Box 964, Linden, TX 75563.

BEN WILLMORE (S);
EDDIE TAPP (BEN AND KAREN WILLMORE)