



**The Channel One-Nine Special  
Channel One-Nine #5  
Air Date: April 23, 2020**

**Todd Dills** [00:00:00] Hey, Todd Dills here from Overdrive. For this week's Channel One Nine, we're trying something a little different: we're getting off the phone and heading out into the world. [climbing truck steps, truck door opening and closing] The question of the day is: how do truckers customize their trucks' interiors? So we're taking a little tour. [voices chattering in the background] [plucky guitar theme music comes in]

**Daniel Snow:** Phyllis are you ready?

**Phyllis Snow:** Come on in.

**Daniel:** OK, watch your head

**Todd:** Of course, there are as many answers to that question as there are over-the-road drivers. But Daniel and Phyllis Snow here out of Harrison, Arkansas, can give you a good idea of just how far some truckers will go to make a truck their own.

**Daniel:** We got married three months after we after we met. I mean, I thought she was just going on vacation when she got in the truck with me fourteen years ago. She's still here!  
[laughs]

**Phyllis:** Can't get rid of me. [Daniel and Phyllis laugh] Can't get rid of me.

**Todd:** Daniel and Phyllis call their deep-green truck, “The Goose.”

**Daniel:** The Goose is a 1996 Freight Liner classic XL, four axle tractor Detroit powered with a custom one-hundred-and-forty-inch bunk on it.

**Todd:** A one-hundred-and-forty-inch bunk.

**Daniel:** It's a pretty stout ole workhorse.

**Todd:** That's a sleeper cab almost *twelve feet long*. Picture the body of a small-ish travel trailer, say, built onto the back of the driver's cab and painted to match, and you're getting close to a good description of what the Goose looks like.

**Phyllis:** [popping sound of stove burner turning on] I've got a two-top stove, then I have a microwave oven.

**Todd:** Kitchenette, shower...

**Phyllis:** and I got a full shower bath in the other room.

**Todd:** ... toilet, dining table and all of it tastefully tiled, floored and decorated to a theme that reflects the Snows' faith. [plucky guitar music fades out]

**Daniel:** So our basic overall theme of the truck is Christianity.

**Todd:** Daniel will show you around a little bit.

**Daniel:** On the back wall, we used a cowboy kneeling at a cross. The center of the ceiling we have a cowgirl with a truck behind her kneeling at a cross. And it says, “In God We Truck.” [slow-paced acoustic guitar music comes in] I have a lot of Cherokee Indian blood in me. So, we made up the front of the sleeper basically a tribute to the Native American. That's actually a real goose feather. And feathers are very important in Indians' way of thinking, and you get two feathers one for wisdom and one for courage. But anyway, so that's the front of the sleeper. On the side over the dining table, we built her a mantel and we made it a western theme mantel with a rope outline. It's not a real rifle or a real pistol. But I don't know, I guess you could make a thief think it was if you grabbed it off the wall. And then on the shower bathroom door we put in an assortment of pictures each of our mothers. So, we add you know different things around to be more like a home. Not just it's not just a truck to us. It's a way of life. [guitar music fades out] When we bought this sleeper it was out of a salvage yard.

**Todd:** It's important to emphasize here that customizing a truck is not just about style. For Daniel and Phyllis, it's really an investment – in both their business, and their quality of life.

**Daniel:** I've had quite a bit of health issues. I ain't gonna say all of it was due to my French fries [Phyllis laughs] because I still like French fries. But we gutted all this out and just built it back the

way we wanted it. And by doing that we made it possible for us to eat a lot better, healthier. And we have; we eat about nine out of ten meals in this sleeper [plucky guitar theme music comes in]

**Phyllis:** Just about anything you do at home, I mean there was the other night we eat eggs, bacon and biscuits and...

**Daniel:** Or she will cook a roast. [Phyllis affirms] We'll eat roast.

**Phyllis:** Shrimp and steak. He barbecues that. We got a barbecue grill that matches the truck too – it's green.

**Daniel:** If she can cook it at home, she can cook it in here.

**Phyllis:** You can't cook like a cake or anything going on down the road, it'll fall. [laughs]

**Daniel:** My biggest problem is I can't hardly drive down a road smellin' all that cooking. I'm like, "OK, we've got to find a place to stop, I'm about to starve to death." I like to eat, and she's a good cook, so it's a good combination.

**Todd:** There's a world of customized trucks out there as varied as the trucking business itself. I've seen sleeper cabs built out with any kind of cooking equipment you can imagine – ranges, ovens, espresso machines and grinders, fold-out charcoal or even gas grills mounted on the deck off the back. [guitar theme accompanied by additional upbeat guitar riff] Then there's the exercise equipment: weights, stair steppers, and sometimes even an exercise bike along for the haul. I know at least one trucker-songwriter with a professional recording studio built into the bunk of his rig. Hey, maybe we ought to get Paul set up with one of those.

Want to see more? You can take a tour through the Custom Rigs section of [OverdriveOnline.com](http://OverdriveOnline.com), and don't miss the Reader Rigs photo gallery, where owner-operators upload their own trucks. You can also see the Goose for yourself in all its glory. Search "Daniel and Phyllis Snow" – that's spelled exactly like the white stuff.

That's it for Channel One-Nine. Keep those questions coming, and we'll catch you next time. The Channel One-Nine Special is a feature of Over The Road, from Radiotopia and Overdrive Magazine. It's produced by Ian Coss and myself – Todd Dills – with support from Lacy Roberts, Paul Marhoefer and Julie Shapiro. Paul will be back with you next week, with a story of a community of immigrants that has become a major force in the trucking industry. 'Til then, drive safe out there.

[Trucker over CB: "Okey dokey, toodle-loo. We'll catch you on there on the trail. Keep the bugs off your glass and the bears off your tail, right?"] [theme music continues and fades out]

[00:05:57] **END OF EPISODE.**