

The Story of the Duck Brothers...

Eric was “Peking” and I was “Bombay”...!

As told by Albert Lee to Guitar Center

GC: Thanks for taking the time to chat today Albert. A number of people interested in “Blackie” – both the original and the replicas – have asked about the significance of “Duck Bros” that’s stenciled on the flight-case, and I gather you are the one who started it all...

Albert: Well that’s true! The first person I saw with a duck call was Eddie Offord who engineered “Heads Hands and Feet” and “Yes”, and he used to wander around with a duck call and I thought it was kind of crazy but funny. I got hold of one year’s later when I was playing with Emmylou Harris.

When I joined Eric’s band in ’79 I had this duck call and of course Eric was enchanted with it. I think during rehearsals one of the crew went to a hunting shop and came back with a couple of duck calls and some shoulder holsters. So Eric and I became the “Fabulous Duck Brothers!” The next thing we had T shirts made up with “Fabulous Duck Brothers” on them, and then Sterling Ball from Ernie Ball made up some picks with “Fabulous Duck Brothers” on them as well. Eric was “Peking” and I was “Bombay”...! It went on from there, and every once in a while we would pull out these duck calls and drive everybody mad with them!

I remember being in Atlanta, Georgia after a gig – we were pretty drunk – we got in this elevator with a newly wed couple and we serenaded them! I’m sure they had no idea who we were – no idea it was Eric! I guess it was a few months later we showed up for another tour and lo and behold all the flight cases had the “Duck Bros” logo on them. I still see these cases everywhere and I still have some myself.

A few years later Eric had “Duck Records” which also had a duck as its logo and it was an extension of all that. Eric and I were the only two Duck Brothers – “Peking” and “Bombay” - the only ones crazy enough to drive everybody mad!