

Floating Record Session Gets Publicity For Islands

The recent visit here of top recording artists Paul McCartney and Wings, when they took part in some extensive recording sessions while sailing in Virgin Islands water aboard several local charter boats, has resulted in some fine publicity in one of England's largest newspapers, the Daily Express, it was reported by Director of Tourism Dann H. Lewis.

Headlined "For the record, Wings call this work!", the newspaper article, which includes a good-sized Virgin Islands photograph and covers almost half a page, says in part:

"Since Paul McCartney first put his voice on tape in a sweaty Hamburg pop cellar he has found-increasingly exotic and unorthodox locations for his recordings. But now he and his band Wings have glided smoothly into a millionaires' way of putting music on to wax. McCartney Productions built a studio on a charter yacht named Fair Carol, and headed for the Virgin Islands."

(Also used, Lewis said, were a converted minesweeper called Samala, a yacht called El Toro, and the trimaran Wanderlust, one of the newest members of the Virgin Islands Charterboat League).

"This was an experiment to see if we could produce good songs in a holiday setting," the EXPRESS article continues. "In the end we came up with ten

tracks. The change of scene was exhilarating.

It restored our enthusiasm. We had been working in London and the wet weather was getting us down. Our engineer, Geoff Emerick, kept telling us stories about recording in Hawaii. Everyone started feeling jealous. Then Denny (guitarist Denny Laine) came up with this idea of the floating studio. The acoustics were amazing. There was total peace and stillness.

"The boats anchored for days at a time in a bay or harbour off St. Croix, St. John and St. Thomas. When the musicians became bored with the scenery the skipper would set sail again. Recording sessions were interspersed with swimming and sunbathing.

Lewis closed by quoting from the article in saying that the tracks recorded at sea will probably not be released all on one individual album, with results not to be heard by the public for a few months yet. "But," he concluded, "the Virgin Islands have become the beneficiaries of yet another very valuable form of favorable publicity, in an area (Great Britain) where we have only recently begun to tap what I believe will prove to be a most worthwhile market for Virgin Islands tourism."

The London DAILY EXPRESS has a circulation in excess of 2.6 million.