

McCartney party was a Wing-ding

It was one of the best parties for ages — the one Paul and Linda McCartney and their group, Wings, gave to celebrate the completion of their new album and say good-bye to friends in the US.

The McCartneys left last month.

As the setting for their do, appropriately, Britisher Paul chose the old liner *Queen Mary*, now firmly cemented bottomwise into the harbor at Long Beach, California.

Guests were piped aboard by a corps of Naval Cadets, then guided to the ship's Grand Salon, where the gala was held.

It began at 8 o'clock, and went on well into the early hours.

Inside the ballroom, buffets and bars were set up along the sides, the buffets decorated with ice sculptures and stacked with food specially chosen by Linda McCartney.

The menu included pea soup made from her recipe, gumbo pie, hurricane punch, which was drunk from authentic hurricane glasses, and other Southern US delicacies.

The candlelit tables were decorated with flowers, and cocktail napkins and matchbooks had been specially designed with the theme "Venus and Mars are Alright Tonight", the title of the McCartneys' forthcoming album.

The predominant colors were red and yellow, representing Venus and Mars, and this was carried throughout the decorations, including yellow awnings and red carpeting leading up to the Grand Salon.

Stages were set up at both ends of the ballroom to accommodate the entertainment.

Professor Longhair and his group, flown in from New Orleans specially for the event, opened the festivities.

As soon as Professor Longhair completed his performance, Ev Segress and his Orchestra played dance music until the next group came on stage. The Meters, another group from New Orleans, also entertained with their unique blend of New Orleans funky rock and roll.

The guest list read like a "Who's Who" cross-section of the entertainment world. It included the rock group America, Cher Bono, David Blue, David Cassidy, the group Chicago, Tony Curtis, Mickey Dolenz and Davey Jones (who has been in Australia) formerly of the Monkees, Bob and Sarah Dylan, Dr John, Phil Everly, Jose Feliciano, Marvin Gaye, George Harrison, the Hudson Brothers, The Faces, The Jackson Five, Carole King, plus Allen Toussaint, Ernie K-Doe, Lee Dorsey, Tony Dorsey, Earl King and Benny Spellman, who were flown in from New Orleans.

It was just like the old Hollywood days and obviously a fabulous time was had by all.



Paul and Linda McCartney at the gala party they gave, with their group, Wings, on the old *Queen Mary*, to mark the completion of their latest album and to say good-bye to friends in America. Paul wore a striking satin jacket, the back of which sported a colorful tiger (above left).



Left: Denny Laine, of the Wings group, Mal Evans, sometimes known as the "fifth Beatle", who was the Beatles' road manager, and former Beatle George Harrison.



Above: Lou Adler, president of Ode recording company, at the party with Carole King, singer/songwriter. Left: Dean and Cathy Marlin were among those who took to the dance floor to dance to the funky rock and roll of The Meters.