

thinking the pair would sing a song or say something publicly. But such wasn't the case. Ringo simply escorted his former band mate off the stage.

Afterwards, Paul held an \$80,000 party at the mansion of late film star Harold Lloyd in Hollywood. The Los Angeles Ballet performed, and a chamber orchestra played Beatles and Wings songs. The swimming pool was drained and converted into a dance floor, and Nelson Riddle's Orchestra provided music. The invitations asked guests to wear white clothes. Paul and Linda hired Hawaiian artists to spray-paint designs on the guests' clothes. Rod Stewart, Warren Beatty, members of the Beach Boys, Tony Curtis, and David Cassidy were a few who attended that gala. The American leg of the tour lasted seven weeks and grossed more than five million dollars, a phenomenal amount at the time.

Returning to Europe, Paul remarked that the U.S. concert series "convinced us that we're a group, and I think it has convinced the audience, too. This wasn't just a one-time trip. This is going to be a working band. We'll be back." But the first Wings over America tour would eventually prove to be the band's last.

Before commencing the last leg of the world tour in Europe, Paul organized and held the first annual "Buddy Holly Week" in London. Paul had always been a fan of the late singer, who, with his band the Crickets, had achieved great success in the 1950s. Holly's career and life were cut short in 1959, however, when he died, along with Ritchie Valens and the Big Bopper, in an airplane crash near Clear Lake, Iowa. Through Linda's father, Paul had acquired Holly's song catalog a couple of years earlier as an investment.

In September 1976, Paul held a round of Holly events. An MPL luncheon honored Holly's producer, Norman Petty, who was flown in especially for the event. Eric Clapton, Elton John, and members of Queen, 10cc, and Roxy Music attended the luncheon, where Petty presented Paul with a pair of Holly's cuff links. In addition, a memorial dance was held at the Lyceum Ballroom in the Strand.

Paul also produced an album of Buddy Holly songs recorded by Denny Laine during this break in the tour. Entitled *Holly Days*, the idea for it originated when Linda's father, Lee Eastman, suggested