



Doug and Tejo with twin 'Web' torpedo's aboard their boat with Bolongo Bay in the background

quite deep in this area it was noted that many of the bottles that were found came from stingray holes. These being areas where stingrays have dug into the sand either to hide themselves or to search for invertebrate marine life that they feed on. Although the water on most dives here was fairly clear 50-80', on one dive late in the day we learned the importance of good navigational skills and experienced dive masters. In fact, the only way to do this dive is with a florescent dive line on a reel (similar to those used in cave diving or wreck penetration). Reason being is that you will need to return to the boats anchor for a safe ascent (as boat traffic in this area is heavy). Other dives during our trip at this location yielded: three part mold ales, a German embossed blob top beer, one half of a ships serving platter with a unicorn and lion crest, a Dutch seltzer water, J. Webbs torpedo, and a rare odd form shear top ink.

There are many other collectors who over time have accumulated an interesting assortment of bottles. One collector who

offered to show us her collection during our visit was Jeanne Bowen who is the owner of Dive World located at Coral World at Coki Point. Jeanne recounted several stories of how she has stumbled on bottles just laying in the sand during her many guided dives she has done over the years. Perhaps her favorite item is that of a smallish Grey Poupon stoneware crock.

If you visit St. Thomas you should also plan to spend some time "in town" at Charlotte Amalie which is directly in front of historical St. Thomas Harbor. Bottle collec-

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tors will want to visit several sights while visiting this waterfront district, such as Fort Christian and its 17th century museum and related Danish relics. The S.O.S. Maritime Antique Shop is also a not to be missed stop, with its diverse collection of bottles, amphoras, and countless historical rarities. Then stop off at the Shipwreck Tavern to look over the owners private collection while you have a modern day ale or grog. Lastly, head over to where all



Nearby wreck offers divers an underwater view of marine history

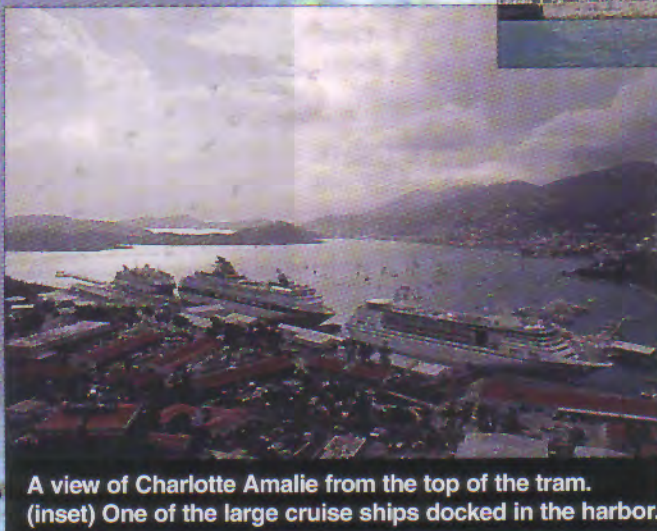
the cruise ships dock at Paradise Point to take the tramway to the top. Here you will not only get a dramatic view of the harbor and the nearby areas common to bottle diving, but you must stop in at the Pirates Chest. Bring some cash....as it will be hard to resist some of the offerings from these interesting shops.

Another extremely interesting dive offered by St. Thomas Diving Club is that of "Packete Rock". This coral encrusted mini pinnacle lies directly in front of Bolongo Bay, almost mid channel. Hence, this barely submerged obstacle to navigation has produced many a hull scrape or actual sinking. Although there are thought to be numerous wrecks in and around this underwater formation, it is known that the wreck of the Warick

(an 1800's British sailing ship) went down on Packete Rock. This vessel commonly traversed this channel during its deliv-

eries of mail and cargo to this island group before sinking.

Divers who are lucky enough to visit this sight on a calm day will be treated to dramatic color changes created by the shallower part of the mini sea mount. Upon entering the water it will be obvious that cargo has been spilled from the hull of one or more ships. Shards of roofing tiles and other miscellaneous wreckage are scattered everywhere. Soon you are bound to come across cannons, anchors, or ballast stones which have become a permanent part of this



A view of Charlotte Amalie from the top of the tram. (inset) One of the large cruise ships docked in the harbor.

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