

The "Iron Steamer" pier has been a well-known fishing spot on Salter Path Road for many years, visited each summer by fishing enthusiasts from all over North Carolina and elsewhere. It received its name, of course, from the shipwrecked vessel, bits of which can still be seen at low tide and which are particularly noticeable if one casts foolishly and permits a hook to land among those iron fragments! The old boat is memorialized by a picture of a steamer woven into the center of a large round rug adorning the floor of the motel lobby.

The "Prevensey" was an iron-hulled steamship with side paddle wheels, built in England. During the Civil War, vessels calling at Southern ports had to slip through the tight naval blockade established by the North. Early on July 9, 1864, the THE
IRON STEAMER
RESORT Prevensey was attacked near Wilmington, N.C. and chased toward Fort Macon. It was damaged in the battle and ran aground off Bogue Banks. The name of the Prevensey was soon forgotten, but the site where the wreck lay came to be referred to as the "Iron Steamer".

The pier is now only one part of the conglomerate known as the "Iron Steamer Resort". The other parts consist of a motel, a restaurant and a lounge. The entire "Resort" is owned by Messrs. Bennett and McConkey, attorneys of Morehead City. The restaurant and the lounge are leased to, and operated by, James Thomas of Jacksonville, N. C. The General Manager of the Resort is Felix Weinhold, a native Virginian who has lived in Morehead City since 1965.

The motel is open from about the week before Easter to the end of November. It has 49 rentable rooms, of which 10 are ocean front. Rooms have two double beds, a balcony, a refrigerator, TV, etc. During the season, it is rare that the motel is less than fully occupied, for example, the motel was sold out when the manager was interviewed on April 30. There are two outdoor pools, one built to accommodate the small fry. Guests of the motel are entitled to pier privileges. In the spring and fall week-day prices are in the neighborhood of \$35, but in the summer they approach \$50.

The pier, which must be familiar to all PKSers and a long-time habitat of most of our older fishermen, has yielded many a prize flounder to those who delight in catching them. At times 300 people may be on the pier on a peak day in summer. A pass for a single day costs \$3.00; a pass good for all summer costs \$40.00 for one and \$70.00 for a couple.

The restaurant, with a seating capacity of 300, offers a full menu, not just seafood although it serves the latter, too. On the ocean front, it serves breakfast as well as dinner and is open from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

The Resort boasts that "Not everyone is aware of the story behind the IRON STEAMER, but it's a rare fisherman indeed who doesn't know that the best pier fishing on the coast is at the site of the Prevensey on the IRON STEAMER ocean pier". If you want a PKS endorsement, you might ask Ann or George Hitch, pier fisherpersons par excellence!

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