

S. S. Steel Pier Once Proud Yacht "Miami" Owned By Henry M. Flagler

At little known chapter in the checkered career of a well-known, and among many, popular, summer visitor to Provincetown comes to light in a copy of The Key West Citizen, sent to The Advocate by Mrs. Maida Lazarovici, also a well known member of the summer colony.

According to the Citizen story, the S. S. Steel Pier, for many years the summer Boston excursion boat carrying thousands of people here and back again through her many summers, was originally Henry M. Flagler's private yacht, Miami, and it was about to be junked when it was bought for the Cape Cod run, just as it is now being junked after some 14 years of service.

According to The Citizen, "The Miami, which sailed north from Key West in April, 1932, to Atlantic City and was reconstructed into a tour boat with large dance hall, ran two seasons from the Pier under the name, Steel Pier. The program was not successful and the vessel was returned to a marine junk yard at Miami to be purchased, before the torch was applied, by the Cape Cod Steamship Company of Massachusetts. She still ran under the name, Steel Pier, which was displayed in a huge electrically-lighted sign extending fore and aft at the stern.

"After nearly 14 years of service out of Boston, and Provincetown at the tip of the Cape, the Steel Pier was sold a few weeks ago, as has been reported in the Citizen. The brief notice of her leaving Boston for the last time, said she had been bought by a junk firm at Norfolk, Va. Investigation by The Citizen in that city proved the Boston statement was in error and that the craft went to Baltimore. Her buyer was the Patapsco Scrap Corporation.

"No New England newspaper ever published the romantic story of the old Miami, which lay for seven years at the P. & O. dock on Trumbo in this city before she was bought for the Atlantic City pleasure boat trade.

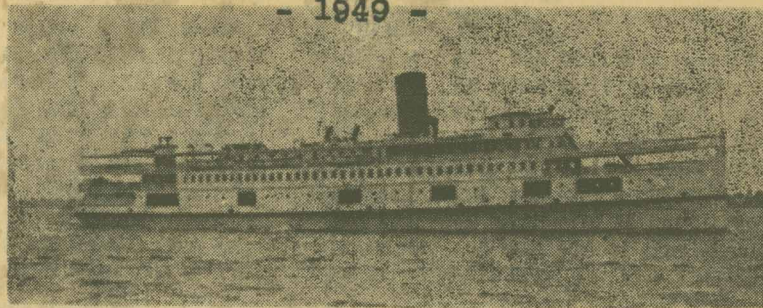
"The Patapsco Scrap Corporation told The Citizen's representative in Baltimore that the 239-foot steel craft had been bought with the intention of scrapping her but did qualify the statement with the word 'probably'.

"The purchasers verified the identity of the Miami as Steel Pier, and the Provincetown Line at Boston said she 'was formerly the SS. Miami operating between Key West, Fla., and Havana.'

"Sic transit gloria the old 'Miami'."



Provincetown's New Boat M.V. Holiday - 1949 -



Friday, June 17, is the date now set for the first trip of the fast, diesel-driven, M.V. Holiday, on the Boston excursion run to Provincetown. Originally the S. S. Virginia Lee, the craft was renamed the S. S. Provincetown. Why the name was again changed to "Holiday" is not known as the Boston-Provincetown Steamship Co., operators of the line had issued new color folders advertising the boat with the Cape End name. It is scheduled to leave Boston at 10 a. m. daily and arrive in Provincetown at 1 o'clock. It will leave at 4 and reach Boston at 7. On Sundays all times are 15 minutes later. The M.V. has a capacity of 2,500, and has 36 private day cabins. Its speed is 18 knots.

1948

192 Wharf Scene Showing "Steel Pier," Provincetown, Cape Cod, Mass.



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Last day of the Holiday - September 1949