



The Tavern roof is supported by a long mast – a hand carved log beam brought from somewhere far away a long time ago.

From engineering workshop to Tavern

The warehouse that was used as the workshop for the ship builders has been renovated protecting and preserving the past. If you look closely you can find dark blotches of spilled oil on the Tavern floors: this may be where they were assembling the steamer, in that corner the blacksmith maybe tapped smaller parts of the ship.

According to oral tradition the logs of the warehouse were floated from Ii to its current place some 150 years ago. But when the logs were carved and built into a house or what was the purpose the house was originally built for, all this still remains in the mists of mystery.

An iron ship on the shore

The steam ship Sokeri-Jussi is a well known ship in Oulu, even though it never sailed the seas under this name.

In November 1939 Suomen Sokeri Ltd. ordered a ship from Oulun Konepaja engineering workshop. The ship was to be ready by the ice drift the following year but in the turmoil of war its completion was delayed.

The ship only fetched its first cargo in the autumn of 1945. Until then the iron ship stood on shore in Pikisaari to the amazement of the people of Oulu.

Sara Wacklin describes a party held for the workmen in Pikisaari after a ship had been launched:

“The work of the winter is now happily completed, and now it is time for a party that is always paid for by the owners of the ship. The party is called ”lykkäjaiset”,(”launch”), and everyone who has toiled to build the ship will get to drink beer and spirits and to eat fat and pea soup to his heart’s content. The party goes on for 24 hours, and many take up to a week to sober up and recover from the hangover caused by the launch.”
(Satanen muistelmia Pohjanmaalta)



Newspaper Kaleva's archive photo of the christening and launching of cargo vessel "Sokeri-Jussi" on November 5, 1940.

Pikisaari

The history of the Pikisaari Island goes back to the beginning of the 1600's when a pitch burning mill was established on the island created by land rise. In the mill tar was cooking in copper pans producing heavier, resin-like pitch. Up until the 1900's the products of the pitch burning mill were exported, mainly to Germany and England.

With the ship hulls, masts, cannon boats and boilers came shops, forges, bakeries, a customs house, a weather station and of course homes for the workers. Under the patronage of an important shipbuilder, Oulun Konepaja, culture and physical culture were appreciated: Pikisaari had its own choir as well as gymnastics and sports club Rautakourat ("iron hands").

At its peak there were some 200 factory workers and their families living on the island. We are approaching those figures as some 150 city dwellers have their home on the island.



Pikisaari sea bank. The Tavern warehouse can be seen above the boat on the right. A detail of a postcard from 1914.

Sokeri-Jussin Kievari

À la carte



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