

# RESTAURANTS



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ELLS AM

## No seat without sweeping view of ocean

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### Seawall Dining Room Manset, Maine

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A carved, red lobster bearing the name of the restaurant, and a tall sign shaped into a cocktail glass announce the location of the Seawall Dining Room in Manset. It would be hard to find a seat in the large dining room from which there is no sweeping view of the ocean: the front of the building is lined with picture windows

Highly polished tiled floors and gleaming table tops, large, hanging, white globe lamps and many windows create a clean, airy feeling. Between the studs of unfinished walls hang a round-the-room display of attractive oil paintings by Helen Kirk, a Mt. Desert Island resident.

An extensive menu offers many selections

of seafood, chicken and steak, sandwiches, stews and chowders. Friday's specials were sirloin steak at \$3.00; prime rib-eye steak, \$2.75; and a steak platter for \$4.00. Prices in general are reasonable—the standard Fisherman's Platter, for example, is \$4.75.

A cup of fish chowder laden with large chunks of fish, was excellent. The roll plate included an especially good fruit muffin which the waitress, who was very pleasant and efficient, identified as pineapple.

Lettuce in the tossed salad was brown and lacked crispness to the point where, in my opinion, it should not have been served. Other choices were cole slaw or string beans; I chose a baked potato rather than mashed, fried, or potato salad.

Fried, fresh Maine Coast shrimp was a disappointment as a strong cheese taste masked any flavor of shrimp. I have learned since that shrimp is especially susceptible to

absorbing other food odors, which is the only explanation I can imagine. It was too bad since the serving was generous and the shrimp very tender.

The reputation of especially good food at the Seawall and my several disappointments led me to check with a friend who had dined at a nearby table. I am happy to report that she and others at her table found their filet of haddock and fried clams "very, very good."

Dessert choices included home made pies, strawberry shortcake, chocolate layer cake and homemade pies. The pecan pie which I selected had a very sweet filling in a tender crust. Cheery surroundings and a mesmerizing view of the open ocean produced the desire to linger at the Seawall Dining Room, and I did.

by Pat Flagg