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UNIQUE EUGENE

■ Restaurant review

Steelhead serves up a little taste of England, a whole lot of beer

The downtown restaurant and brewpub serves its own award-winning beers

BY AARON BURKHALTER
FREELANCE REPORTER

The prominent decoration when entering the Steelhead Brewing Company is a bright red English phone booth facing the door, with a working American pay phone sitting inside. The walls are adorned with various antiques, all with an English pub motif.

The English pub with an American twist is appropriate packaging, given what Steelhead has to offer: locally crafted beers brewed in the tradition of English beer making.

Steelhead started early in the 1990s brewpub boom that has taken over the Northwest region. Steelhead was one of the first brewpubs in the northwest, and along with McMenamins influenced the English-themed brewpub look throughout the Northwest. Other potential brewers came to the Steelhead Brewing Company and Restaurant to get ideas for starting their own brewpubs, said the Steelhead's head brewer and President of the Oregon Brewers Guild, Jamie Floyd.

Floyd, '94 University graduate in sociology, has been creating new ales and lagers since 1995 at Steelhead, four years after the brewery first opened its doors.

Floyd never believed his hobby would turn into a career. After bringing in home-brewed ales for the Steelhead brewers to try, Floyd found himself hired as assistant brewer and eventually head brewer in 1997.



TIM BOBOSKY | PHOTO EDITOR

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The beer taps ran non-stop Friday night at the Steelhead brewery on Fifth Avenue.

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