

What is likely one of the Murphy's carousels at Savin Rock Proper. It is a stationary Loeff like those at Roger Williams and Slater Parks.

Barbara Williams Collection

Bartholomew Murphy, left, and Theodore Graff, the Murphys' painter. (Below center)

Courtesy of the Historic New Orleans Collection, accession #1977.78.4, and Carlos and Judy Sardina

United States Census records from 1900⁽⁵⁾, 1910⁽⁶⁾ and 1920⁽⁷⁾ provide additional insights into Timothy Murphy's early life and carousel business. In all three census records, Timothy's residence is within the Borough of Brooklyn. Timothy, along with James, listed their professions as "Wood Carvers" in the 1900 census. It isn't known if Timothy was working for Loeff at this time. However, since Loeff moved his factory from New York City to Rhode Island in 1905⁽⁸⁾ this is certainly possible. By 1910, Timothy's profession is listed as "Manufacturer Carousels" and in 1920 as "Builder Outdoor Amusements". The 131 Calyer Street address shown on the carousel panel is the address of a residence that was built in 1901. This was likely Timothy Murphy's home address at that time. By 1918, Timothy's address is listed as 544 8th Street, Brooklyn⁽²⁾. There is no evidence in any of the historical records that suggests he was ever married. According to Beau Bassich, of the the New Orleans City Park Improvement Association, Timothy died in 1955 in Deal, NJ. An obituary was published for "Timothy Murphy" in *The Carousel News and Trader* in 1990⁽⁹⁾. We believe that this obituary was for Bartholomew's son, John Timothy Murphy.

According to Bartholomew's census records, he



Interior Merry Go Round, Savin Rock Proper



had moved to New Orleans by 1910⁽¹⁰⁾. He listed his occupation as "Manufacturer of Amusement Supplies". Bartholomew married Mary McCartney in 1915⁽¹¹⁾ and they had a son, John Timothy, later that year. In 1930, Bartholomew showed his occupation as "President Amusement Company"⁽¹²⁾.

As described in detail later in this article, Timothy was a partner with William Nunley in at least one New York City area amusement park. The Murley Amusement Company, possibly a contraction of the Murphy-Nunley names, is shown as the proprietor of the Murphy & Nunley Carousel at Rockaway Beach on a vintage 5 cent carousel ticket. In addition, a piece in the *New York Times* from 1919 under "New Incorporations" includes The Rockaway Whirlpool Company, for the purpose of operating amusement devices. The new company, located at 544 8th St. Brooklyn, Timothy's home address listed above from 1918, was funded with \$20,000 and included partners W. Nunley, T.F. Murphy, and J.F. McGlyan⁽¹⁴⁾. According to Gray Tuttle's copy of the family's write-up of an obituary for William Nunley⁽¹⁵⁾, Murphy partnered with Nunley from 1904 until 1946. Nunley subsequently partnered with long-time friend, Norman Russell until Nunley's death in 1951⁽¹⁵⁾.

Since brothers Timothy and James indicated that they were carvers, we can't help but wonder if they were the creators of a style of horse that is seen on some of the Murphy carousels featured in this article. However, some have the mirrored starburst glass inserts which are a Loeff trademark. We have referred to them as being "unknown" in origin.

An old Savin Rock map shows a Murphy carousel in a setting by itself. It appears to be this carousel (left).

Photo courtesy of Carlos and Judy Sardina





Left - A third row stander on Nunley's Carousel. Right - Nunley's Stein & Goldstein outside row horse seen in the 1970s photo below. John Caruso photos

case. But, mostly they rode the carousel...⁽⁸⁶⁾.

The amusement park closed, the land was sold to Pep Boys. Public outcry played a pivotal role in preventing the auction of the carousel which stood to reduce it to parts. The county legally seized the carousel. Taken out of the auction of the amusement park contents, in 1998, the Supreme Court arrived at an amount of \$854,400 to be paid to the Lercaris for the carousel⁽⁸⁷⁾. Now restored, Nunley's carousel is at the Cradle of Aviation Museum, Long Island Museum Row, Garden City, New York. Nunley's carousel re-opened to the public on May 2, 2009 amidst a gala celebration⁽⁸⁸⁾.

Billy Joel's Waltz No. 1 (Nunley's Carousel) was written in 2001 by the Long Island native pop composer/singer as a tribute to this much-loved carousel⁽⁸⁷⁾. Nine year old Rachel

Obergh started "Pennies for the Ponies" as a fund-raiser for the carousel with a goal of \$2,000 (200,000 pennies). By late 2009, \$94,000 had been raised by this heartwarming project⁽⁸⁸⁾.



Metal sign advertising Pontchartrain Beach. Kindly provided by Randall Rudd.



Stein & Goldstein jumper in the 1970s. The carousel has fluorescent lighting on the sweeps. Richard Concepcion photo

Louisiana Parks and Carousels

We have found evidence for the association of either Timothy or Bartholomew Murphy and both "Murphy Brothers" with three carousels each installed at one or more locations in Louisiana beginning in the early 1900s. As indicated below, Timothy made the initial contacts to establish carousels in that area. However, based on Bartholomew's census records and subsequent involvement, it is clear that he established his residency in New Orleans by 1910 and was most likely primarily responsible for the Louisiana carousel operations by that time and going forward.



The Historic New Orleans Collection identifies the man holding the lion as being Theodore Graff, the Murphys' painter. We see a resemblance between this man and Bartholomew Murphy. This may be a reversed image. Photo courtesy of The Historic New Orleans Collection, accession #1977.78.5 LF 24^(106, 107)

phy overseeing the daily operation⁽⁹³⁾. In May, Murphy received 50 head of horses and dogs. The carousel opened to the public in late May. Curiously, the carousel pictured in a newspaper ad in the Picayune announcing the opening of the carousel is the same image of the Roger Williams Park Walker-owned carousel seen on page 19 in this article⁽⁹⁴⁾

In 1904, the Audubon Park Commission was considering moving the carousel and nearby concessions within the park. The Murphys agreed if the band stand was also moved. They stated they would be willing to make necessary repairs to the carousel if their lease was extended beyond the remaining two years⁽⁹⁵⁾. In 1907, the decision to move the carousel was finalized and the Murphy's lease was awarded for five years⁽⁹⁶⁾. Before moving to the new building, "rocking horses were installed to replace those fixed on the platform"⁽⁹⁷⁾. A new band organ arrived for the April move⁽⁹⁸⁾. BA (Bartholomew Albert) Murphy is listed as being the owner of the carousel⁽⁹⁹⁾.

With the Murphys' lease due to expire in January 1911, new bids were sought in October of 1910⁽¹⁰⁰⁾. In 1912, a Dent-



Boating in City Park, New Orleans, Louisiana in 1910. Barbara Williams collection



Outer row Loeff Jumper at City Park. Beau Bassich photo
zel menagerie carousel was installed at Audubon Park⁽¹⁰¹⁾. The Murphy carousel was most likely bought by Harry Batt, Sr. and used at Pontchartrain Beach before being sold and shipped to Bogota, Columbia, South America in 1938.

Pontchartrain Beach amusement park opened in 1928 across Bayou St. John from the previous location of Spanish Fort. Harry Batt, Sr. became the sole proprietor of the park in 1934 when the original owners were forced into bankruptcy due to the Depression^(102, 103). The park was subsequently relocated once again to the lake end of Elysian Fields Avenue in early 1939⁽¹⁰⁴⁾. The Carmel/Murphy carousel that Batt operated at the original Ponchartrain Beach site was not moved to the final location of the park but instead, was sold in 1938 and placed in Bogota, Columbia⁽¹⁰²⁾ and later auctioned by Guernsey's in 1986. Batt purchased an Illions carousel in New York⁽¹⁰⁵⁾ and operated it at the Elysian Fields Avenue location beginning in 1939 and continuing until 1983, when the park closed and the carousel was broken up⁽¹⁰²⁾.

City Park, New Orleans, Louisiana

City Park is located along Bayou St. John. Property for the park was donated to the City of New Orleans by John McDonough in 1850⁽¹⁰⁸⁾. In 1891, the City Park Improvement Association (CPIA) was formed to establish funding



Outer row Loeff Jumper at City Park. Beau Bassich photo



Rockaway's Nunley-Murphy carousel rim. Barbara Williams collection. (Lake Compounce), straight-bordered scenery panel sections with no decorative artwork (Rockaway) and an abstract design like no other (City Park, New Orleans). The only information we found about the source of the frames comes from Harold Hartmann, who says the Murphys got some of their "mechanisms" from the Mangels factory.

Conclusions and Open Questions

The success of our searches for information about the subjects of our previous articles – the Sulzer's Bopp/Looff carousel, Frederick Dolle and M. D. Borrelli – inspired us to take on another little-known topic: the Murphy Brothers. This one proved to be more challenging than the preceding projects.

In our previous historical carousel industry research, we found important new information from primary sources such as census and military service records and newspaper advertisements. Thus, we made a considerable effort to locate the census records for the Murphy brothers. We had evidence that either Timothy or Bartholomew might have a residence in New Orleans due to the number of Murphy carousels located in that area. That lead paid off in our ability to find Bartholomew's census records beginning in 1910.

The search for Timothy's records was much more difficult, since we didn't know if he had established a residence in New York City, Rhode Island, or Connecticut. In addition,

the Murphy name is extremely common in the Northeast United States. After several months of diligent searching we finally located his residence in Brooklyn and gained valuable information about his family and career.

The various business partnerships added to the difficulty of trying to understand exactly what roles the Murphys had. With William Nunley and Timothy Murphy, there were two separate corporations, but Murphys positions are not known. We have included Nunley carousels in this article with the thought that Murphy was involved with them in some manner.

A family man, Bartholomew settled in as owner/operator of Murphy-built carousels in Baton Rouge and New Orleans, Louisiana.

Timothy's involvement in the carousel business was more expansive. It appears he did a conversion, from stationary to jumpers, of the Caroga Lake carousel. William H. Long claimed Murphy converted the Sulzer's Bopp/Looff carousel⁽¹⁰⁷⁾. The Kolbs, owners of Sulzer's carousel, indicated it was PTC that did the conversion. The cones on the converted carousel would suggest Murphy may have been involved. If he did two conversions, it's possible he did others. Murphy partnered with Irvin E. Sharpe at Budd Lake. He and John H. Walker contracted to build the Audubon Park carousel. He likely teamed up with John Walker at Roger Williams Park and possibly at nearby Slater Park.

The Murphy-Saratoga union is credited with providing the McCullough's with the Surf Avenue and West 8th Street Coney Island carousel.



Timothy and Bartholomew Murphy were integral to the carousel business. They constructed and operated carousels at diverse locations spread out over several states. They had a known association with Looff and possibly Carmel, judging by the number Carmel figures on Murphy carousels. Stein & Goldstein figures were on some Murphy carousels, but we found nothing

1906 Bartholomew Murphy carousel, City Park, New Orleans, Louisiana.

National Carousel Association, Jean Bennett photo