One of the most famous acts on the Boardwalk and one of the iconic symbols of old Atlantic City was Steel Pier in the late 1920s and continued until 1978. A revised version of the

According to Atlantic City historian Allen "Boo" Pergament, William F. "Doc" Carver, a former show partn

Sisters Sonora Webster Carver and Arnette Webster French were among the first diving horse riders. In

Wild Heart

Diving Horse in Mid-Flight (1930, H009.624.158Div582; ACFPL Heston Collection)

Below is an incomplete list of the Atlantic City diving horse riders and the years they dove:

Lorena (or Leonora) Carver, Doc Carver's daughter and the first rider, dove from 1913-1938
Sonora Webster Carver, Doc Carver's daughter-in-law, dove from 1923-1942
Shae Chandler
Josephine K. De Angelis, friend of Sonora and Arnette Webster, dove from 1935-1942
Patty Dolan
Margaret (or Marjorie) Downs, a substitute rider from 1933-1934
Elsa
Arnette Webster French, Sonora Carver's sister, dove from 1928, 1931-1935

Olive Gelnaw
Barbara E. Gose, 1967
Grace, 1936
Florence Virginia Griffith (nee Thompson)
Marion S. Hackney
Lynne Jordan, rider in the 1960s
Marie, 1929, 1931
Marty
Terrie McDevitt, the last of the diving horse riders, from 1976-1978
Ann Miles, substitute rider in the 1960s
Elsa Rahr

Some of the diving horses were:

Apollo
Dimah
Duchess of Lightning (or Lightning)
Emir
Gamal
Gordonel
John the Baptist
Judas
Junior
Klatawah
Lorga (or Lorgah)
Powderface (or Powder Face)
Pure as Snow (or Snow)
Red Lips
Shiloh
Silver King

Related Resources in the Heston Collection

Sonora Carver. A Girl and Five Brave Horses. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1961.

Linda Oatman High. The Girl on the High-diving Horse. New York: Philomel Books, 2003.

Vicki Gold Levi. Atlantic City, 125 Years of Ocean Madness. New York: C.N. Potter, distributed by Crown Publishers, 1979.

Jim Waltzer and Tom Wilk. Tales of South Jersey: Profiles and Personalities. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2001.

Wild Hearts Can't Be Broken . Walt Disney, 1991. (video and DVD)

Subject Files:
Carver, Lorena
Diving Horse
Downs, Margaret H.
Piers – Steel Pier Programs

Archival Collections:
Please see the Heston Collection Indexes at the Reference Desk to locate photographs and postcards on this subject.