



Bio & Character Sketch of Carl Earl Scott

October 11, 1914 - April 27, 1993

Age in April, 1923: 8 Age at Death: 79

Age when picture was taken: (est) 8

James Scott's Son, Carl Earl Scott

Carl Earl Scott was born in Chicago on Oct 11, 1914 to James and Lucille Scott.

At the age of six, Carl moved with his father to Columbia, Missouri where he likely enrolled in the Frederick Douglass School. His teacher was likely his future step-mother, Gertrude Carter (Scott).

There is little known about Carl's life up to the point where his father was lynched, but immediately after the lynching, both Carl and his sister, Helen were taken back to their mother in Chicago.

After he grew up, Carl was married twice and he had ten children, eight boys and two girls. (Six of his sons are still living as of mid-2026. Neither Carl's sister Helen nor his half sister, Anna had any children of their own, making Carl's descendants the lone remaining members of James Scott's family.

In the feature, one of the opening scenes shows a fidgety Carl sitting in a church pew with his sister and step-mother, tapping his shiny, new Easter shoes. Two scenes later, Carl faces the reality of living in Jim Crow Missouri when he and his family must step off the sidewalk to allow a White couple to pass. Carl is forced to stand in a muddy puddle with those same shoes.

A few scenes later, Carl's father James takes Carl and his sister to see Doug and Clyde, two dogs who are kept at the Missouri University Medical School's Animal House where animals slated for medical experiments are kept. James takes the children to feed the dogs on a regular basis. Carl will feed one of the dogs from his hand.

Later in the feature, after his father is lynched, the pastor from Carl's church visits the family along with a group of church members bearing food and lit candles. Carl tugs on one church member's sleeve to ask if he knew his father. The church member responds "Yes, Yes I knew your father. And he was a very good man." The story behind this scene is remarkable; the church member Carl approaches will actually be one of James Scott's grandsons – an actual "son" of Carl Earl Scott. The 8-year-old, "young Carl" will be meeting his real 80-year-old son.

SIDES

93

Carl tugs on his father's sleeve.

CARL

Dad, dad. Can we go feed Doug and Clyde?

JACK

Doug and Clyde? Gert! You been holding something back?!

GERTRUDE

No! Doug and Clyde are two dogs at James' work. He takes care of them.

JAMES

Somebody's gotta show 'em some love while they're still living.

Helen absorbs the weight of his words. She understands.

JAMES

Boy, what do you say we go home, get changed up, then go see Doug and Clyde?

Carl can barely contain himself.

CARL

Yeah!! Let's go dad! Let's go!