

Carl Klopp was born in Chicago, Illinois on November 24, 1941, at 7:21 a.m. His mother's name was Gussie and his father's name was John Klopp. His mother was 22 years old and his father was 44 years old. Carl's mother was born in Palermo, Italy on May 1, 1919 and Carl's father was born in Kiel, Germany on November 6, 1887.

Carl's father came to the United States and lived in Chicago. He had some money left after the Stock Market Crash in 1929 and bought two apartment buildings on Chicago's south side. Carl's father did a lot of work on improving these buildings and renting apartments for the next 10 years. In 1939 he took a vacation to Italy to look for a wife (he preferred Italian women). He found Carl's mother in Palermo when she was only twenty years old. He liked her and told her family he wanted to marry her and bring her back to America. He paid her family \$5,000 in American dollars to marry her in Italy. Two years later, Carl's parents moved to Chicago and Carl was born.

Carl was raised on the South Side of Chicago, near 22nd (Cermack Road) and Halsted. This neighborhood was mostly black and Puerto Rican, with a few Italians, Germans, Polish, and Jewish people. This lasted until September 24, 1954 when Carl lost his mother. This prompted Carl's father to sell his property holdings and move to the near North Side and go to work for a large real estate organization with buildings in the downtown area (Chicago Loop).

Carl then lived around Ashland Avenue, 1600 west and Chicago Avenue, 800 north. This was still a very bad neighborhood.

Although Carl still lived at home, his father did not seem interested in him anymore and his father started channelling his energies into making money. Carl's father was quite abusive to him from then until he died. Carl still had a lot of drive in him, but now had to find things to do away from home. So Carl went to Judo School every night for five and one half years until he graduated from high school. From the age of 16 to 18, Carl was an amateur boxer on the week-ends. Here at the CYO (Catholic Youth Organization), Tony Zale, former middle weight world champion, was the trainer. Both of these commitments Carl feels were good for his life because they required discipline. At this time Carl earned most of his money by caddying in the summer time, and setting pins in the bowling alley in the winter time.

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After graduating from Waller High School in May 1959, Carl's father told him he had to get out of the house and earn his own living. Carl's father said he never wanted to see or hear from him again.

In May of 1959, Carl left home and went to Newark, New Jersey and worked in a mill in South Carney, New Jersey until late September. Then Carl left New Jersey and went to Miami, Florida. He got a job on Miami Beach in the Ocean Grande Hotel as a house painter and, when the season started, as a cabanna boy, which required giving towels to and assisting wealthy guests of the hotel while they were on the beach. This job lasted until late March, when Carl decided to head west. Carl traveled around for the next two and one half years, living and working where he could. Going west along the southern borders of the U.S. and north along the west coast to Washington. Finally, Carl decided in late 1962 to go back and visit his mother's grave in Chicago. While there, he found that his father had retired and moved to Ohio. That was where his new wife's family lived.

Carl enlisted in the Marine Corps in downtown Chicago on December 15, 1962. After getting discharged, Carl went back to Chicago in July of 1966. It seemed, at that time, that people were not hiring vets. Carl then went to see his old Judo instructor to inquire about a job. He told him that Avery Brundage, who had at one time been Board Chairman of the Olympics, and now owned the LaSalle Hotel in downtown Chicago, was looking for a chauffeur who had judo abilities. Carl applied and got the job. He was a chauffeur and doorman there until Brundage sold the Hotel. Carl then got a job through Conrad Hilton at the Hilton Hotel in Chicago on Michigan Avenue. After this job ended, he went to work as a bellman at the Playboy Towers. Then Carl got a job at the Sheraton Chicago Hotel as a doorman, while at the same time working part-time at the LaSalle Hotel for a new owner and driving a cab for American United Cab Co. at night.

While working at the LaSalle Hotel in 1970, Carl met his future wife, Linda.

In 1976, Carl and Linda moved to Aspen, Colorado. Carl worked for the Pitkin County Highway Department and Linda worked for the Pomegranate Inn.

Early in 1977, Carl and Linda moved to Las Vegas, Nevada. The job situation there was not very bright. You had to belong to a union and there were about 700 persons ahead of them on the list. Carl and Linda were married there on April 14, 1977 and immediately after their wedding, left for Rock Springs, Wyoming.

Carl and Linda arrived in Rock Springs on April 15, 1977 and had trouble trying to find a place to live. Carl's first job was with a pipe line running through the area, but this lasted only for a week. The next job Carl landed was as a roustabout for Robertson Construction, who serviced the oil field companies on location. This job lasted for the summer. Then Carl landed a job with Thompson Drilling, who was working in Big Piney, Wyoming and this job lasted through February of 1978 when Carl quit. Carl did some odd jobs until he got a job with Bush and Gudgeon, working for a survey crew around town and they also helped survey the area for the White Mountain Mall. This lasted the summer. Then Carl got a job with Peabody Van, whose job it was to bring in oil wells - this job lasted about five months. Carl was then taking odd jobs again and making whatever money he could make. Carl got a job with Peter Kiewit & Sons who were doing construction on the belt loop around Rock Springs. This job lasted from April 1979 to September 1979. Then Carl got a job with Gilpatrick Construction Company who was widening the shoulders on the service road from Rock Springs to the Husky Truck Stop. This job lasted six weeks and was finished. Then Carl worked odd jobs again until April of 1980, when he went back to work for Peter Kiewit on the highway (Interstate 80) east of town. After this project was finished, Carl applied for, and got a job on June 23, 1980 with Pacific Power and Light Co. He worked there until September 1984, when a back injury forced him to leave.

While Carl was working for PP&L, he and his wife, Linda started the first taxidermy business in Rock Springs in 1982. The business opened at 800 Gobel Avenue and later moved to 616 Dewar Drive in May 1984. Carl has worked in this business with his wife until the time of this interview, which was taken on May 1, 1989.