

THE TEMPTATIONS

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GLENN CARL LEONARD

"My father was the one who first took me to see the Temptations," recalls Glenn Leonard. "We sat there together and he said, 'Now there's the group.' He used to put me out in the middle of the aisles while they'd be performing, tell me 'Learn the routines'. I'd dance and people would give me money."

Little did people know, as they were stuffing little Glenn's pockets with coins, that he had set his sights on other things. As he recalls, to be a member of the Temptations was every young boy's dream at the time. Of course like wanting to be President, such a dream is a million-to-one shot at best.

Glenn, a Washington, D.C. native, says his father "Thought I was wasting my time. He wanted me to do other things. He wanted me to go to school; I had potential at one time to be an athlete. He wanted me to do some of those things instead of putting all my eggs in one basket."

Glenn, however, stuck to his guns. In 1971, he thought he saw a chance for his dream to come true when Eddie Kendricks left the Tempts. He auditioned, but Damon Harris got the job, forcing Glenn to return to what he had been doing. That, quite naturally, was singing.

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"I was a member of several different groups--the Chancellors, the Instant Groove, the True Reflections." By 1975, Damon was out of the Tempts and the job Glenn coveted was open again. "The Tempts found me in Toronto, Canada," he recalls, "busted, disgusted, rejected, and all that kind of stuff. They sent for me and I've been here ever since."

And, contrary to all the odds and all his father's worries, Glenn found a childhood ambition coming true. "When we first went back to Washington, I took Melvin over the house. We walked in the door and I said, 'See. I told you.' I had told my father I was going to be a Temptation one day. He met Melvin and he stood there and cried. He finally felt at ease that I had done something positive in my life."