

BILLY ROWE

WRITE TALES---Push Rev. Jesse Jackson's spirited org., which had its problems getting off the planning board in "Fun City's" Harlem, may be in for more of the same in Westchester. Rev. Calvin Sampson, of Shiloh Baptist Church in New Rochelle, is trying to help the cops figure out if the sniper who shot thru the window of his church is connected with the opposition. He has just been named prez of the org's Westchester satellite...Mel Pender, now a captain and track coach at the West Point Military Academy, will have retired by the time you read this. He was propelled into fame during the '64 Olympics in Tokyo when his quick starts amazed the sports world. Just 37, he's hanging-up his spikes after 13-yrs of competition during which he was a two-time gold medalist...Sammy Davis, Jr's pals are concerned about his latest throat problems...The promoters will have to charge a bundle when they present the new Frank Sinatra entertainment package of Count Basie and Ella Fitzgerald next fall...For the 2nd time in 8-seasons, the Negro Ensemble Co., will have a happening on B'way. June is show time and the opus is "The First Breeze of Summer" by Leslie Lee...To interest the members of the 100-Black Men in its Trade & Investment Opportunities in Africa and the Caribbean, the Pan African Business Center, Inc. cut its asking price 75% for its reception and dinner...The National Council of Negro Women hit the hi mark the other nite with a tribute dinner to its nat'l prez, Dorothy Height and a slew of life members. Without beating the corporate bushes, the affair grossed a 100G's.

Mid-Manhattan's Danny's Hideaway was the scene of Willie May's 44th b'day celebration and it went unrecorded by most of the town's gazettes and electronic media...During Hi Blood Pressure month, May, the word went out to checkup before you checkout. It's estimated that 23-mil American adults are victimized by this killer which is responsible for 20,000 deaths annually. It is also the contributing factor in many of the 1,500,000 heart attacks and strokes which occur each year in this country...Despite some bad amendments within the new Consumer Agency Bill, passed by the Senate 61 to 28, The Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, Roy Wilkins, chr'man, has mounted a campaign to prevent the threatened veto of Prez Ford...OMBE kicked-off its new season with an upbeat note for Black business persons. A report to the Office of Minority Biz from the Commerce Bureau of the

Leonard named as new Temptation

Glen Leonard, a soft-spoken Sagitarius with a philosophical bent, is the new Temptation, according to a joint announcement by Motown Records and the group's manager, Don Foster.

Having joined Melvin Franklin, Richard Street, Dennis Edwards, and Otis Williams in the most successful male singing group in recording history, the 27-year old tenor from Washington, D.C., is still startled by his sudden prominence.

"When I was in school, the Tempts were one of my favorite groups. I never dreamed..." he smiles, in a way that evokes understanding.

A veteran of four vocal groups, Glen was touring with the Reflections when he learned the Temptations were looking.

After their first encounter, Melvin Franklin exclaimed, "We knew he could do it. We didn't know why we knew. We just had faith."

It's that kind of faith that has inspired Glen Leonard through the bitter struggle that leads to the top in this profession.

"You start out in this business because you love it. A lot of cats lose their love of it, because of the sacrifices and what you have to do to be professional," he feels.

But that certainly will not be the fate of Glen Carl Leonard. "I didn't know where it would lead, he said while recalling the road that led him to the Temptations. "But right now, I feel all the work and hours of disappointment were worth it."

Census showed that U.S. Black business enterprises increased 19% to add up to 32,000 more in '72 that there were in '69..The country has finally gotten a Puerto Rican auto dealer. He's Frank Rodriguez with a Ford Franchise in New Jersey. In N'York Irv Reeves has given up his Chevy dealership when the wolves kept barking to close to his bank account. He was the only one in the Bronx...Irene Cara, the child theatrical protegee is now a talented teenager and has been selected to co-star in "Sparkle," the dramatic story of a rhythm and blues singing group whose sounds lifted them from the ghetto to the top.

JESSE SAYS---"All the President's Men," the Warner Bros. picture, is winding up location shooting in the Nation's capital and will move to Los Angeles where the remainder of the movie, based on the Washington Post investigative reporting during the Watergate period, will be completed. Security guard Frank Wills, who completed his week's work while playing himself has now returned to his Georgetown Univ. guard job...United Artists plans a big promotional campaign prior to the summer release of "That's the Way of the World," the Sig Shore Production that dissects the multibillion-dollar pop music business. A big plus to that campaign is the fact that "That's the Way of the World," the original score and title theme composed and performed by Maurice White and Earth, Wind and Fire and a single, "Shining Star," hit the top of the charts of all three major trade publications last week. The Columbia artists are currently making appearances in the East...Jimmy Walker, J.J., star of the "Good Times" comedy CBS-TV show who makes his movie debut in Sidney Poitier's "Let's Do It Again," has been signed by Panasonic to promote many of its home audio products,

with special emphasis on the "Dynamite-8" and "Take'n Tape" portable tape player. In addition to TV ads, he'll also make a limited number of personal appearances...Tamara Dobson's latest for Warner Bros., "Cleopatra Jones and the Casino Gold," is expected to premiere in New York City next month and the heavy magazine exposure the tall beauty has been reaping recently shouldn't hurt the boxoffice appeal of her latest film...The death of Josephine Baker, said to have cost producer Jean Claude Dauzonne a small fortune with production costs for her Paris revue running to \$800,000 and the show not running long enough to produce a profit. It's also reported that producer Carlo Ponti plans to make a film, "Josephine," based on the life of the late entertainer...Stevie Wonder has been added to the panel that will judge entries in this year's American Song Festival. He joins a group of judges that now includes Henry Mancini, Marvin Hamlisch, Johnny Mathis, Lou Rawls, Ray Charles and Rev. James Cleveland...Dance Magazine's annual awards for unique contributions to the dance theatre were awarded to Cynthia Gregory, star of the American Ballet Theatre, Alvin Ailey, choreographer and founder of the Alvin Ailey City Center Dance Theatre and Arthur Mitchell, founder of the Dance Theatre of Harlem..Mabel Mercer, the 75-yr-ole supper-club singer was made an Honorary Doctor of Music at the 30th commencement of the Berklee College of Music in Boston. Jazz pianist Mary Lou Williams received an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Fine Arts from Manhattan College in New York City...Manhattan Borough President Percy Sutton and former State Senator Basil Paterson, joined notables saluting Harlem labor leader L. Joseph Overton for his more than 30-yrs of achievement in a wide range of labor, political and civic affairs. A. Phillip Randolph, vice president of the AFL-CIO and honorary chairman of the testimonial dinner held at Vincent's Place last week, called it "an honor richly deserved."...Seven and a half yrs ago, former Amityville, Long Island lawyer Calvin C. Cobb slipped out of the U.S. to avoid a possible prison sentence for stealing \$25,000, from a Baptist Church. In December, he slipped back in from Tanzania where he had been living, claiming he wanted to "face the music." Now it seems Cobb has slipped back to Tanzania while free on \$10,000 bail while appealing his conviction of three years for violating probation. But before the U.S. did not have an extradition treaty with Tanzania: They do now... STAY LOOSE.

Raleigh Hughes

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