

BARBARA GLENN: ESCAPED 1972, CAUGHT 2008 - 'I KNOW WHAT I DID WAS WRONG'

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Barbara Glenn had a simple dream in the early 1970s when she was sentenced to jail: home ownership.

She was living that dream when she was arrested by U.S. marshals Aug. 23 in a Piedmont, S.C., neighborhood, where Glenn, 59, lived with her husband of more than 30 years, Devon Corley Jr., in a new, \$417,000 house. She had taken Corley's last name and kept her first after escaping the Detroit House of Corrections in Plymouth Township in **1972** .

"They are good people, always have been good people," former neighbor Charles Messer told the Free Press.

Glenn was born in Detroit, the third of five children. Her father worked for the Board of Education and her mother in maintenance at Recorder's Court.

At 15, she had a baby girl named Latonya Glenn, whom her mother cared for. At 16, she married a 25-year-old man. It was unclear when the two divorced.

Glenn entered a methadone program in her late teens or early 20s after developing a \$20-a-day habit, according to court records.

She lost her job as an attendant nurse at the Plymouth State Home and Training School because of her addiction. She then worked as a barmaid at the Brass Key Bar, according to records.

Her first run-in with the law led to her being charged with fraudulent use of a credit card in October 1969. Before her six months' probation was up for that conviction, she was charged with the same crime in a separate incident in February 1970. The following year, she was sentenced to 90 days in DeHoCo for issuing a check without an account or credit. She **escaped** in September 1971.

Glenn was subsequently **caught** and charged with first-degree murder, accused of luring a man to his death at the hands of her brother.

According to court records, Glenn, in October 1971, scouted a store to find someone for Willie Glenn Jr. to rob. She pointed out James Edward Smith, a 49-year-old Detroit man, after she spotted a \$100 bill in his wallet. Willie Glenn Jr. shot him to death. She maintained later that she didn't know he would kill him.

"I know what I did was wrong, and if there is any way ... " she trailed off before Judge Elvin Davenport in Recorder's Court in Detroit during sentencing.

The judge told her: "You are not in the percentiles of people who are black and poor and never had a chance. ... You have an ambitious, thrifty family, and I can't understand it."

Glenn, who pleaded guilty to a lesser charge of assault with intent to rob while being armed, was sentenced to 3 1/2 to 15 years in prison. She was put back in jail, but she **escaped** again in **1972** .

The second escape was charmed. She was never heard from again until her arrest last month. Details of her life are sketchy. Her husband, a construction engineer, did not return calls.

Glenn waived her extradition and now is held in the same prison from which she **escaped** .

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ILLUSTRATION: Photo

CAPTION: Barbara Glenn

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