

# NOW WE'RE TALKIN'

By Helen Marketti

## The Wrecking Crew!

An interview with Denny Tedesco

Everyone has heard The Wrecking Crew! They were an outstanding group of studio musicians who played on nearly every hit record that came out of the LA area during the 60s and early 70s. Hundreds of songs have been played with The Wrecking Crew giving the signature sound to what we have loved and consider a favorite. A few examples of their musicianship can be heard on *Be My Baby* (The Ronettes), *You've Lost That Lovin' Feelin'* (The Righteous Brothers), *These Boots Are Made For Walkin'* (Nancy Sinatra), *Rainy Days and Mondays* (The



Carpenters), and *Indian Reservation* (Paul Revere & The Raiders). This is only a small fraction of the influence and intensity these musicians had on a generation. The Wrecking Crew was used as Phil Spector's recognized "Wall of Sound". Artists requested them and reserved studio space until the band or specific members were free and available.

Denny Tedesco is the son of the late Tommy Tedesco. Tommy played guitar for The Wrecking Crew. Denny has been working on a documentary about this talented studio group for 19 years. His labor of love is finally complete as The Wrecking Crew documentary is now ready for the public to enjoy. It is a documentary with 6 hours of bonus footage and a must for every music fan and collector.

"I am very fortunate that I was able to capture so many interviews. I had interviewed Glen Campbell in early 2000 and feel grateful to have gotten his thoughts and memories on film," said Denny. What many fans

may not realize is that before Glen Campbell became famous, he too, was a member of The Wrecking Crew.

Many of the musicians that were interviewed for this documentary are no longer with us so it becomes more important to have a copy of this incredible story for future generations.

Denny's idea to capture the stories was to have the musicians sit at a round table, ask a question to prompt their memories and let them talk while the camera was rolling. "The reason it worked so well was because it was all I



Brian Wilson and Hal Blaine

~Continued on Page 16

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~Continued from Page 15

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the DVD from Bill Medley (The Righteous Brothers), Barry McGuire and many others. It seemed impossible to edit.”

The documentary is packed with interviews with original members of The Wrecking Crew as well as with music artists who recall fond memories of working with the musicians. Fans can enjoy interviews with Cher, Nancy Sinatra, Brian Wilson and many more!

The documentary was first shown at film festivals where it received many rave reviews! “The feedback from people is what keeps me going,” said Denny. “Every song in the documentary means something to someone. I receive letters from people all over the world. It blows my mind sometimes how it has touched so many lives. I am grateful that it did well at film festivals. I never really watched the film, however. I spent more time watching the audience and their reactions. I have had people approach me in tears after the film because a certain part made an impact. They were connected to an emotion or event from their life.”

“Sometimes I still can’t believe it’s done. I always thought of what more I could have done to improve or add but now that it’s complete, it’s time to get the DVD to the public,” Denny explains.

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knew,” said Denny. “I never saw them play but I did see them come over to our house and they would all sit around and talk. One story led to another. I feel the informal setting worked. I knew what I needed to get but then they would go in their own directions. For documentaries, you have to be prepared and open to anything that may change. The footage with the stories helps to make sense of what is being discussed.”

He continues, “The hardest part was deciding what to put in the DVD. The last interview I did was with Michael Nesmith (The Monkees) and that was when I had finished. I was in the process of turning in the material to meet the deadline.

There are out takes on



Tommy Tedesco passed away from terminal cancer in 1997. “I always had the thought that I would do a project like this for my dad and for the memories of those musicians. It is important to get the history and the stories preserved so they can be shared. I feel my dad would have wept at seeing all that was put into the documentary and what was invested to make it happen,” said Denny. “My dad loved what he did. He played on many great songs that he was proud of but I don’t think he thought about it until many years later. Some of my favorite songs where I can hear him play are *Up, Up and Away* and *One Less Bell to Answer* (The 5th Dimension) and *Memories* (Elvis Presley). I love hearing my dad play.” Denny has brought to the forefront the significant contributions of The Wrecking Crew and their influence on the music of a generation. “The Wrecking Crew contributed to the sound of rock and roll during the 60s and early 70s. They loved what they did and it showed.”

Denny is offering a discount for North Coast Voice readers who wish to purchase Wrecking Crew merchandise!

Simply go to the site: [www.wreckingcrewfilm.com](http://www.wreckingcrewfilm.com)

When you are ready to make a purchase, you will be asked for the discount code, which is: NCV

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