

This article which was a very sensitive issue to Frankie at the time incorrectly implied a connection between Frankie and the ex-Mafia mobster "Gyp" DeCarlo. As we all know, this is now highlighted every night when Jersey Boys performs at theatres throughout the USA and other countries! Timely to read what was incredibly reported at that moment in time! At least we know DeCarlo liked "My Mother's Eyes" sung by a young V.

DeCarlo backed singers, witness says

Rock stars tied to mob

By FRANK LOMBARDI
Staff Writer

Angelo "Gyp" DeCarlo, New Jersey's best-known organized crime figure, allegedly had a secret interest in a New York recording firm and in The Four Seasons, one of the top rock-'n'-roll singing groups of the 1960s.

The allegations have been made by Gerald Martin Zelmanowitz, a confessed stock swindler who helped put DeCarlo in jail with his testimony in 1970. DeCarlo was released last December after serving 33 months of a 12-year sentence for extortion. He was granted a commutation by President Richard M. Nixon because of ill health.

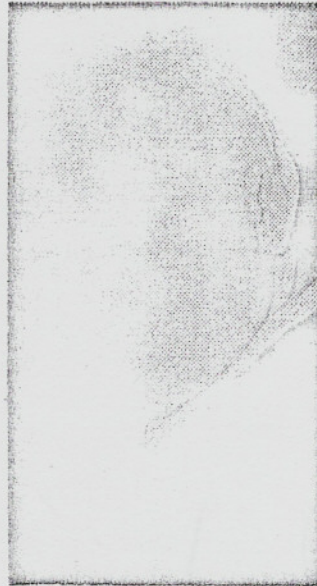
Zelmanowitz has told a subcommittee of the U.S. Senate that DeCarlo had an interest in Roulette Records, an independent recording firm that had a number of top rock-'n'-roll stars in the late 50s and early 60s. Zelmanowitz also has alleged that DeCarlo had a piece of The Four Seasons, a group that originally consisted of four New Jersey singers.

Frankie Valli, the group's lead singer, is the only original member still performing with "The Four Seasons." Another original member, Bob Gaudio, helps produce the group's records for its current recording company, Motown. Valli lives in Fort Lee and Gaudio is formerly from Bergenfield.

'A lot of bull'

"It's a lot of bull," said Valli, who was reached yesterday at the Flamingo Hotel, where the group is appearing for three weeks. It is the first time they have been booked in Las Vegas. "I own myself."

Officials of Roulette Records have not been available for comment. Morris Levy, the firm's president, was mentioned by Zelmanowitz in his testimony July 13 before the Senate's Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations. Transcripts of that testimony were released last week.



ANGELO 'GYP' DECARLO
Interest in record firm?

The subcommittee is headed by Sen. Henry M. "Scoop" Jackson, D-Wash. It has been investigating organized crime involvement in securities thefts and frauds. Zelmanowitz raised DeCarlo's alleged role in the recording industry in a brief departure from his testimony on stock dealings he had with the reputed mob leader.

"Does Angelo DeCarlo have any interest in a singing group called the Four Seasons, to your direct knowledge?" Jackson asked Zelmanowitz.

"He does, yes," he replied. Later he added, "Mr. DeCarlo was involved in recording in 1969 and 1970 in the recording industry. It was just one of some groups that he had."

Recording interests

Jackson also asked Zelmanowitz if DeCarlo had any interest in any recording companies.

"Roulette Records," he replied. "In New York City. Its principal is Morris Levy. Mr. DeCarlo had that (interest) in conjunction with Thomas Eboli, also known as Tommy Ryan."

Eboli, then head of one of

New York's five Mafia families, was murdered July 16, 1972, by still unidentified gunmen. Eboli, 61, who lived in a Fort Lee high-rise apartment, was alleged to have run loan-sharking activities on the New York docks and to have infiltrated a variety of legitimate businesses. He listed himself as the general manager of a recording and jukebox vending firm, Tryan Vending Co. in New York City.

A source on the Jackson subcommittee said U.S. Atty. Herbert J. Stern of New Jersey is aware of Zelmanowitz's allegations about DeCarlo's record interests. Stern and members of his staff have been conducting an intensive investigation of alleged payola and organized crime involvement in the recording industry.

No comment from Stern

A spokesman for Stern refused comment on the probe or whether the allegations by Zelmanowitz will figure in it. FBI agents, however, have interviewed Valli about DeCarlo.

A federal grand jury has heard a number of witnesses in the past three months, including top executives of Columbia Records. At least seven other major record companies have been subpoenaed, but Roulette Records is not known to be among them.

The federal probe involves charges of kickbacks, tax violations, misuse of funds, organized crime figures providing drugs to performers, and payoffs of disc jockeys to play certain records.

The testimony by Zelmanowitz was regarded as significant by persons knowledgeable of the music industry. A reporter and editor with one of the industry's major magazines said that to their knowledge it is the first time such allegations have been made publicly by any witness.

Tells of beating

Zelmanowitz dropped out of sight after the DeCarlo trial.

He had testified that DeCarlo's henchmen beat and choked another man until his face was blue and he begged for mercy. The trial led to the public disclosure of the DeCarlo tapes, which were transcripts of bugged conversations by DeCarlo and other mobsters at his former headquarters in Mountainside.

Presidential commutations were rare during the Nixon Administration. DeCarlo's was processed last year by John W. Dean III, former counsel to the president and a chief witness in the Watergate hearings. DeCarlo was reported to be dying from cancer. However, other federal officials said DeCarlo has been suffering from the condition for a number of years.

Both Jackson and Stern launched investigations into the presidential commutation but the findings haven't been disclosed. A member of Jackson's staff said Dean has been interviewed about the commutation. The staffer did not know when the subcommittee will report its findings.

In court on stretcher

DeCarlo is back at his Mountainside home. He was brought into court on a stretcher last month for not paying the \$20,000 fine he owed from his 1970 conviction. He was released when he agreed to begin making payments.

Zelmanowitz resurfaced in June when his new identity as Paul Maris, a San Francisco businessman, was blown by his involvement in civil litigation. The new identity had been provided by the Department of Justice as part of its witness protection program. Zelmanowitz then appeared before the Jackson subcommittee and gave detailed testimony of his securities deals with DeCarlo and other major organized crime figures, such as Joseph Colombo.

Claims direct knowledge

Zelmanowitz said he had di-



CONNECTED WITH DE CARLO? — The Four Seasons rock group, one of the most popular in the 1960s.

rect knowledge of DeCarlo's interests in The Four Seasons and Roulette Records. He wasn't asked to detail the Roulette Records allegation.

But he was asked by Jackson to explain in more detail the allegation about the singing group. He replied:

"In association with Roulette Records, a major recording firm in New York City. Through this association he had not only contact but had a so-called piece of the group and its earnings, one Frank Valli. The other gentleman I know is named Tommy, a singer with the group. He (DeCarlo) did business with them in my presence."

Tommy is a reference to Tommy DeVito, formerly of Menelair, who was one of the original members of the group, along with Valli, Gaudio, and Nick Massi.

The group had numerous top hits in the 1960's, including "Sherry," "Big Girls Don't Cry," "Walk Like A Man," and "Baby Goodbye." They were never on Roulette Records. They were originally with Phillips Records, a division of Mercury, before their move to Motown two years ago.

The group faded with the rise of hard rock but regained popularity with fans of rock-'n'-roll revivals. Their appearance at the Flamingo was considered a major break.

Just social friends

"If I had all those connections," Valli commented, "why is it I'm not a bigger star than I am?"

"All I knew about him was what I read in the papers. As far as I know, he was nothing

more than a gambler. I grew up in that area and worked in the local saloons," he continued. "What would I know about organized crime? I meet all sorts of people, lawyers, judges, I don't ask what they do for a living when they come see me perform."

He said he has known DeCarlo from playing in New Jersey nightclubs. And he regards DeCarlo and his wife as social friends.

He said he doesn't know Zelmanowitz or recall seeing him with DeCarlo.

Valli said DeCarlo never had an interest in any of his activities. Their meetings were always at social affairs, he said.

Gave facts to FBI

He reported giving the same information to FBI investigators some four months ago in New Jersey.

The agents also asked him questions about his former partner, Tommy DeVito, who now lives in Las Vegas. The two singers are said to have had a falling out several years ago.

Valli said he did not know why the FBI questioned him about DeCarlo. But the timing of that interview coincides with the federal payola probe begun earlier this year after the arrest of eight men on narcotics charges. One of the men, Pasquale Falcione, was described as the manager of several recording artists for Columbia. The telephone at his former Fort Lee apartment was tapped by federal investigators and reportedly disclosed payola information.

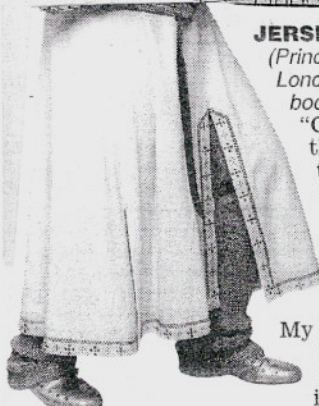
Valli said he doesn't know Falcione. The two men lived in different Fort Lee apartment complexes.

Daily Express Friday August 22, 2008

JERSEY BOYS

(Prince Edward Theatre, London, 0844 482 5151, booking until April 25, 2009)

"OH, what a night!" is the deserved reaction to this lively jukebox musical about Frankie Valli And The Four Seasons. As well as containing all the recognisable hits such as Sherry, Can't Take My Eyes Off Of You and Big Girls Don't Cry, the show presents the intriguing story behind



the band, which was kept secret from their fans in the Sixties and Seventies - including their less-than-squeaky-clean pasts and their connections with The Mob. The way Ryan Molloy has perfected Valli's jumping falsetto voice is amazing in itself.

Extract Taken From UK Record Collector May, 2009 No. 362.

Jay & The Techniques

Baby Make Your Own Sweet Music

★★★★

RPM RETRO 847

Good technique results in the sweetest music

Hailing from Allentown near Philadelphia, Jay Proctor & Co had been plugging away since the dawn of the decade. Ross' midas touch (he also discovered Bobby Hebb, Keith and Spanky & Our Gang) which paid dividends, with help from future Philly stars such as Kenny Gamble, plus songwriters including Sandy Linzer and Denny Randell.

Sale of the Seasons

TICKETS for the next most anticipated musical to hit town, *Jersey Boys*, go on sale on February 23.

Frankie Valli will announce the Australian cast — said to be all unknown — in Las Vegas on February 3 just before he performs there with The Four Seasons.

Co-writer Rick Elice will launch the show in Melbourne on February 10 at the Sofitel, when he will introduce the four main stars.

Elice won the 2006 Best Musical Tony Award for the show, his first musical, and is presently writing a musical on the *The Addams Family*.

Canadian director Des McAnuff planned to be in Las Vegas for the big announcement but he has to stay in New York where his new version of *Guys and Dolls* goes into previews.

The show opens on July 4 at the Princess Theatre.

