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Predappio (Perli) March 3, 1962

MUSSOLINI'S SON WEDS SISTER OF SOPHIA LOREN

Romano Mussolini, jazz-playing youngest son of the late Italian dictator, and Maria Scicolone, lovely sister of actress Sophia Loren, were married Saturday in Predappio, the little north Italian town, where Mussolini was born.

The ceremony in St. Anthony's church, not far from where Benito Mussolini is buried, brought tears to many a die-hard Fascist eye.

The crush at the wedding became so great at one point that young Mussolini almost fainted.

His best man and another attendant supported him, and a doctor gave him a stimulant by injection.

Not all of the guests - invited and ~~wanted~~ uninvited - could crowd inside the church. Hundreds stood outside under gray skies. Most of them were Fascist sympathizers, a good many members of the Fascist Social Movement (MSI) Party. Pino Romualdi, an MSI deputy, served as Romano's best man. For Fascist old-timers who gathered there, it was a nostalgic event. For Romano, now 33 years old, and his 23-year-old bride, it was a day of heady limelight and few, if any, backward glances.

Romano was only 7 years old when his older brothers Vittorio and Bruno were dropping bombs in the Ethiopian desert against the troops of Emperor Haile Selassie.

Vittorio was not among those present at Romano's wedding. He was attending the wedding of his own daughter Adria in Ghana.

Bruno was killed in a World War II plane crash.

Edda Ciano, sister of Romano, was reported on a cruise to India. Edda was the wife of Count Galeazzo Ciano, Benito Mussolini's Foreign Minister. He was executed on orders of Mussolini during World War II.

Romano's 31-year-old sister, Anna Maria, and his mother, Donna Rachele, who makes her home at nearby Perli, were present.

In the immediate postwar years, the three had lived in quasi-seclusion on the island of Ischia. Today that was all over. Hundreds of photographers were present to flash thousands of pictures.

There were banked flowers on the altar of the church, where Mggr. Giuseppe Bonacini, Bishop of Bertinoro, officiated.

By the time Romano arrived with his mother, the throng outside the church numbered about 5000 people.

They pressed in on Romano, who wore full dress and carried a top hat.

His mother was gowned in black and wore a tiny hat.

A few minutes later, the bride's mother, Renilde Villani, arrived followed quickly by Sophia Loren, who was dressed in a simple ivory-colored tulle.

Sophia's arrival caused a furor that swept through the tight packed throng and even into the church. The tumult increased with the arrival of the bride in a Rolls Royce. She wore a heavy veil and appeared very emotional.

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By the time the bride reached the altar, Romano had completely recovered from the dizzy spell. But the tumult increased inside the tightly packed church. Photographers' flash guns blazed away at such a rate that Bishop Bonacini threatened not to perform the ceremony. Police had to intervene to clear the area around the altar so that the ceremony could proceed.

The wedding ceremony was followed by a reception for 700 invited guests. Before going on their honeymoon, Romano and his bride planned to visit the nearby cemetery of San Casciano to place flowers on the grave of Benito Mussolini.

Romano and his bride will make their home in Rome in a seven-room apartment given them by Sophia Loren and her husband, movie-producer Carlo Ponti.