

Numbers Runner

Ron Wicker of New Jersey, worked as a numbers runner for one of the smaller crime families. His misguided hope was to one day work his way up to be a 'Made Man' within the family.

His father 'Matteo' came to America in 1919. His name at that time was Tony Lorenzo. The Italian people in those days were living in harsh poverty. Work was almost impossible to find. He left Italy to better his family life. Lorenzo went to work as a merchant seaman until he reached New York. Here he left the ship walking into a new world.

The only work Tony could find was a sewer worker. It was a disgusting line of work. His son Ronaldo saw how his father made a living. When Ronaldo was sixteen years old, he vowed he would never have to work at such a place. He would start looking for other possibilities.

It was 1941 when Ronaldo met Sean McClain. Sean introduced Ronaldo to a small crime family. They were well dressed with money in their pockets. The head of the gambling liked Tony. Soon he was working for them as a numbers runner. Tony worked his way up to collections; he was good at it. At 25 years old Tony started blackjack dealing. By 32 years old, Ronaldo was running a small back street casino in New Jersey.

The head of the family wanted Ronaldo to run for sheriff. This would give the family a lift up politically. After all most of the law in the area was on family payroll. Ronaldo then changed his name to Ron Wicker. His father understood the need to change the name. He was not happy with the kind of work Ron was doing. He lost his bid for the sheriff.

Ron liked this life he was living. He was not going to give up this fast flamboyant life or the money that came with it. His father, new name Matteo Reno, was sad to see the life his son was living. He knew Ron could only come to a bad end.

Another family, the Bananos, had moved into Ron's area. They wanted to take over all the gambling action. This eventually led to a street war between the two families. After many men were hurt and killed the two groups made a shaky peace that lasted for six years.

When Ron turned fifty years old, he had been raised to a Made Man, third in charge. Matteo by then was sick with kidney failure. He had not much time left to reach his son to turn away from this life. Matteo lay on his death bed talking to Ron. They prayed together as Matteo asked Ron to give up this life. Then Matteo told Ron his secret. He told his son about his Stavrosian connection, how this lifestyle was in direct conflict with the Stavrosian way of life. Matteo died shortly after his talk with Ron.

Ron was curious about this news of a Stavrosian connection. He spent the next six months talking to other family members. Ron, although interested, was still all wrapped up with his life. He didn't have time to devote to any research. His arrogance was far more than his good sense.

Ron was arrested in New York for gambling and on suspicion of murder. He was tried and found guilty. He was sent to upstate New York to a prison. Ron received a life sentence without the possibility for parole for his part in the killing of rival members of the Bananos family. He did try reaching out to the S.G.L. for help in escaping. This is not a function of the Stavrosian Guard; to free criminals from prison.

Ron Wicker had made his choice long ago. A lawless life put him in prison. He was now out of the reach of what the library would do. The S.G.L. will help Stavrosians families in need. Ron had turned his back on the Stavrosian community. He would now pay his debt to the men of earth. Ron would face this slow miserable sentence with only death to look forward to.

The S.G.L. can't save Ron from himself. There's an old Stavrosian saying, " You are right where you put yourself."

Report sent in by Ron's sister
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July 11, 2015