



Days of Moonshine and Roses part two The King of Coins

Michael Cannon

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This book is the firsthand true story of, Vaughn Cannon, one of America's most notorious and colorful characters. The celebrated columnist Drew Pearson wrote of him..

'The dapper son of a Georgia moonshiner is the king of the slot machine rackets in six southern states. He's as rich and powerful as Al Capone.'

He is a king indeed...the King of Coins. Who hasn't said...I know a Weird-Wiley or Naughty-Nancy. Their adventures, or escapades, would make a great book or movie.

The dirt-poor Georgia farm boy, slash moonshiner's son, is thrust into one life changing challenge after another? Vaughn amasses three personal fortunes. And much more fun than any Rags to Riches story, he is the envy of most men, and the irresistible dream date of every woman.

Vaughn becomes 'Gone with the Wind's' Rhett Butler in real life.

When a cousin asks, which of his lifetime endeavors and games of chance he loves to play the most? Vaughn grins, 'That would be lady killin.' He is a silver tongue devil with a mega-watt smile. A Conman extraordinaire!

It is no accident Vaughn is born in Tiger, Georgia. Legend says; "A tiger prowls the mountain outside town." Vaughn has the eye of the tiger using his Maverick like charm and James Bond type cleverness to become the rock star of his time. If he'd been a real rock star, instead of a gangster, and had a band, it should have been called, 'Nirvana,' which in everyday English means Heaven on Earth. Although where there is a heaven, hell must be only a sin or two away.

Vaughn, at thirteen, hops a freight train to Oklahoma to become a cowboy and see the world. Before reaching his twenty-first birthday, he pulls off the scam of a lifetime spreading slot machines throughout six southern states. He is a millionaire while most men his age stand in bread lines because of the Great Depression.

At twenty-six, his fame earns him a spot on the A-list at the premier of Gone with the Wind, in Atlanta Georgia. A chance meeting with a member of the film's marketing department, gives him his motto for all his future endeavors, "Don't sell the steak...sell the SIZZLE." Vaughn's steakhouses and taverns spread out in six southern states, slot machines singing out in the backrooms, having plenty of new SIZZLE.

He is indicted in 1949 for tax fraud, owing more money to the government than Al Capone ever did. While in prison he befriends the 'Godfather' of the Cuban mob. The mob helps Vaughn become rich again, running their illegal Bolita gambling game.

He lives large in the fast lane. But in a several million to one chance, many Bolita players have the same winning numbers. The mob pays off the winners to protect their reputation, demanding he turn over all his possessions to cover their losses. He first refuses to give in. The mob machine-guns out all the windows in his waterfront mansion and Miami Beach restaurant. He gives in, becoming broke once again.

But he has an ace in the hole, a piece of oceanfront land tucked away for such a time. And with hidden money he builds condominiums in Florida that are the first ever time-shares in America.

On Vaughn's last trip to visit his nephew in 1990, he shares his life story. The location is on the shore of tranquil Strawberry Bay, on Cypress Island, Washington. The nephew, his wife, one grown son, two preteen sons, and six-year old daughter, gathered at their beach cabin to join Vaughn.

The boys are spellbound as Vaughn relates one jaw-dropping story after another. Unknown to them at the time, Vaughn is dying, and decides to detail his remarkable life for posterity, which he does over the next two years.

One of the boys asks their Granduncle, "Uncle Vaughn were you a criminal?"

Vaughn rolls his big Cuban cigar around, "not a criminal. More like an Outlaw."

"Like Robin Hood...steal from the rich...give to the poor?" They ask him.

Vaughn grins wide, "Yeah right! I gave to poor ole Vaughn!"

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