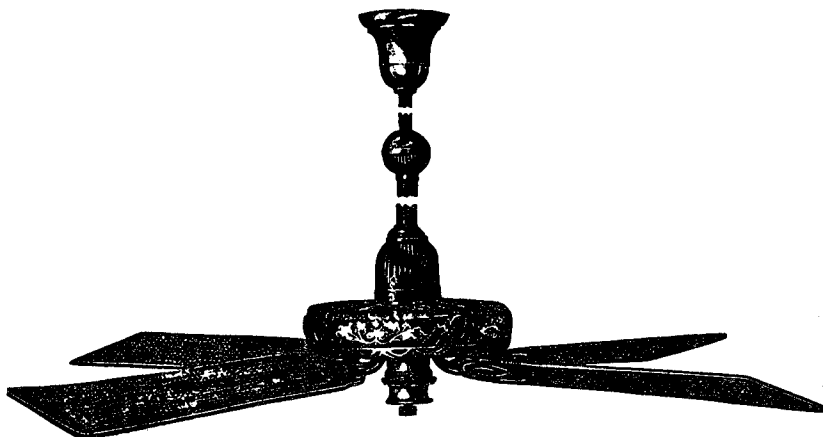


**WANTED:** large lots of games, gambling devises complete, parts, castings etc. I have \$25,000.00 to spend on any of the above. Please submit your best offers with photos detailed description of items. I am a Nevada resident. Please write care of The Coin Slot Department C. W. J. M.

**WANTED**



Information on Ceiling fans, brochures, circulars, pamphlets etc.  
Please write The Coin Slot Dept. DB

Sun., Jan. 11, 1976 Los Angeles Times

## Deputies Hit the Jackpot: 50 One-Armed Bandits

BY KEVIN RODERICK  
Times Staff Writer

At least 50 antique slot machines were seized in Van Nuys Saturday in what sheriff's investigators described as the state's largest haul ever of the gambling devices.

Lt. Lou Portesi of the sheriff's vice bureau said the illegal slot machines were discovered in a private home equipped to make extensive repairs on them. A large number of parts such as wheels, levers and electrical components also were seized, he said.

Portesi said the machines, dating back to 1915, could be worth a total

of \$50,000 and carry an average value of \$500 to \$700. Some of the older, more ornate models could be worth as much as \$2,500, Portesi said.

Deputies arrested Jerome Kenzer, 48, an electrical contractor who lives next door to the raided home, after he allegedly tried to sell one of the so-called "one-armed bandits" to an undercover agent.

Portesi said Kenzer possesses extensive knowledge of slot machine operation and apparently had ar-

ranged to use the unoccupied house as a repair shop.

Portesi said Kenzer apparently bought the machines from out-of-state sources, refurbished them, then planned to sell them to local customers. He dealt only in cash to avoid tracing, Portesi said.

Kenzer was booked for investigation of misdemeanor charges of slot machine possession and possession to repair the devices. Bail was set at \$500.

"Some of the older, wooden slot machines may even be handmade and are in pretty good shape," one detective said. "Too bad they have to be destroyed."

Some of the models carried markings from Las Vegas hotels and casinos where they were used long ago.

VALLEY NEWS  
and GREEN SHEET.

Friday, March 26, 1978

# 'One-armed bandits' may be freed

By MICHAEL POLLOCK

A Van Nuys slot machine collector, whose hobby came to an abrupt end in January when sheriff deputies arrested him and confiscated his machines, may be able to resume his pastime.

At least that's the way it appears after Municipal Court Commissioner Herbert Hargrave ordered authorities to return to Jerome Kenzer approximately 50 of the alleged gaming devices — representing a \$30,000 investment.

One drawback for the 48-year-old Kenzer is that Hargrave stayed execution of the order to allow the city attorney's office to file an appeal with the appellate depart-

ment of the Superior Court.

In addition, Hargrave's order affects all of Kenzer's machines except one the defendant allegedly agreed to sell to an undercover sheriff deputy.

Still, Kenzer of 14322 Valerio St., an electrical contractor who has collected slot machines for more than 15 years, is happy with the court order, even though he remains facing charges of possessing and selling gambling devices.

The Commissioner based his decision on a finding that Kenzer's slot machines are collector's items, have artistic value and were not being used for gambling.

Hargrave further held that the

machines have historical significance of early times in California.

The defendant, who said his machines "are beautiful antique works of art," was originally reported by sheriff deputies to be in the business of repairing and selling the machines.

Deputies also said they seized the devices, valued from \$500 to \$700 each, from a warehouse next to Kenzer's home.

Kenzer said, however, that he acquires and repairs the machines for himself.

He also maintained that "the so-called warehouse" is really an extension of his home.

"I acquired the property next to

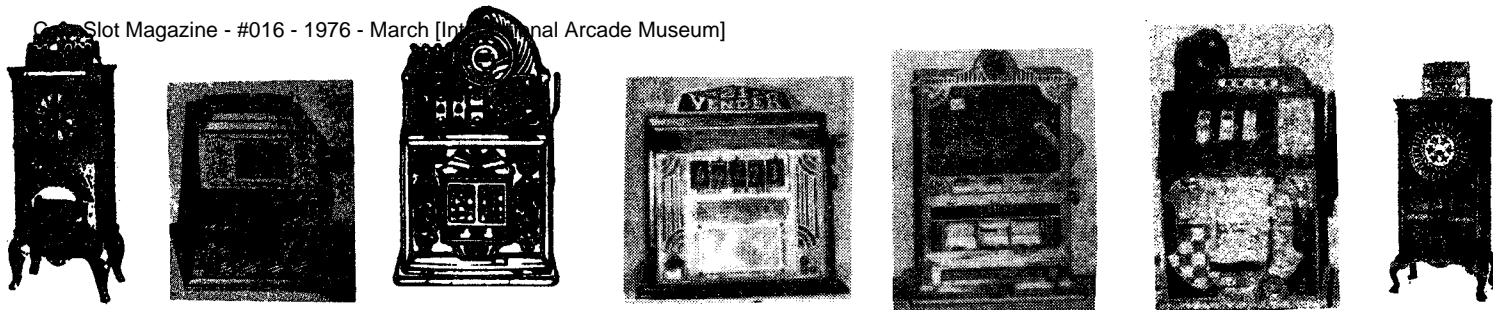
my home some time ago and it is used to house the machines, an art studio, for my wife and living quarters for my sons."

The defendant added that he is spearheading a drive to persuade area legislators to amend the California Penal Code dealing with the possession of slot machines.

"They are valuable because they are part of Americana," he added.

He maintained further that the mere possession of slot machines should not be a crime.

"It is a crime to use them for gambling, but we collectors wouldn't gamble with our machines," he said.



## AN URGENT PLEA TO ALL WHO APPRECIATE ART AND ANTIQUES

If you are a collector, restorer, dealer, nostalgia buff, trader, serious researcher or just an ordinary person who enjoys looking at beautiful, artistic, ornate interesting pieces of American Memorabilia.

### WE NEED YOUR HELP

Immediate action must be taken to rewrite an old law in California.

This law was written to protect you from persons who would cheat you out of your money by gambling.

All gambling in California is illegal. This is the law.

To enforce the law, to prevent anyone from twisting its meaning, to cover any possible loophole, the law was written in a manner to encompass every coin operated device with an element of chance. They added the Catch 22 phase that all such devices could not be touched, kept, or moved — must be seized on sight and destroyed, under the threat of fines, and jail. This is a simplified, short version of the law as written.

Persons who disagreed with the law, or persons who may have seen these devices as something other than a game of chance, hid them from sight.

Somehow many have managed to remain away from destructive forces that would reduce them to ash and scrap metal.

The years have passed, attitudes have changed, custom and style have changed but the law HAD NOT. Suddenly we were in a different society. People were seeking out what to them were beautiful forms of art, self expression, awareness of a feeling for the past, memories of days gone, but not forgotten.

Suddenly people were realizing that the world was turning drab and full of cheap shoddy plastic imitations of what used to be.

People began to search, collect, restore, preserve and even duplicate the old. And this is what it's all about. Those who had decided to preserve antique coin operated gaming devices, because they believed they were artistic works of art, because they were of By Gone Era, or that they were part of History, or simply as a form of entertainment or pleasure.

The original intent of the law was to prevent gambling. The law prevailed and gambling with these devices in California is no more.

If another legitimate use for these devices is a fact, then the law should be modified to permit the lawful pursuit of their use.

Would this aid those who might seek to use a modified law to gamble on these devices? Let's look at the facts.

Present laws have not stopped those who wish to gamble.

Cards, Dice, Horse racing, penny tossing, coin matching, Numbers, Sport pools, Lotteries, Cock fights, Dog races, Drawing straws; the list can go on and on, and on.

If a person wants to gamble, they will find a method. It is man's nature to chance things.

Old coin operated gaming devices, collected and stored in private homes pose no threat. They have been there for years, and years. They are not kept for gambling purposes.

They are very old, worn and their workings are such that should you possess the ability to service them where would you get the parts.

The Companies that made them have either passed from existence or have so changed their product that the only similarity to modern machines is that they are coin operated.

Collectors of these old coin operated devices are all about us. Surely everyone knows at least one person who owns a gaming device of one kind or another.

Would you think it fair that you, your neighbor, friend or relative had his treasured art form confiscated, destroyed and they in turn arrested, fined and possibly jailed. If you think it could not, and does not happen, simply call in a law officer and show him the device.

Aside from the dehumanizing anguish the collector suffers, aside from the insensitive destruction of what may be a very rare antique — the action alienates honest citizens against the ones who carry out the law.

Crime fighters need friends, more good will would be created if the law were tempered to allow legitimate collecting. When it were found that a device were used to gamble on, the perpetrator should be punished and the device either given to a Museum or auctioned off to true collectors and the money raised given to Police Funds or charity.

People collect knives, swords, bottles, razors, fire arms, autos, barbed wire. Improper use of any of these can cause more harm and destruction than any gaming device. In the wrong hands almost anything can be an aid to crime.

It is unfair to single out one possible implement, that might be used to break a law, as it would be to ban or destroy every item that is capable of being used to break the law. It is the person causing the act — the offender must be held accountable.

It is a waste of precious time and effort to seek out victimless crime. There is more meaningful crime to pursue. The law agencies are overburdened now.

It is needless waste of private and public funds to drag such an argument through the courts. All this can be remedied by simple worded legislation added to the present law. Such as allowing their use for all legitimate purposes other than gambling. By the altering of the device to allow function without the use of a coin. By removal of any locking device baring free access to the interior.

Please will you write a short note or send a telegram to:

THE HONORABLE ALAN SIEROTY  
CHAIRMAN, ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
STATE CAPITOL  
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814

Urge him to support legislation to protect the rights of COLLECTORS OF ANTIQUE GAMING DEVICES. Every day you delay could cost some innocent collector his prize piece of memorabilia.

The law did not say we could not view these devices — if they continue destroying them, there will be nothing left to see.

On Behalf of all Collectors of American Memorabilia  
— Thank You,

  
JERRY KENZER\*

\*Once the proud owner of a 15 year long collection now in the hands of the law awaiting their fate.

~~AT LAST~~  
GOOD NEWS FROM JERRY KENZER.....TO READERS OF THE COIN SLOT

It is rare indeed that there is ever good news to report these days.

As you sift through the newspapers, radio and TV reports, you are always bombarded with robberies, rapes, wars, hunger, more taxes, etc.

At last comes good news. A COURT DECISION worthy of headlines, and sure to bring joy to collectors of antique gaming devices.

In an unprecedented decision in Van Nuys, California on Mar. 23, 1976 the order was handed down that Jerome Kenzer's gaming devices should be returned.

They were ruled to be artistic collectors pieces.

Art important to History of California and the West.

Not kept for gambling purposes.

Should be excluded from the gaming laws.

When have you ever heard such good news?

I will wait until you re read the above and then proceed to answer questions....

How did it all come about?

How does it affect other collectors?

What happens now?

Add to these the endless questions you might want to ask

First and most important is the decision.

Yes it is a good one, long awaited and rightly delivered.

It was the results of weeks of preparation, gathering the proper data, important books, pictures, current literature, courageous witnesses, a very astute lawyer and a determination to prevail against over whelming odds.

The decision is subject to an appeal from the Sheriff's Dept.

As of now the ruling only affects my collection.

To directly affect others, there has to be a higher court ruling and legislation.

I have spent endless hours of letter writing and telephone calls to contact the proper people in an attempt to get legislative action started.

Your letters have helped and should be continued only redirect them to the party on the enclosed flyer.

This is not the time to sit back and relax.

This decision should be the start of a renewed fight to get the necessary law change in California.

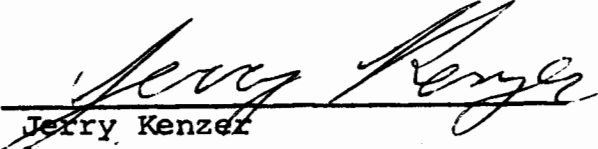
page 2

From here it will spread across the country, giving everyone the opportunity to freely collect and display their prize memorabilia.

I still need your support, if you have only watched from the side lines, you may be missing the only opportunity to stand up and be counted

The feeling of knowing that you were a part of bringing about a law change,  
The feeling of being a part of righting an injustice and helping to preserve truly American Heritage.

All support will be deeply appreciated.

  
Jerry Kenzer



## EXCLUSIVE TO THE COIN SLOT

### California Assembly Bill

Alan Sieroty---

I have introduced A. B. 4173 which expressly exempts from criminal prosecution Antique Slot Machine Owners who have obtained a license from the Attorney General.

Alan Sieroty

Downloaded from:  
<http://www.arcade-museum.com>

