

Video gambling raid reaps arrests

By Marie Chesney
Staff Writer

In two separate raids in Livonia and Redford Township, six area residents have been indicted by Michigan Attorney General Frank Kelley for conspiracy to violate Michigan gambling laws. The crime is a felony, punishable by five years in jail and/or a \$10,000 fine.

A warrant is also pending against a Livonia men's service club. Two video poker machines were removed Friday from the club, even after warnings that a raid was coming, said Livonia police Lt. Richard Ericson.

Four of the six indicted are scheduled to be arraigned Sept. 7 in Livonia's 16th District Court. They are Southfield residents George Clowis, 58, and his son Christopher Clowis, 26; Dearborn Heights resident William Carlin III, 35; and Farmington Hills resident Norman Carlin, 35.

Two of the six were arraigned Aug. 10 before 16th District Court Judge Robert Brzezinski. They are Livonia resident Howard Craig, 56, and his son, Jamie Craig, 24, of West Bloomfield. An examination date for both has been set for Sept. 15. Both pleaded innocent

and are free on \$5,000 personal bond each.

A RAID Aug. 4 in the kitchen of a restaurant at the Detroit Race Course, where three of the machines were confiscated, led to a raid Aug. 9 against a Redford Township company, where one machine was taken from a rear stock room, Ericson said. The company, Associated Amusement, 15191 Telegraph, was also named in the indictment handed down by the attorney general.

Ericson said police got complaints young people were losing money playing the machines at the race track. On Aug. 4, two police officers were sent to play the machines. George Clowis, owner of the DRC Track Restaurant, and his son Christopher, an employee at the restaurant, were arrested, Ericson said, after the officers paid for playing the machines. Officers then heard about the Redford Township company and obtained warrants to search it, he said. Arrested were Carlin, owner of the company, and Carlin, a maintenance man.

While at the race track, officers also found a brochure advertising the machines at a Detroit bar. The brochure

led to the Michigan-based Primages International Co. and to the arrests Aug. 8 of Jamie Craig, the company's president, and Howard Craig, a company officer.

The company, which lists as its address 19683 St. Francis in Livonia, was also named in the attorney general's indictment.

To date, Livonia police have confiscated six video poker machines as part of a statewide crackdown on the illegal gambling devices.

The crackdown, spearheaded by Kelley, comes in the wake of a new law outlawing the machines in Ohio. Many Ohio companies selling or operating the machines have simply slipped

across the state border into Michigan, said Ericson.

Ericson estimated hundreds of the machines are now in Michigan. For a \$3,600 investment, he said, owners of the poker machines can make up to \$60,000 a year profit from the machine.

Kelley, Ericson said, has tracked down on the poker video games because "no element of skill" is added to play the game, it's "just plain dice." This past summer, police raided across the state have conducted raids to confiscate the machines in Lansing, Muskegon, Cadillac, Clinton and Detroit.

Eckstein named associate

Ronald P. Eckstein has been named an associate in the auditing and accounting department at Plante and Moran, certified public accountants, chairman Frank Moran and managing

partner Ed Parks announced today. Since joining the firm in 1978, Eckstein has done accounting, auditing, and business and tax consulting work

for banks, high technology research institutions, manufacturing companies and other business concerns.

Eckstein is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Michigan Association of Certified Public Accountants and Beta Alpha Psi. He holds a bachelor's arts degree in accounting from Michigan State University.

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