

AROUND SOUTH FLORIDA

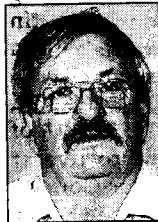
● POMPANO BEACH

30-year fugitive ordered to finish 7-year sentence

From Miami Herald Staff and Wire Reports

A man who was a fugitive for more than 30 years will be returned to Florida to complete his seven-year sentence for an aggravated assault committed in Pompano Beach, a Las Vegas judge ruled Monday.

Jack Hazen, who had been living under the assumed name Charles Free since he fled a prison work program in 1976, will be extradited to Florida under an order signed by Gov. Charlie Crist.



HAZEN

Hazen, a Vietnam veteran who married and raised a family in Las Vegas, suffers from health problems that include multiple sclerosis and a brain tumor. A spokeswoman for Hazen's Florida attorney, Don Pumphrey, said Hazen would be flown to Florida to minimize the strain on his health.

He was arrested Jan. 30 after a Florida Department of Corrections cold-case squad tracked him down. His family had known nothing of his earlier life under another name.