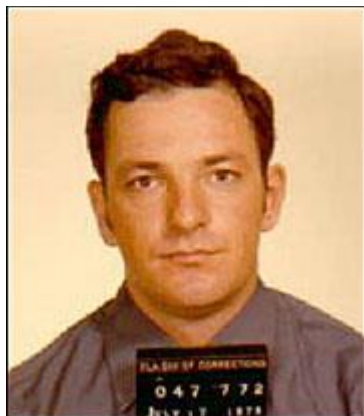


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Man Caught in Vegas After Decades Long Run Paroled

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Jack Allen Hazen mugshot in 1975.

The man who escaped from a Florida prison only to be found in Las Vegas after 32 years will now be a free man again. Jack Hazen was taken back to Florida almost a year ago to finish the prison sentence he walked away from in 1975.

Hazen would have been paroled earlier, but because of failing health, the parole board wanted to keep him in prison to watch him medically. Now the board says his health improved enough to let him out.

On March 31, 2009, Hazen will walk out of the Dade Correctional Institution as Charles Free. Hazen took that name 33 years ago when he escaped from the Florida prison. Last year, Florida detectives caught up with him in Las Vegas after a tip.

Hazen's family only knew him as Charles Free and had no idea he was convicted for stealing food from a convenience store back in the 1970's. He got a seven year prison sentence for stealing the food. He's now served a total of two years, one in the 1970's and one over the last 12 months.



Jack Allen Hazen, aka Charles Free, mugshot in 2008.

The decision by the parole board ends a long battle to prove that he was a changed man and not a thief. His daughter, Christina Greer, cannot believe this news, "We know he has lost a lot of weight. We know he is doing good with that. I guess his diabetes is under surveillance. We are hopeful that everything is ok."

She and her mother will go to Florida in April to be with Hazen. He will stay in Florida until his lawyer can work out with his probation officer a move to Las Vegas.

Hazen is still suffering from Alzheimer's. He has a brain tumor and a number of other medical issues. His family feared he would die in prison.

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