

MiamiHerald.com
April 8, 2008

MiamiHerald.com 

Posted on Tue, Apr. 08, 2008

30-year fugitive is back in prison

BY AMY DRISCOLL

A fugitive for more than 30 years who ran away from a prison work program while serving time for a Broward County aggravated assault charge is now in a Florida prison medical center.

Jack Hazen, known as Charles Free since he fled in 1976, was flown to the Lake Butler Reception and Medical Center on Friday.

He had been held in a Las Vegas jail since his Jan. 30 arrest. A Florida Department of Corrections cold-case squad tracked him down in Las Vegas, where he had married and raised a family who knew nothing of his criminal past.

Hazen, 61, is a Vietnam veteran who suffers from health problems, including multiple sclerosis and a brain tumor. Gov. Charlie Crist signed an extradition order in March returning him to Florida to complete his seven-year sentence.