



MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS



PRESS RELEASE

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Fugitive Returned to Mississippi Prison 34 Years after His Escape

JACKSON - A fugitive arrested in Utah 34 years after he escaped a Mississippi Department of Corrections facility is back in a state prison.

Sam Gene Harris, 62, was extradited from the Carbon County Jail in Price, Utah on Sunday. He is currently housed at the Central Mississippi Correctional Facility in Rankin County.

Harris, then 27, was discovered missing from the Forrest County Community Work Center during a count on Nov. 27, 1980. He was housed at the minimum security facility after being sentenced on Oct. 29, 1979 to four years for burglary and three years for possession of burglary tools, with one year of the possession conviction to run concurrently. He was convicted in Jones County.

Harris, #36394, will not face additional prison time for escape because leaving a community work center was considered a misdemeanor in 1980. However, he has forfeited any time earned before his escape. His sentence will end Jan. 17, 2018.

MDOC learned of Harris's whereabouts from the FBI. The FBI contacted the agency in October, based on MDOC's escape warrant for Harris.

MEDIA NOTE: For a photo of Sam Harris, visit
<http://www.mdoc.state.ms.us/InmateDetails.asp?PassedId=36394>

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