



SCDC Inmate Captured 40 Years After Escape

Jan. 2, 2020

For immediate release

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COLUMBIA, S.C. – An SCDC inmate who escaped from an Anderson County work crew in 1979 was captured Wednesday in Dover, Del., living under an assumed name and identity.

Jose Chico Romero, now 64, had an encounter with Dover Police on Dec. 28 in which he presented a fake identification card. He was arrested, processed and released under the name Arnaldo Figueroa, but his fingerprints later came back with a match for Romero. He was apprehended in Dover without incident on New Year's Day.

Romero was serving an 18-year sentence for armed robbery from Aiken County when he escaped on Dec. 13, 1979. At the time of his escape, Romero was assigned to a work crew in Anderson County and was being housed at the former Anderson County Stockade. The building was being used to house short-term local inmates and SCDC inmates assigned to work in the county as part of the designated facilities program.

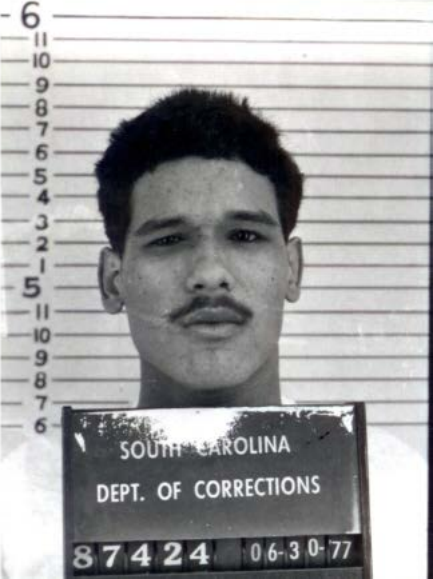
Romero was one of several SCDC inmates assigned to live and work there. Under current classification rules, he would not have qualified for this work-release program.

Romero is being held at Sussex Correctional Institution in Georgetown, Del., on a fugitive warrant and has waived extradition. He also is charged with public intoxication, loitering, third-degree criminal trespassing, second-degree forgery (four counts), criminal impersonation and being an out-of-state fugitive.

Once returned to SCDC, Romero will be required to serve the remainder of his original sentence, which is about seven years, plus any additional time added for an escape conviction.

SCDC thanks the Dover Police Department and Delaware Attorney General's office for their cooperation and diligence in apprehending and returning this criminal.





SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPT. OF CORRECTIONS

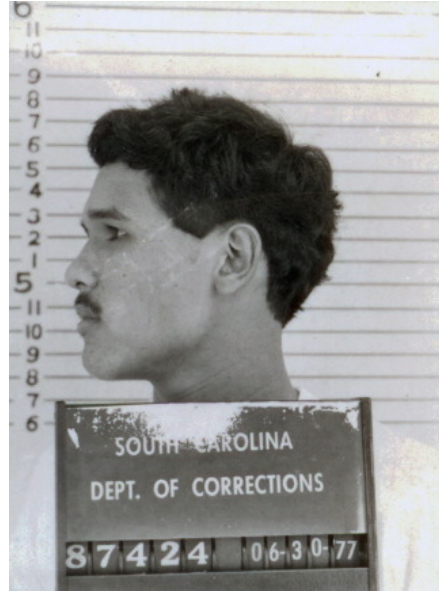
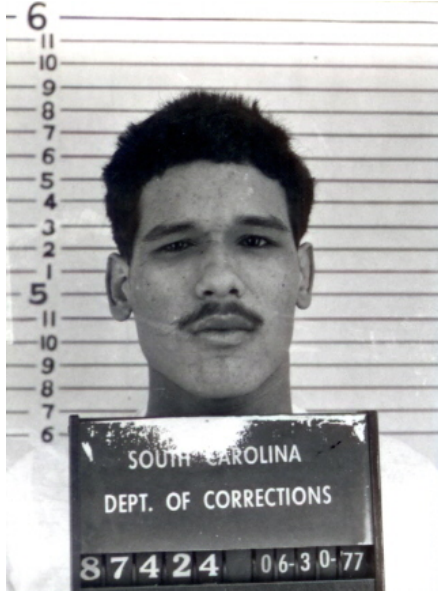
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WANTED FOR ESCAPE

REWARD FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO CAPTURE

CALL TOLL FREE 24 HOURS A DAY AT (877) 349-2130

Escaped from the South Carolina Department of Corrections on 12/13/1979



COMMITMENT NAME: **JOSE ROMERO**

SCDC #: **00087424**

NCIC #: **W838696228**

Warr #: **A367549**

FBI #: **634609P4**

OCCUP: **PLUMB/PIPE FIT/SPRINK-APP**

MARKS/SCARS/TATTOOS:

DOB: **1956-04-16**

AGE: **63**

BUILD: **SMALL**

EYES: **BROWN**

HAIR: **BLACK**

SEX: **MALE**

RACE: **WHITE**

HEIGHT: **5' 5"**

WEIGHT: **114 LBS.**

COMP: **OLIVE**

OFFENSE/SENTENCE:

SENTENCED TO 18 YEARS 0 MONTHS 0 DAYS FROM AIKEN FOR ARMED ROBBERY

ESCAPE DETAILS:

The Above Inmate was Apprehended by Dover Police Department Officials (Delaware) at Approximately 12:54 pm on Wednesday, January 01, 2020. Inmate Escaped from the Anderson County Stockade on December 13, 1979. FJ

*** South Carolina will extradite worldwide ***

Fugitive Apprehension Unit at (877) 349-2130 from 8 AM to 5 PM EST.
After 5 PM call (803) 896-2258 or the SC Law Enforcement Division at
(803) 737-9000 or contact local law enforcement.