Con Had A Long Record

Special to The Examiner

SAN JOSE — Two of the inmates involved in today's abortive Santa Clara County jail break were more successful in past flights to freedom.

One, Jacob F. Zitzer Jr., alias Chuck Williamson, devised a dummy to replace him in his San Quentin cell last December while he used grappling hooks and a rope fashioned from prison denim to scale its walls.

Zitzer, 27, was convicted in 1964 of robbery and murder. Prison officials described him as "desperate."

To demonstrate this, Zitzer stabbed himself in the leg to illustrate for Santa Clara County deputies that he would not hesitate to use his prison-made shiv on his hostages.

A companion in today's attempted break, Norman Lucas, 22, was a federal prisoner awaiting sentencing for bank robbery and facing prosecution on a kidnaping charge.

Lucas escaped from the San Francisco County Jail in December, 1969, after he and three other inmates climbed down from the roof on a rope made from strips of blankets. Three of them — including Lucas — escaped. The fourth fell to his death.

Lucas pleaded guilty March 20 to holding up a Castro Valley bank for \$945. The same day he signed an order transferring a federal indictment in Houston, charging him with aiding and abetting a kidnaping to San Francisco.

The third member of the Santa Clara county escape trio, Ted Guerrero, was a county probation violator.