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San Quentin Escaper May Have Stayed

San Quentin authorities yesterday said they have not entirely abandoned the possibility that escaped murderer Jacob F. Zitzer Jr. was still inside the prison walls.

"We've had people hide out in the industrial area (the place from which the escape was launched) for two or three days in the past before we found them," said Joseph O'Brien, a prison spokesman.

At the same time, however, O'Brien conceded they are "pretty certain" that Zitzer made it over a 20-foot wall Monday night, even though two companions were caught. He said there is evidence the wall was scaled.

The 27-year-old escaper, who had served 7½ years of a maximum life sentence, was described by prison authorities as "a strange one."

What makes Zitzer strange, they said, is that he has now jeopardized his chances for parole — He would have been eligible to apply for it in three or four years.