

# ***Buddy Jacobson Seized in Suburb Of Los Angeles***

## ***Police Move In as Fugitive Makes Call to New York***

By **LEE A. DANIELS**

Howard (Buddy) Jacobson, the millionaire former race horse trainer wanted for fleeing a Brooklyn city jail last month after being convicted in April of murder, was captured yesterday in a Los Angeles suburb.

Mr. Jacobson was arrested by officers of the Manhattan Beach Police Department. Authorities in California said he was talking on a restaurant pay telephone to someone in the Brooklyn District Attorney's office, but District Eugene Gold later denied that anyone in his office had been talking to the fugitive.

The California authorities said that while Mr. Jacobson was talking — about making arrangements to turn himself in, they believed — Mr. Gold's office called the Los Angeles District Attorney's office in Santa Monica and reached William Burnett, an investigator.

### **Police Are Called**

Mr. Burnett then called the police station in Manhattan Beach, which is directly across the street from the Criterion Restaurant, where Mr. Jacobson was in the midst of his call on a pay telephone.

Two officers, one of them carrying a shotgun, the other a handgun, slipped across the street and entered the restaurant while three others covered the restaurant's entrances.

The two officers walked quietly up behind Mr. Jacobson, who later was found to be unarmed, and asked him to identify himself.

"He identified himself and that's all," said Sgt. Jack Mair, the watch commander at the police station, who was one of the arresting officers. "He hasn't said anything since."

Asked if Mr. Jacobson offered any resistance, Sergeant Mair said, "He didn't have the chance. We came up from behind him. His back was turned. He was standing at the phone talking to someone."

At a crowded news conference in his office last night, Mr. Gold declined to say whom Mr. Jacobson was speaking to in the telephone call. He would say only that Mr. Jacobson "was in the midst of a

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Associated Press

**Howard (Buddy) Jacobson being escorted by police officers from the Manhattan Beach, Calif. police station after his capture in a Los Angeles suburb.**

## ***Jacobson Arrested in Los Angeles Suburb While Telephoning New York***

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phone call that we expected he would be making." Mr. Gold said that his office had expected Mr. Jacobson to make the call "because we became aware of a code he was using with others in his attempts to obtain money from New York City."

After the news conference, when pressed to comment on reports from California that Mr. Jacobson was actually talking to someone in the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office at the time of his arrest, Mr. Gold finally said, "He was not speaking to any member of my staff." The District Attorney then continued to refuse to disclose whom Mr. Jacobson was in fact speaking to at the time. Asked why he was refusing, Mr. Gold said, "Because I don't break promises."

Asked about a report that Mr. Jacobson was talking to a Michael Sears in his office, Mr. Gold said he was "not aware" of anyone by that name in his office.

Ronda Nager, Mr. Gold's spokesman, checking a directory of all employees in the Gold office, said there was no Sears or

similar name listed in it. Of the Jacobson phone conversation, Miss Nager said that "you would be 100 percent wrong if you said he was talking to someone in our office" at the time of his arrest.

One source close to the search for Mr. Jacobson said that the fugitive might have been trying to talk to one of his sons at the time of his arrest.

Mr. Gold also declined to detail the nature of the Jacobson code that he said had been broken, although there were unconfirmed reports from other sources that the code was related to telephone area codes. Mr. Gold, pressed on whether telephones of Jacobson friends or relatives had been wiretapped, replied, "no comment — we used a variety of legal techniques."

Mr. Gold said he did not know when Mr. Jacobson would be returned to New York. He said three New York City detectives had left for the Manhattan Beach-Santa Monica area at 6 P.M., New York time, about half an hour before Mr. Jacobson was caught — because the breaking of the code had already made it clear that Mr. Jacobson was in the Manhattan Beach area. The detectives, he

said, had intended to search motels in the area.

Mr. Gold said that earlier yesterday his office had become aware that there was a "probability" that Mr. Jacobson would be making a phone call to someone in New York City.

Mr. Gold said it later "became quite evident that Jacobson was on the phone in this Criterion diner." Mr. Gold said that his assistants telephoned the Los Angeles District Attorney's office, told them of Mr. Jacobson's whereabouts and asked to have him arrested immediately.

Of Mr. Jacobson's arrest, Sergeant Mair said, "When I tapped him on the shoulder, he was a little surprised. We asked him to identify himself and he said, 'I'm Howard Jacobson,' and the description matched him to a tee."

The sergeant said that Mr. Jacobson was wearing blue jeans, brown suede shoes, and a white T-shirt. He had a mustache and several days' growth of beard. Recent reports had indicated that Mr. Jacobson, for purposes of disguise, had at one point shaved off his brush mustache.

Mr. Jacobson was in custody last night in Manhattan Beach, a coastal suburb

about 15 miles southwest of downtown Los Angeles, with a population of slightly more than 17,000. The police in Manhattan Beach said Mr. Jacobson was being held on two fugitive warrants, one for murder and the other for his escape from the Brooklyn House of Detention on May 30. He is to be transferred to the Los Angeles County Jail in downtown Los Angeles before being returned to New York City.

Police officials in California said that the entire episode took only about 15 minutes.

Mr. Jacobson's capture ends his 40-day flight from the Brooklyn House of Detention where he was awaiting sentencing for the murder of John Tupper, a restaurateur and a rival for the affections of Melanie Cain, a high-fashion model with whom Mr. Jacobson had lived.

Mr. Tupper, 34, was slain on Aug. 6, 1978, two weeks after Miss Cain moved out of Mr. Jacobson's penthouse apartment and into Mr. Tupper's apartment across the hall. Miss Cain, 25, had lived with Mr. Jacobson, 50, for five years.

Mr. Gold said his office had learned that Mr. Jacobson had been in California

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for "an extended length of time." They also knew that he had traveled across the country, stopping for some time in the Des Moines, Iowa area and in northern California.

Mr. Jacobson fled the Brooklyn jail on May 30, three days before he was scheduled to be sentenced.

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