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## Ted Corbitt, 73, not set to hang 'em up

**T**ED CORBITT, 73, the acknowledged "father of ultramarathoning," first started running through the streets in the late '40s. A quiet, gentle person, he nevertheless literally ran into the law on many of his runs.

Corbitt ran day and night, building marathon mileage. "And I got to realize a black guy running through the streets at night arouses suspicion," says Ted, who laughs now at his "encounters."

"I was running in Cleveland in 1949 where I was working as a physical therapist. A woman had seen me running on the pathway of a mental hospital as part of the run and called the police to report: 'A black guy's escaping from the hospital.' A police car answering the call screeched to a halt alongside me and two officers jumped out with guns drawn and brought me to the station. I had ID and an explanation so the sergeant told them: 'Let him run.'"

Another run-in in the Big Apple: "I was teaching therapeutic exercising at Columbia and had just given a test. I had the exam books in a package under my arm and was running home to the west Bronx when two cops in a car honked their horn, blocked



my way and asked: 'Why are you running? What have you got in that package?' I showed them the exam papers and said I was running home. They apologized and told me: 'OK, prof, enjoy your run.'"

This street training paid off. Corbitt made the 1952 U.S. Olympic team in the marathon and set numerous ultramarathon marks. A graduate of NYU where he ran short distances, Corbitt is an outpatient physical therapist at Manhattan's International Center for Disabled.

Ted has been slowed to a walk by allergies but hopes "to get back into running for fun." Tomorrow, to celebrate the 20th anniversary of his setting an American 24-hour record of 134.7 miles at Walton-on-Thames, England, the Ted Corbitt 24-Hour Run will be held at Roosevelt Island. He will walk through "as much of the race as I can" as a tuneup for his return.