

Meet Jack Manson, the man with the spring-heeled boots.

# JUMPING JACK



**J**ACK MANSON had dedicated himself to a crusade against injustice and cruelty. He used the disguise of a phantom with a glowing face mask, and his amazing spring-heeled boots enabled him to make tremendous leaps.

Jack used many disguises, as he moved round the country.

I HEAR OF TROUBLE AT HITHER COMMON. IN THIS GUISE OF A PEDLAR I CAN INVESTIGATE.

NO WONDER THERE'S TROUBLE! THOSE MEN ARE STARTING TO FENCE OFF THE COMMON!

YOUR MASTER, SQUIRE MYRES, HAS NO RIGHT TO ENCLOSE THIS COMMON, PETER HAWKE!

JOSH HIGGS IS STANDING UP AGAINST THE SQUIRE'S MEN.

At one time England had great areas of land used in common by those who lived there for grazing livestock and gathering wood. The Commons weren't farmed, and Parliament passed laws allowing some of them to be enclosed for agriculture, the commoners being given money as compensation. But some ruthless estate owners enclosed land where common rights were still legally in force.

SIR HECTOR MYRES GAVE US THE ORDER.

YOU GO ON 'WI THAT FENCE AND I'LL STICK 'EE WI' THIS PITCHFORK.

THEN HE CAN TAKE HIS ORDER BACK. THERE AIN'T BEEN NO LAW TO ENCLOSE HITHER COMMON!

YOU TALK BIG, JOSH HIGGS, BUT IT WON'T GET YOU ANYWHERE!



NO COUNTRY BUMPKIN IS GOING TO STOP SQUIRE MYRES DOING WHAT HE WANTS!



THAT THREAT SOUNDS AS IF IT WAS MEANT. I'LL KEEP AN EYE ON HAWKE

Later.



NOW WHAT IS PETER HAWKE UP TO, SKULKING AROUND THE BACK OF THE COTTAGES?

As Jack left the village.



HEY THERE, WE DON'T WANT NO THEIVIN' PEDLARS ROUND HERE,—

IT'S THE PARISH CONSTABLE. I DON'T WANT HIM TO SEE ME.

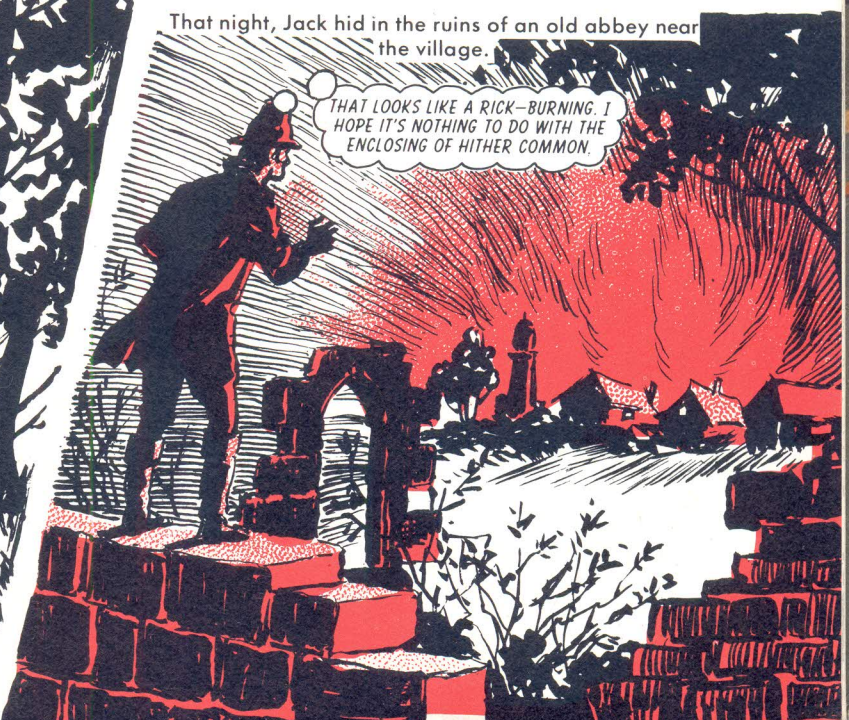


IT'S A GOOD JOB I'VE GOT MY SPRING-HEELED BOOTS ON!



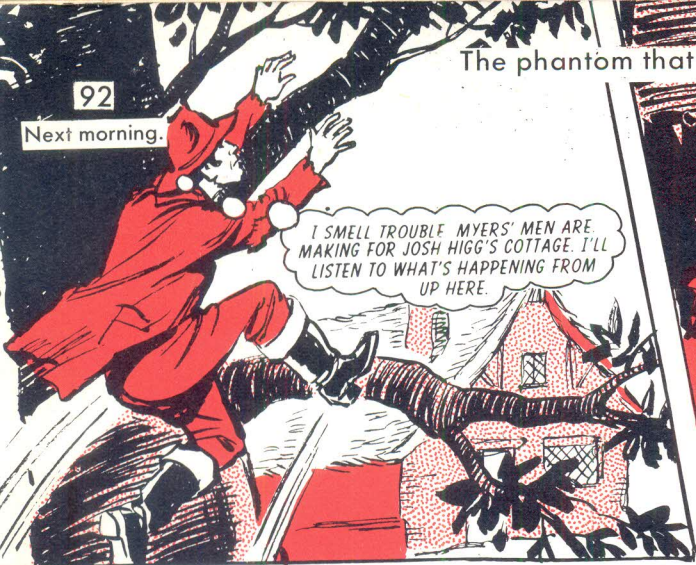
NOW WHERE DID THAT ROGUE GO?

That night, Jack hid in the ruins of an old abbey near the village.

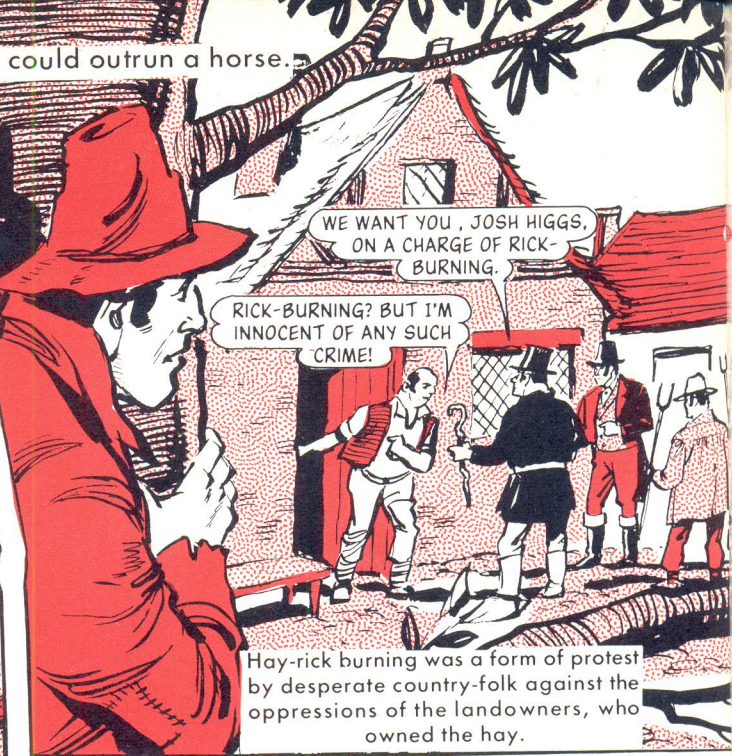


THAT LOOKS LIKE A RICK-BURNING. I HOPE IT'S NOTHING TO DO WITH THE ENCLOSING OF HITHER COMMON.

Next morning.



I SMELL TROUBLE MYERS' MEN ARE MAKING FOR JOSH HIGG'S COTTAGE. I'LL LISTEN TO WHAT'S HAPPENING FROM UP HERE.



WE WANT YOU, JOSH HIGGS, ON A CHARGE OF RICK-BURNING.

RICK-BURNING? BUT I'M INNOCENT OF ANY SUCH CRIME!

Hay-rick burning was a form of protest by desperate country-folk against the oppressions of the landowners, who owned the hay.



THIS STICK WITH YOUR NAME CARVED ON IT WAS FOUND AT THE SCENE OF THE CRIME.

SO THAT'S WHAT HAWKE WAS UP TO. HE STARTED THE FIRE AND PLANTED THE STICK THERE SO THAT HIGGS WOULD GET THE BLAME!



MYERS AND HIS MEN WILL STOP AT NOTHING TO GET THAT COMMON ENCLOSED! IT'S TIME I TOOK A HAND, I THINK.

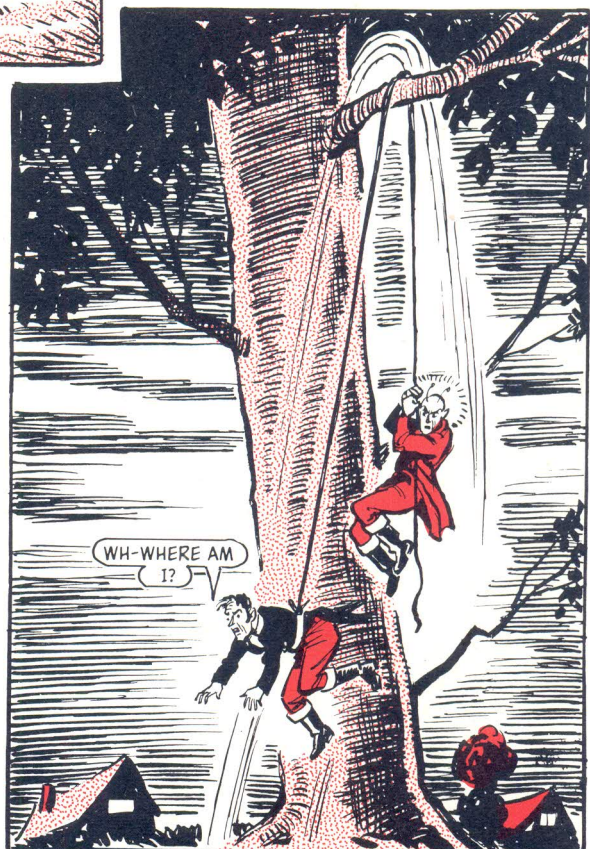


That night, as Peter Hawke was returning from reporting to Myers, Jack was waiting for him.

AAAAAGH, THE LEAPING PHANTOM!



WITH THESE SPRING HEELS I CAN RUN AS FAST AS ANY HORSE!

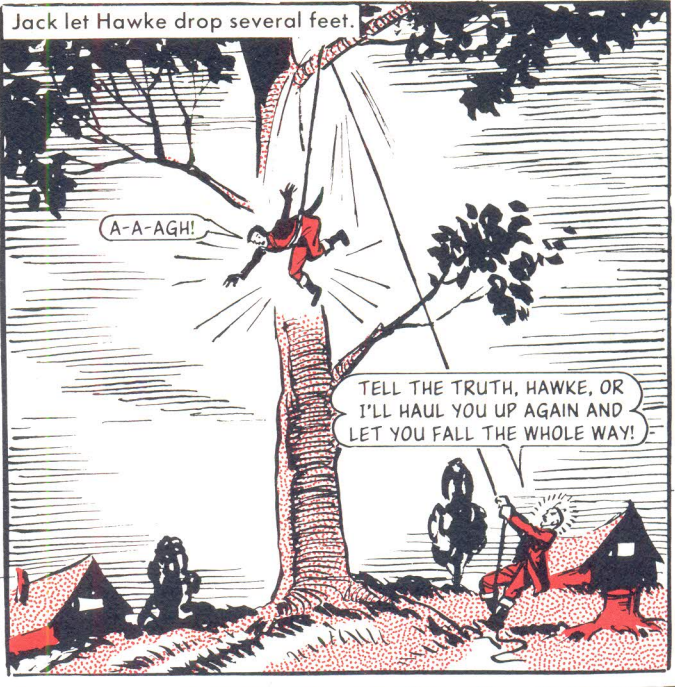


The rope trick that got to the truth.



YOU GAVE FALSE EVIDENCE AGAINST JOSH HIGGS, PETER HAWKE.

NO, THAT AIN'T TRUE!



Jack let Hawke drop several feet.

A-A-AGH!

TELL THE TRUTH, HAWKE, OR I'LL HAUL YOU UP AGAIN AND LET YOU FALL THE WHOLE WAY!

ALL RIGHT, 'TIS TRUE. I STOLE JOSH HIGGS' STICK AND PUT IT BY THE RICK I SET ON FIRE! I CONFESS, I CONFESS, NOW PLEASE LET ME DOWN!



'TIS THE LEAPING PHANTOM. HE'S CLEARED JOSH OF THAT FALSE CHARGE!



THE PHANTOM'S GONE!

YOU'D BETTER COME WITH ME, PETER HAWKE. AND THE MAGISTRATES WILL HAVE A LITTLE CHAT WITH SQUIRE MYERS!



MYRES AND HIS MEN WILL BE PUNISHED! THE LEAPING PHANTOM WON'T BE NEEDED HERE ANY LONGER!