

## The Enduring Adventures of Jonny Quest

In 1964 something new happened. For the first time ever an adult-oriented animated series premiered in prime time. ‘Jonny Quest’ took the adventurous spirit of Terry and the Pirates, threw in gadgets worthy of Doc Savage, James Bond style intrigue and a healthy dose of monsters, mad scientists and mayhem for an exhilarating half hour. It had everything! Lost civilizations, death rays, dinosaurs and rocket packs, all of the trappings of an old movie serial but updated to fit the more sophisticated mood of the Cold War era.

Jonny’s adventures didn’t last long. The show ran only 26 episodes before cancellation, but it made a lasting impression on fans. It has been rerun almost constantly for nearly forty years, and has inspired a number of revivals.

Arguably none of the more recent versions of Jonny’s adventures has lived up to that first season. There was something in the writing and the visual storytelling that has never successfully been duplicated. The creators of the original were working on a limited budget but they found a way to make it work for them. They developed a less-is-more style that told a story with hardly a wasted word or motion. Even with the vastly better animation of the modern age it’s hard to find an animated story that’s as well told as the original JQ episodes.

Despite my obvious bias, the purpose of this article is not to assess the different versions of Jonny’s adventures in qualitative terms. It is an attempt to establish a historical framework in which those adventures can be placed. This is difficult because each version of Jonny’s adventures has tried to ground itself in the decade in which it was presented to the public. Fans of the original series know that Jonny grew up in the late 1960’s and early 1970’s. Fans of “Jonny Quest, The Real Adventures” know that Jonny was a teen in the late 1990’s. Trying to reconcile differences is absurd.

But sometimes the absurd can be a lot of fun.

In writing Jonny’s ‘biography’ I have made a number of arbitrary choices to make it work. My primary rule has been to make everything conform to the original series. My second rule has been to make as much of the additional material fit in this framework with as little tampering as possible. If Jonny really had all of these adventures, I believe this is the most logical sequence and time-frame to put them in.

In this article I have dealt with nearly all of the Jonny Quest stories from television and comic books. In this article I have dealt with nearly all of the Jonny Quest stories from television and comic books, including a number of presentations most fans may prefer to dismiss. I have done this out of a desire to be as thorough as possible without judging the relative merits of different presentations.

There are two series I have not included, the “Jonny Quest, The Real Adventures” comic book published by Dark Horse, and the “Jonny Quest, The Real Adventures” series of young adult novels by Brad Quinton<sup>1</sup>. I hope to include these in a revision of the article someday but at present they are simply too difficult to fit into the timeline I have established.

The sources used in this article are abbreviated as follows:

	<u>KEY</u>	
CJQ	=	Classic Jonny Quest or the original adventures from 1964.
JQ86	=	Jonny Quest 1986 – The first revival of the series
JQ#	=	The Comic Book published by Comico – This designation will be followed by an issue number and story title.
JGQ	=	Jonny’s Golden Quest – The first of two television movies about Jonny
JQVCI	=	Jonny Quest vs. the Cyber Insects – the second of the television movies
TRA	=	Jonny Quest, The Real Adventures – the final JQ television series

## THE JONNY QUEST CHRONOLOGY

1935 Benton C. Quest is born. (There is never any indication of what Benton’s middle initial stands for.) Little is known for certain about his family background<sup>2</sup>, though JQ fan Patricia E. Meacham offers the theory that he came from a wealthy New England family.<sup>3</sup> As an adult, Benton seems to have little if any access to the family wealth. His lab and equipment appear to be provided for his use by the U.S. government.<sup>4</sup>

Possibly Benton had a dispute with his family at some point and was cut out of the family fortune. This may have happened when he decided to go into pure research instead of working in the family business.

By the time of the TRA adventures he seems to be back in the family's good graces. He is living at the Maine compound and appears to have access to a fabulous fortune.

The only other member of Benton's family we know anything about is his paternal grandfather Quinton Quest. (The date of Benton's birth is conjecture and is inferred from background information in the Comico series<sup>5</sup>. The information about Quinton is from JQ Special #1, "Three Trapped Tigers.")

- 1937 Roger Tiberius Bannon<sup>6</sup> is born in Willmette, Illinois. His parents are John and Sarah Bannon. (We learn all of this information, including the fact that Race is 32 in "Double Danger")
- 1940 Benton's grandfather, Quinton Quest disappears mysteriously<sup>7</sup>. Quinton seems to have been a selfish and thoughtless rogue but was as brilliant as his grandson. Though the disappearance is unexplained at the time it is eventually learned that Quinton has left the world of the present in a time machine of his own design. (JQ Special #1 "Three Trapped Tigers" – The date is conjecture based on the fact that Benton appears to be about 5 years old when this happens.)
- 1946 When Roger Bannon's parents die<sup>8</sup> he goes to live with his abusive Uncle Ezra in Lansdown Maine. Roger's extremely pale hair gains him the nick-name "Whitey" among his peers. (JQ #21 – "Here There Be Dragons." The date is estimated based on Race's apparent age when he went to live with his uncle and from the fact that he lived there for at least 4 years.)
- 1947 Deciding that Race is too weak, Uncle Ez forces him to box against an older boy named Monty in the local fair. Race is entered in this uneven contest for three years. The fourth year he runs away. (JQ#21 "Here There Be Dragons")
- U.S. planes shoot down an Unidentified Flying Object near Roswell, New Mexico. The craft belongs to the Anasazi, an alien race with an ancient connection to certain Native American peoples. At the time of this incident a Hopi holy man disappears. The shaman's granddaughter, a young girl named Alice Starseer is a witness to the day's strange events. (TRA episode "Return of the Anasazi" – The date is given in the episode)
- 1949 Benton learns to fence, though not especially well, in high school. (This is established in JQ#23 "The Prisoner of Starkgrau")
- 1951 A sixteen year old Benton Quest enters college on a full scholarship. While he is at college his roommate and best friend is Stuart Gold. Benton seems to idolize the older boy while Stuart seems interested mainly in exploiting their friendship for his own gain. (Benton's age on gaining scholarships is established in JQ#19<sup>9</sup> "Lesson One". We learn about his relationship with Stuart Gold in JQ#4 and JW#17)
- December Roger Bannon runs away from his Uncle Ez's home, lies about his age and enlists in the Navy. He excels in his new profession and even succeeds in becoming a SEAL<sup>10</sup>. (JQ #21 "Here there Be Dragons" – The date is conjecture based on the youngest possible age at which he could have tricked his way into the military. The fair where Race was to box Monty was in early January and he left shortly before that)

- 1954 Benton Quest completes his undergraduate studies and enters graduate school. (This date is conjecture and assumes Benton finished his undergraduate degree in only three years.)
- Summer Benton spends the summer months on an archaeological dig in Northern Arizona, the exact location is not mentioned but Canyon de Chelly is a likely site. While he is there he becomes close to fellow student Alice Starseer. Benton asks Alice to leave with him when the summer ends but Alice feels her destiny is to remain in the Southwest. (TRA episode "Return of the Anasazi." The date is conjecture based on evidence in the story.<sup>11</sup>)
- 1955 Roger Bannon enters college at "State U." At college he gains the nickname "Race"<sup>12</sup> and befriends "Wild" Jim Cannon. (JQ#3, "Guns for the Laughing Man" (The date is conjecture and assumes Race has just completed a four year tour of duty with the Navy.)
- 1956 Benton Quest meets and falls in love with Rachel Wildey, the daughter of a wealthy New Mexico rancher named Doug Wildey.<sup>13</sup> (The date is speculative)
- 1957 A government espionage group known as Intelligence One approaches Race while he is still in college. While Race declines to work for them he does accept several freelance assignments<sup>14</sup>.
- April One of Race's freelance missions takes him to Europe where he helps to shut down the largest illegal weapons merchant on the continent. This mission introduces him to another free-lancer, a beautiful young archaeologist from Columbia named Estella Velasquez<sup>15</sup>. The two impulsively marry and their eventful honeymoon includes an escape from an Iraqi prison. It quickly becomes obvious to both Race and Estrella that the marriage was a mistake and they divorce amicably after only a week<sup>16</sup>. Unknown to either of them at the time, Estella is pregnant. (JGQ – The date for these events is based in Jessie's age plus the nine months of Estella's pregnancy.)
- Benton Quest and Rachel Wildey marry. (Date is speculative)
- June Hadji Singh is born in Bangalore India this year, the son of the Sultan Harish Singh and his wife Neela. Hadji is the Sultan's heir but his uncle Deepak and cousin Vikram have their own designs on the throne. (The year of Hadji's birth is derived from Jonny's statement in "Pirates from Below" that he is 11 years old. The month is an estimate based on the fact that the TRA show "bible" lists Hadji as two years older than Jonny. By making Hadji 15 months older than Jonny it is possible for their ages to be 11 and 10 in the original series and still have a period in TRA in which their ages can be 16 and 14. The information on Hadji's parents comes from the TRA episode "Bloodlines.")
- 1958 - January A baby girl named Jessie<sup>17</sup> is born to Estella Velasquez. Not knowing how Race will react to this news Estella chooses not to tell him<sup>18</sup>. She also decides to conceal the truth from Jessie. ("Jonny's Golden Quest" - The date of Jessie's birth is based on information from the show "bible" for JQ, TRA that Jessie is about halfway between Jonny and Hadji in age<sup>19</sup>.)
- January Benton completes his graduate studies. (The date is derived from on the statement in JQ#15 "The Sins of Zin" that the adventure occurred shortly after Benton's graduation.)
- February The still newlywed Benton and Rachel Quest meet Dr. Zin<sup>20</sup> for the first time at a symposium on Native American artifacts in a southwestern state. Zin comes away from the encounter feeling he owes Mrs. Quest a debt. This story necessitates that Benton must have graduated in mid-year. The events take place shortly after his graduation, but before Benton has discovered that his wife is pregnant. If he had graduated in the Spring

Mrs. Quest would have been 5-6 months along at the time of the adventure. (JQ#15 – “The Sins of Zin”)

- Sept 18 A boy named Jonathan (no middle name or initial has been revealed) is born to Benton and Rachel Quest.<sup>21</sup>
- 1959 – May Race graduates from school and re-enlists in the navy. During the next two years he becomes a fighter pilot and is assigned to test new aircraft. (The date is conjecture and is based on statements in the JQ86 episode “The Scourge of Skyborg” that Race was a test pilot<sup>22</sup>.)
- 1961 Race works with another test pilot who is jealous of his superior skills. During a test flight out of Guantanamo Bay the pilot’s hotdogging causes him to crash in the mountainous region of Northwest Cuba<sup>23</sup>. Race believes that his friend has been killed but this is not true. His mangled body is recovered by the Cuban government and rebuilt using bionic technology. He eventually becomes the rogue agent known as “Skyborg.” (JQ86 episode “The Scourge of Skyborg – The date is conjecture.)
- Uncle Deepak hires a man named Pasha Peddler to kill Hadji. Pasha has a change of heart and flees with Hadji instead, raising him like his own son and hiding him from the wrath of his uncle and cousin<sup>24</sup>. The two move from city to city, eventually ending up in Calcutta. Pasha teaches Hadji all his tricks, which seem to include stage magic and the phrase “*sim sala bim*.”<sup>25</sup> (Bloodlines – Flashback scenes – The date is derived from Pasha’s statement that Hadji was 4 and Vikram 12 when this happened.)
- Sultan Harish, who has been suffering poor health for years, dies soon after Hadji’s disappearance and Deepak ascends to the throne of Bangalore. (“Bloodlines” – Flashback scenes)
- Race Bannon is approached again by the Intelligence One. This time he accepts their offer and becomes a full time agent. (JQ#26, “Reputation.”) Two of the men who train with him are agents Clark and Hill. (“Race Against Danger.”)
- 1962 **Race Against Danger** (flashback scenes) - Race is assigned to partner with Greg Temple, who he will later claim to have taught him everything he knows. Race’s first field assignment takes him to an ancient castle in Greenland where he and Temple are after Lucius Kreed. Kreed is a mercenary operative whose activities include assassination, drug smuggling and dealing in stolen arms and technology<sup>26</sup>. When Kreed resists he starts a fire which sets off the munitions he has stockpiled in the castle. Kreed and Temple both seem to perish in the conflagration. (In “Race Against Danger Race” tells Johnny about this assignment that happened “...twelve years ago.”
- Another of Race’s first assignments takes him to Hong Kong where he meets Jezebel Jade<sup>27</sup> for the first time. (Jezebel Jade #1-3 “The Bones of Galahad” – The date is not given<sup>28</sup> but Race and Wild Jim have had several other missions before this takes place). At the end of the assignment Race writes up the encounter in novel form.
- 1964 An animated adventure series titled “The Saga of Chip Baloo<sup>29</sup>” begins its first and only season. The series features a young hero and his adult mentor, Stretch Dunhill as they have adventures involving high tech gadgets and exotic locales.
- 1965 Race leaves intelligence work to start a private detective agency with a friend. The friend’s name is never given, but it seems likely that this is Wild Jim Cannon. After six month the business is foundering and Race’s friend runs out leaving him with an unpaid rent bill. Race goes back to work for Intelligence One. (Recounted in JQ#18 “Bannon’s

Last Case” – The date is based on Race’s statement that his detective days were “six years ago”)

1967 Benton Quest goes to work for the government. Sometime not long after this his wife is diagnosed with a fatal illness<sup>30</sup>. She dies in a Paris hospital the same day Race Bannon enters the Quests lives. Race has been assigned by Intelligence One to be Jonny’s bodyguard and tutor. (JQ#2 “Enter Race Bannon” - The date is derived from Jonny’s comments<sup>31</sup>)

Sultan Deepak dies suddenly<sup>32</sup> and Vikram succeeds him as Sultan. Young Vikram proves a harsher and less popular ruler than his father had been. He is so hated that he is forced to hire a secret army of thugs to guard his life. Fortunately, public sentiment keeps his aunt Neela safe and she continued to search for her missing son. (“Bloodlines” – Flashback scenes – The date is conjecture based on Vikram’s apparent age.)

1968 **Escape to Questworld** (flashback scenes<sup>33</sup>) - Race has his first encounter with the villainous Dr. Jeremiah Surd. A former weapons researcher for the government, Surd is threatening to release a nerve gas of his own devising on Chicago unless he is paid a ransom of ten million dollars. Race stops Surd but not before a policeman shoots the scientist, causing the total paralysis of his body. Surd is consigned to a high security hospital but his store of nerve gas cannot be located.

Oct 31 **Ezekiel Rage** (Flashback scenes) – An American agent named Ezekiel Rage is in Managua gathering evidence of misuse of American support. The mission goes badly awry and Rage’s wife and young daughter are killed. Rage is terribly scarred in the same accident and is believed killed. He blames the US government for his loss and becomes consumed by the need for vengeance. (The festival of the ‘*Dia de los muertos*, Oct 31-Nov 2 is seen in these scenes.)

### The Classic Jonny Quest Episodes<sup>34</sup>

Dec 20-21 **The Mystery of the Lizard Men** - Hadji is not present in this adventure, nor is he even referred to. This adventure may come immediately before he met the Quests in Calcutta. (The date comes from the fact that the successful launch of the first “man on the moon” spaceflight (Apollo 8) which happened on Dec. 21, 1968, plays an important part in this story.)

1969 The bulk of the CJQ episodes take place over the course of this year.

January **Calcutta Adventure** – (Flashback portions only) The Quests meet Hadji and Pasha Peddler for the first time. By the time they leave India, Pasha has helped procure Hadji’s adoption papers.<sup>35</sup>

February **The Curse of Anubis** (February 2) – The weather is not the blistering heat of an Egyptian Summer so February seems reasonable. The fact that the Quests use a commercial airliner rather than their own plane suggests that this is an early adventure. The date comes from the full moon seen in the sky. The February full moon in 1969 was on the second<sup>36</sup>

**A Small Matter of Pygmies** – Hadji is out of practice with his levitation trick<sup>37</sup>. Realizing how helpful it can be he will become much more proficient in future adventures.

**Riddle of the Gold** – Hadji mentions that he has not been in his homeland for some time, but this seems to be homesickness talking. This adventure features the first appearance

of the villainous Dr. Zin, but Race refers to the villain as “...*our old friend*...” They must have met him before in some unrecorded adventure.

March 4 **Pursuit of the Po Ho** – The Quests finally have their own aircraft, the sleek delta-wind jet seen in the opening credits. Dr. Quest also mentions that Jonny is having some trouble with his grades, so the school year must still be in session. The exact date comes from the full moon, which fell on March 4 in 1969.

**The Devil’s Tower** – Jonny and Hadji have never before seen a biplane so this episode must come before *Shadow of the Condor*.

**Calcutta Adventure** – The Quests are back in Palm Key where they receive a package from Pasha Peddler. The rest of the adventure is told in flashback.

April 2 **Double Danger** – After travelling to Thailand the Quests meet Dr. Zin again and Jade is featured for the first time<sup>38</sup>. The monsoons are not mentioned in this episode so it must be before July. The exact date comes from the full moon in the sky, which was April 2 in 1969. It seems Dr. Zin has a sense of humor, replacing Race with an impostor as a late ‘April Fool’s’ joke.

**Shadow of the Condor** – While flying through the Chilean Andes the Quests are forced to land at the mountain home of Baron Gruner, a WW-1 flying ace for Germany who made 84 kills.<sup>39</sup> We get a rare glimpse into the religious life of the Quests as Dr. Quest prompts the boys to include the Baron in their bedtime prayers<sup>40</sup>.

**Arctic Splashdown** – A late Spring or early Summer date is supported by the abundant sunlight in the episode. In the Arctic Fall or Winter darkness would have lasted most of the day.

May **Turu the Terrible** (May 2) – There is a full moon in the sky that frames the giant pteranodon in several scenes.<sup>41</sup>

**The Robot Spy** – The Quests are at “Quest Labs” in Southern Arizona for this second encounter with Dr. Zin. (The boys are seen with their school books, so the summer has not come yet. This is the last time we see school books in the series, so we may assume that the school year ends soon after this episode.)

**Pirates From Below** – Jonny’s homework is mentioned for the final time. The school year is still in session. The villains in this story use an underwater submarine base very similar to the one under construction in “The Dreadful Doll.” They also use a type of hovercraft which Jonny says is the most modern he has ever seen. Dr. Quest must think so too, by the time of *Werewolf of the Timberland* he has several hovercraft identical to these for his own use. Hadji seems to have been practicing his levitation trick quite a bit. He raises Jonny about twenty feet over the beach in his most spectacular display ever.

**Skull and Double Crossbones** – The Quests are studying marine life in the Caribbean and see sea turtles coming ashore. These giant reptiles only come to land to lay their eggs and the laying season is from May-September.

May 31 **The Dreadful Doll** – This appears to be a continuation of the same research trip shown in “Skull and Double Crossbones.” The date comes from the full moon seen in the sky. The adventure has a couple of points of interest. It features what may be Jonny and Hadji’s first kisses. To their horror a young girl named Denise ‘rewards’ them for their part in the adventure with a peck on the cheek. It is also interesting that the hidden submarine base under construction bears close resemblance to the one seen in *Pirates from Below*. Perhaps the same people contracted both bases<sup>42</sup>.

- June **Treasure of the Temple** – We only see several days of this adventure, but the expedition must have taken several weeks. Summer break would be the only time the boys could have left their studies for long enough to participate.
- Late June-July The Quests take their research vessel to the South Pacific to visit Hong Kong and the Island of Dr. Quest’s old colleague, Dr. Ashida.
- Dragons of Ashida** – The South Pacific weather is predictably warm this time of year. Dr. Ashida’s hospitality is decidedly less warm.
- The Quetong Missile Mystery** – The far-east trip continues with an espionage adventure. Oddly, the Quests are staying on an ocean liner rather than their own ship. They may have suffered damage, forcing them to leave their boat in Batavia and take a liner on to Hong Kong.
- July 29 **Werewolf of the Timberland** – The weather in Canada is chilly enough for a light jacket but the summergreen trees that are shown have not yet changed colors. The exact date comes from the appearance of the full moon.
- August 27 **Attack of the Tree People** – Giant sea turtles appear again in this episode, this time they are hatchlings ready to return to the sea. Since sea turtle eggs take 55 days to hatch it seems appropriate to place this episode roughly two months after Skull and Double Crossbones. The exact date is given by the fact that there is a full moon in the sky.
- September 18 Jonny’s eleventh birthday.
- September 25 **The Invisible Monster** – There is a full moon seen in the opening scenes. This must occur fairly late in the series because the hovercraft is being used. It seems to have been modified by Dr. Quest for much greater performance. In earlier episodes the hovercraft were limited to a height of about five feet above the ground but, in this adventure, they are seen operating as much as twenty feet up. This also introduces the Vertical Take-Off and Landing capable jet which Jonny refers to as “the new plane.”
- October **Sea Haunt** - The Quests are back in the South Pacific when they encounter a prehistoric monster. The new plane is badly damaged in the episode.
- October 25 **Monster in the Monastery** – The episode coincides with the Nepalese festival of *Mani Rimdu* which begins on the full moon of October.
- November 23 **The House of Seven Gargoyles** – The barren trees show that this must be a winter month and there is a full moon in the sky. There is no mention of Christmas so this date is more likely November than December.
- 1970
- January 22 **The Fraudulent Volcano** – This is the last appearance of the VTOL plane which is destroyed in this adventure. It occurs during a full moon period which, in January of 1970, was the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Interestingly, the “inertia ray” that Dr. Zin uses to shoot the plane down is identical in effect to Dr. Quest’s para-power ray from *The Robot Spy*. Apparently the robot was able to transmit the information on the ray to Zin after all. This is the fourth and final appearance of Dr. Zin in the original series.
- February 3 The Quests arrive in Hong Kong on vacation. Jade will scold Race for staying in the city three days before letting her hear from him.

February 6      **Terror Island** – This episode takes place during the Chinese New Year, which falls in early February this year<sup>43</sup>. This adventure marks the second and final appearance of Jade in the original series.

## The Jonny Quest (1986) Episodes<sup>44</sup>

There are very few clues available to help determine the chronology of these episodes. I have grouped all the episodes featuring Hardrock together following *The Monolith Man*.

Feb              **Aliens Among Us** - What appear to be alien beings show up to interfere with NASA's plans to establish a space station. Ultimately they are shown to be agents of Dr. Zin in a bizarre scheme to steal Dr. Quest's prototype matter transporter device<sup>45</sup>.

This adventure is interesting for the glimpse it gives us about a secret NASA program to establish a working space station years before Skylab. Dr. Quest's statements suggest that the station has not yet been built, but is in progress. It must be the station we see in "*Jonny's Golden Quest*" and which is later destroyed in "*Rage's Burning Wheel*."

**Deadly Junket** – The Quests are in Hong Kong again when a young girl named Jessie Bradshaw<sup>46</sup> calls on them for help. Dr. Zin has kidnapped her scientist father.

March          **Forty Fathoms Into Yesterday** – The Quests discover a Nazi time machine which could change the course of history. The date is conjecture.

**Vikong Lives** – This adventure involves an archaeological dig, which takes fills out most of the month. The date is conjecture.

April           **Peril of the Reptilian** – The evil Dr. Phorbus has engineered prehistoric remains into mutant dinosaur-like "reptilemen" to help him rule the world. Dr. Phorbus may well have been working for Dr. Zin. The malevolent genius appears to be using the same technology as seen in *Jonny's Golden Quest* and *Jonny Quest vs. the Cyber Insects*.

**Nightmares of Steel** – The date is conjecture.

**The Monolith Man** - The Quests discover an ancient subterranean civilization and befriend its last survivor. This story introduces Hardrock. The date is conjecture.

**The Scourge of Skyborg** – Race's old test-pilot buddy returns, now remade as the vengeful "Skyborg." The date is conjecture.

May             **Temple of Gloom** – A secret agent called "Deprava" uses the mental powers of Hadji's old teacher to try to ruin a peace conference between Greece and Yugoslavia<sup>47</sup> which is being hosted in India. The date is conjecture.

**Creeping Unknown** – The date is conjecture.

**Secret of the Clay Warriors** – The date is conjecture.

June            **Warlord of the Sky** – A nefarious madman named Maximillian Dragna has created a huge flying warship which he calls the "Dreadnought" to rule the skies<sup>48</sup>. The Quests defeat him and his ship is destroyed in a volcano<sup>49</sup>.

**Skullduggery** - Dr. Zin uses the secret cult he rules<sup>50</sup> to gain control of several ancient artifacts, a staff, a crystal skull and the Stonehenge monument itself<sup>51</sup>. He believes they will help him gain world domination, but they actually activate a doomsday device.

Hardrock is able to disarm the device in time but the radiation has set up a chain reaction in his body which soon causes him to crumble to dust<sup>52</sup>.

## Jonny Quest – The Comico Comic Book<sup>53</sup>

- July **The Sands of Khasa Tahid** (JQ#1) – Jade returns as the Quests explore a ruin in North Africa.
- Enter Race Bannon** (JQ#2) – Jonny tells Hadji the story of his mother’s death and the events that brought Race into the Quest’s lives.
- Aug **Guns for the Laughing Man** (JQ#3) – The first appearance of Race’s old buddy Wild Jim Cannon.
- Marley Frost is Here to Stay** (JQ #4) - <sup>54</sup>The quests visit a movie on location and find a surviving dinosaur.
- Sept 13-14 **Jade Incorporated** (JQ#5)<sup>55</sup> – The boys travel to Hong Kong to help out Jade.
- Sept 16-18 **Philosopher’s Stone** (JQ #6) – Though it is not mentioned in the story, this closes on Jonny’s twelfth birthday.
- October **The Lady in Grey** (JQ #7) – This marks the first appearance of Kathleen Martin, a social worker assigned to watch out for the welfare of Jonny and Hadji. (A wall calendar is open to a month with 31 days so September must have ended)
- The Curse of X-7** (JQ #8) – This episode involves Jonny’s hallucinations of his adult life after being exposed to a poison gas.
- A Fire in Green Meadows** (JQ #9) – The Quests are helping a scientist named Helen Collins protect a secret enzyme. This issue features Jade and uses some interesting aliases for the main characters. Benton and Jonny are posing as “Barton Seek” and his son “Jimmy Seek” while Jade is posing as “Jessie Greenstreet”.
- Winters of Discontent** (JQ #10) – This is Marley Frost’s second and final appearance.
- Dog Days** (JQ #11) – This issue reveals that Benton has started dating Kathy Martin
- Buried Treasure** (JQ #12) – (Kathy Martin comments that “*Winter’s coming early this year.*”)
- October 30-31 **Things that Go Bump in the Night** (JQ #13) – The Quests investigate reports of a haunted house in Whatleyville Maine.<sup>56</sup> (The story ends on Halloween.)
- November **The Song of Space** (JQ #14) – Jonny and his father are taken by Zin to his orbital space station<sup>57</sup> where he uses them to investigate an alien life form. (The date is conjecture.)
- The Sins of Zin** (JQ #15 – Present day events only.) Benton recounts a story of his first meeting with Zin. (This is a week after the events of “The Song of Space”)
- Plague** (JQ #16) – Dr. Zin is behind a plague of what resembles lycanthropy. (The story begins later the same day “The Sins of Zin” ended.)
- December **Another Stuart Gold Production** (JQ #17) – Benton’s old friend Sturat Gold calls on him to fix a problem on the set of his latest movie.

**Bannon's Last Case** (JQ #18) – While Benton and the boys are away on the movie set Race accepts a detective case.

**Lesson One** (JQ #19) – Jonny and Hadji spend a day following a guru who they hope will teach them enlightenment.

## 1971

- January 2-12 **Time Storm** (JQ #20) – Benton is in the American southwest searching for a Plutonium thief. (The date is given in the story as “January 5, 1988” but the year is incompatible with the dates of the original series.)
- Here There Be Dragons** (JQ #21) – Race and the boys investigate sightings of a plesiosaur near Race’s boyhood hometown of Lansdown Maine. (This adventure runs concurrent with the events of “Time Storm”).
- February 12 **The Bones of Galahad** (JJ#1-3) – Jonny and Hadji discover a manuscript written by Race fictionalizing his first encounter with Jade.
- April 10-16 **Vantage Point** (JQ #22) – (The dates are given as “Sunday, 10 April 1988” to “Saturday, 16 April 1988” (The planet Mongo is mentioned, though only in jest.)
- May **The Prisoner of Starkgrau/Crossed Swords** (JQ #23-24) - The Quests happen on a small Balkan society on a Pacific island. Benton is a dead-ringer for the heir to the throne and identities are confused as he attempts to help the prince.<sup>58</sup> Date is conjecture.
- Butch** (JQ #25) – Bandit is lost for several days.
- Reputation** (JQ #26) – A would-be villain named Magyar Dentress takes Race hostage for a short time.
- June **Wilderness** (JQ #27) – Jonny must save Races life when their plane goes down in the Arctic Circle.
- Kings of the West** (JQ #28-29) – The Quests and Jade are involved in a mystery involving dude ranches in the American Southwest.
- Social Work** (JQ #31) Jonny and Hadji gain new respect for Kathy Martin after spending a day with her on the job. Benton and Kathy become engaged at the end of this story.
- July The quests move from Palm Key to a massive research complex located in central Mexico. The reasons for the move are not known. (This will be the Quest’s home for the duration of the two television movies.)

## Jonny’s Golden Quest<sup>59</sup>

- Late Summer The Quests travel to the rainforests of Peru to investigate sightings of bizarre mutant animals. While there they meet Estella Velasquez (aka Jade Kenyon) and learn that the mutations are the result of Dr. Zin’s evil machinations. Tragically, Kathy Martin is captured in this encounter and dies when the helicopter she is in is caught in a volcanic explosion<sup>60</sup>. (“Jonny’s Golden Quest” – The date is derived from the fact that dialogue indicates Jonny is twelve in this segment. The date must come before his thirteenth birthday on September 18.)

Nov 1 In Mexico Jonny and Hadji meet Jessie for the first time as they save her from some ruffians in a small village. Both they and she are unaware of her relationship to Race. In the first several months of their acquaintance Jonny and Jessie seem smitten with a serious case of puppy love. (“Jonny’s Golden Quest”- The encounter happens during the Mexican festival of the “*Dia de los Muertos*,” October 31-November 2)

1972 – Feb Following a lead Jessie has given them, the Quests travel to Tokyo, Paris, Rome and finally the Australian Outback to find Dr. Zin and the secret of alchemical gold he is pursuing. In the end Zin apparently perishes. (Jonny’s Golden Quest – The date is from the ice sculpture festival seen in Japan<sup>61</sup>.)

Race leaves on an extended vacation to get reacquainted with Estella (Jade Kenyon) and to get to know Jessie. While this does not result in Race and Estella getting back together, it does result in Jessie living with him a great deal of the time thereafter, as seen in TRA.

### Jonny Quest vs. The Cyber-Insects<sup>62</sup>

June Dr. Zin unleashes his most bizarre and destructive scheme yet as he uses an asteroid base, giant mutant insects, and a weather control device to conquer the world. The Quests are able to stop him after a series of hair-raising adventures. Jonny and Jessie’s relationship has already cooled down quite a bit. (Jonny Quest vs. The Cyber Insects – The date is based on the appearance of fireflies in an early scene. These creatures have a very brief lifespan and can be seen mostly in the months of May and June.)

The situation with the Quest family changes and Benton inherits the family fortune. He and Race have been thinking about leaving government service for some time (they both mentioned wanting to quit in “Jonny’s Golden Quest”) and this new resource makes it possible. Race is now working for Dr. Quest directly and the Quests move to the Quest family compound in Rockport Maine. (This is speculation to explain the situation in TRA.)

1973

### Johnny Quest, The Real Adventures (Season 1)<sup>63</sup>

January **The Alchemist (opening scenes)** - Dr. Quest and Hadji are in China with Dr. Montague on an expedition to recover the legendary “philosopher’s stone” from a remote Asian site. They are successful and return the stone to a museum in San Francisco. Unknown to them Montague covets the stone and begins to plot its theft. (The date is conjecture but this section seems to take place some time before the main action of The Alchemist. The snow on the ground suggests a winter month and the Chinese monk in the opening scenes suggests an Asian locale.)

June **The Darkest Fathoms** – The Quests expose criminal treasure hunters masquerading as the ghosts of the notorious pirate Black Jack Lee and his crew. No date is given but it appears to be Summer weather.

**N’dovu’s Last Journey** - Jonny protects a dying elephant from poachers and discovers the legendary “Graveyard of the Elephants.” The weather looks like Summer and the green vegetation and abundance of water suggest this must be shortly after the rainy season, which is mid-March through May in Tanzania. Benton says that Jonny is a “thirteen year old”, so this must be before his fourteenth birthday.

**Escape to Questworld** – Jeremiah Surd’s stockpile of nerve gas is discovered accidentally. Race and Dr. Quest go to disarm the threat but find themselves trapped, with a timer counting down to release the gas. Jonny, Hadji and Jessie use the newly developed “Questworld” virtual reality program to enlist Surd’s help in rescuing their fathers. For the paralyzed Surd the freedom of virtual reality existence is an irresistible lure. His obsession with the Questworld program will draw him into many more conflicts with the Quests.

June –July **In the Realm of the Condor** – The search for a missing ornithologist leads the Quests to the Peruvian Andes. There they discover a lost tribe, a city of gold and an undiscovered species of giant condor.

July **Ezekiel Rage** – The Quests are in southeastern New Mexico when they encounter Rage and his plans to wreak vengeance on the US government. He has become thoroughly consumed with hatred and has adopted a *Dia de los Muertos* style costume for his new persona. He also carries a photo album containing pictures of his family, which he refers to as his “Book of Rage.” (The episode was originally broadcast between Manhattan Maneater and Alien in Washington but is impossible to date between them. For one thing it appears to be summertime in this episode. More importantly, it introduces Ezekiel Rage and therefore must precede Rage’s Burning Wheel, probably by several months.)

Late July **To Bardo<sup>64</sup> and Back** – When Race suffers a serious brain injury in a rodeo accident, only the Questworld program can help him recover. Predictably Jeremiah Surd interferes, hoping to kill Race and use the program’s healing benefits for his own paralyzed body. (Though the rodeo is not specifically named we are told it is in Cheyenne, Wyoming. This means it is probably “The Daddy of ‘em All” which is held as a part of the annual “Cheyenne Frontier Days” the last week in July.)

Aug **Manhattan Maneater** – The Quests investigate reports of a serial killer loose in the tunnels of Manhattan only to learn the killer is actually a white tiger.

**East of Zanzibar** – The search for a missing Russian submarine in the Indian Ocean turns up two kinds of trouble. First, there is an enormous squid, at least three hundred feet long, which has been preying on shipping. Second, the sub and its commander, Captain Havel, have become the violent defenders of whales from all who would prey on them.

Sept **Rage’s Burning Wheel** – Hadji and Dr. Quest are invited along on a NASA trip to a secret orbiting space station (presumably the one seen in “Jonny’s Golden Quest”). Also along for the ride is a disguised Ezekiel Rage who intends to hijack the station because he needs its zero gravity labs to breed a deadly bacteriological weapon. Race enlists the aid of the Russian space program<sup>65</sup> to stage a rescue. In the final conflict the station is destroyed and Rage is apparently killed. (must come after “Ezekiel Rage”)

**The Alchemist** – Dr. Montague steals the philosopher’s stone and is corrupted by its ability to transform base metal into gold<sup>66</sup>. This is a very strange adventure that features a woman who seems to be a spirit of some sort. She can transform into a giant eagle and seems to be the stone’s guardian, though the exact relationship of stone, woman and eagle is puzzling. The episode also features the spirits of Dr. Faustus and Merlin, though whether they are real or the product of Montague’s delusions is unclear. (Warm weather in Maine and SF)

September 18 Jonny has his fourteenth birthday.

- September **The Ballad of Belle Bonnet** – Jonny helps the ghost of a female outlaw from the wild west complete a mission of mercy. (the weather looks like late Summer or Autumn and the school bus is running.)
- October 8-10 **Alien in Washington** - NASA approaches Dr. Quest to help them interpret signals they have been receiving which appear to be extraterrestrial warnings. They learn that the Vice President of the United States is actually an alien being from the Gamma Centauri system who has come to earth to halt the implementation of a space based defense system<sup>67</sup>. With the Quest's help, the VP succeeds in stopping the dangerous program and returns to his people. In an attempt to cover things up the government makes the bogus announcement that the VP has died of a heart attack. (Alien in Washington – The date is tied to the historical fate of Vice President Spiro Agnew<sup>68</sup>.)
- November **In the Darkness of the Moon** – The Quests travel to Canada to help Dr. Marie Metier. Marie is an old friend of Benton's whose family suffers under the genetic curse of lycanthropy. Only the men of the family are affected so Marie is immune, but her last living male relative has sought her out in the hope that her blood can cure him. (There is a full moon, and heavy snowfall.)
- November **The Secret of the Moai** – The Quest archaeological dig on Easter Island turns up the skeleton of an alien being and the key to a technology that can change the genetic structure of any living creature. When the Quests attempt to use Questworld to reconstruct the technology Jeremiah Surd hijacks it.
- Things look grim, until the aliens<sup>69</sup> return to recover their technology. They take all evidence with them, erase the memories of everyone involved and move Surd and his people to the Plains of Nasca in Peru.
- December **Assault on Questworld** – Jeremiah Surd lures Race and Dr. Quest away from the Quest compound in Maine. Then it is up to Jonny, Jessie and Hadji to keep him from taking over the Questworld program. (The date is set by the weather. It seems sunny and pleasant in Maine but Benton and Race encounter a fierce snowstorm in Nepal. Since heavy snows come to the mountains of Nepal only in the winter months of Dec-Feb)
- December **Return of the Anasazi** - Benton Quest's old friend Alice Starseer summons him back to the Hopi Reservation in Arizona to help her. A secret government agency is trying to use an ancient signaling device to summon the aliens known as the Anasazi and steal technology from them. The plan is thwarted and Alice joins the aliens in a journey to the stars. (The December date is implied by the fact that it is snowing heavily in Maine and that Jonny and Jessie have term papers to complete.)
- 1974
- January **Amok** – The Quests run into drug smugglers and the legendary creature known as the "amok" in the jungles of Borneo. The amok is a large creature, resembling a cross between a sloth and a bear and apparently highly intelligent. (The date comes from the heavy rainfall seen in this adventure. Though there is rain every month of the year in Borneo, the heaviest rains fall in the month of January.)
- Jan **Expedition to Khumbu** – The Quests are in Nepal looking for the legendary Yeti or "Abominable Snowman<sup>70</sup>." (There is a full moon out and thick snow on the ground in Nepal.)
- Feb **The Spectre of the Pine Barrens** – While searching for the legendary Jersey Devil, Dr. Quest, Jonny and Hadji find feuding clans who are descended from British Redcoats and

Colonial Minutemen. The two have been cut off from the world and at war with each other since the Redcoats stole the original copy of the declaration of Independence in 1776<sup>71</sup>. (There are fierce snowstorms in New Jersey.)

- March **Trouble on the Colorado** – The Quests journey to some old Anasazi ruins in the Grand Canyon to meet with Alice Starseer who is returning to earth to give her grandfather a traditional burial. The meeting is disrupted by Jeremiah Surd, who covets the alien technology Alice has seen. (The warm weather and the powerful rapids on the Colorado River suggest a late Spring date.)
- April 1-3 **Heroes** – Hadji and Dr. Quest uncover an ancient Greek statue of the god Apollo. When the statue is shattered the Quests use the Questworld program to reconstruct it and this draws the attention of Jeremiah Surd. This adventure happens during Jonny and Jessie’s Spring break from school<sup>72</sup>.)
- Besieged in Paradise** – Jeremiah Surd discovers a way to manipulate the sonic communications network of whales<sup>73</sup>. He uses the creatures to wreak havoc on the world and to attack the Quests. (The weather is sunny and bright, which is not as good a clue about the season in Hawaii as it is other places. The abundance of whales in Hawaiian waters is seasonal though. Humpbacks are seen there from December to April.)
- Village of the Doomed** – While vacationing in England Jonny and Dr. Quest run across the small village of Wychford. Beneath its idyllic exterior the village conceals secret mind control experiments. (It is salmon fishing season in England.)
- The Mummies of Malenque** – Jessie has been on vacation with her mother on a dig at the Colombian ruin of Malenque. Centuries ago the Malenque tried to develop a plague to wipe out their enemies and exterminated themselves instead. Now a modern Malenque survivor hopes to reconstruct the plague and use it in a bid for power. This episode is the first appearance of Jessie’s mother (as Estella Velasquez). (Jessie is said to be on vacation, suggesting a break in the school year. Her visit with her mother seems to coincide with Jonny and Dr. Quest’s fishing trip in England.)
- June 15 **Diamonds and Jade** – Race and Jonny are reunited with Jezebel Jade, who is in Djakarta on the trail of a fabulous gemstone. Two brothers with the secret of animating a puppet-like shadow monster are using the gem to become rich. They sell the “cursed” stone, then recover it after the shadow thing has killed the buyers. Hadji does not appear in this adventure so it may occur during his time with his mother in India. (Race’s old friend Inspector Mantjur gives a clue to the date. He is believed killed at one point but reappears later with a sling on one arm. When Race expresses astonishment that he is alive the Inspector, who has 10 children, says, “Sure, I never miss Father’s Day. I make out like a bandit.” There is also a full moon seen in the episode. Father’s Day is the third Sunday in June and the last full moon before it in 1973 was June 15)
- June **In the Wake of Mary Celeste** – Dr. Quest and Hadji discover the sunken wreck of the Mary Celeste<sup>74</sup> only to vanish mysteriously. Race and Jonny investigate and uncover a plot to steal the ship’s secret cargo of gold.
- June **Ice Will Burn** – Jessie is flying to Siberia<sup>75</sup> to join the others on an expedition there. When the plane goes down she finds herself lost in a colossal ice cavern inhabited by the descendants of a lost peasant village. The peasants mistake her for the prophesied “fire-bringer” who is to save them from extinction.
- June - **Future Rage** – Ezekiel Rage and his cult steal a powerful thermonuclear device. Rage’s intent is to melt the Northern Icecap and unleash a flood of biblical proportions on the world.

- June **Alligators and Okeechobee Vikings** – In Florida the lost descendants of Vikings clash with an illegal oil drilling operation. (There is a full moon and the weather is warm. The rainy season does not yet seem to have reached Florida.)
- Jonny Quest, The Real Adventures: Season 2**<sup>76</sup>
- June-July **Rock of Rages** – The Quests travel to Prague at the invitation of Elena Stasny an old friend of Dr. Quests who is now president of the Czech Republic<sup>77</sup>. While there they become involved with the golem, a powerful animated stone statue<sup>78</sup>. A reactionary military leader named General Vostok has gained control of the golem and hopes to use its power to become an absolute dictator. Jonny is finally able to stop the creature by using the magical stylus that animated it to erase the magical symbol on its forehead<sup>79</sup>.
- July **Bloodlines** – Hadji returns to India where his surrogate father Pasha tells him the secrets of his past. The evil Vikram is deposed as Sultan, Hadji is reunited with his mother, and he is recognized as the new heir. He takes some time away from his new family to adjust to his new relationship and new responsibilities.
- July **Cyberswitch** – Jeremiah Surd kidnaps Race and uses Questworld to switch bodies with him. In this episode the Quests finally hand Surd a decisive loss and he ends up in prison. (Summer weather)
- July **Undersea Urgency** – Jonny, Jessie and Dr. Quest are visiting the Verne Research Station, a miniature undersea city for marine research. A powerful seaquake damages the city and releases a horde of deadly creatures forcing them into a terrible struggle to survive. (When the episode begins the Verne Research Station has been in operation for a year and the completion of construction is expected by October.)
- July - August **Nemesis** – Dr. Zin returns with a plan to steal a communications satellite, which Dr. Quest has developed for the island nation of Malaysia. He has discovered a way to transform the satellite into a deadly weapon with which he plots to blackmail the nations of the world. This episode marks the first face-to-face meeting between Zin and the Quests<sup>80</sup>.
- August **DNA Doomsday** – A military project to create a computer whose memory is based on living DNA goes horribly wrong. It creates a super-intelligent, shape-shifting monster intent on launching a nuclear weapon.
- August **Ghost Quest** – Jonny, Jessie and Hadji are on a boat trip to Nova Scotia when they come across a mysterious island, and the ghosts who haunt it. This episode is unusual in that Race and Dr. Quest do not appear. It is also the story in which the Jonny-Jessie kiss so infamous among TRA fans occurs<sup>81</sup>.
- August **Nuclear Netherworld** – The boys are visiting Jonny's grandfather Doug on his New Mexico ranch. Their vacation is interrupted when they discover a secret and illegal uranium mining operation nearby. This episode introduces Grandpa Doug and is also noteworthy in that neither Race nor Dr. Quest appear.
- September **Digital Double Cross** – Jonny and Jessie are in a Questworld game when a sleeper virus left there by Jeremiah Surd is activated. They are forced to play to the death against simulated doubles of themselves while Hadji and their fathers race to get the virus' abort codes from Surd. (Surd is still in prison following his arrest in Cyberswitch but does not yet have the most sophisticated virtual body seen in Without a Trace.)

- September 18 Jonny's fifteenth birthday.
- September **More Than Zero** – The Quests travel to Venice to investigate “the most paranormally active house in Europe” and come face to face with a malignant entity which is centuries old. (There is a full moon.)
- September **Without a Trace** – Jeremiah Surd hijacks Air Force One with the President<sup>82</sup> on board and leaves a trail of evidence pointing to Dr. Quest and Race. Jonny, Jessie and Hadji manage to elude capture and rescue the President. (Surd's escape from prison is not discussed, but the more sophisticated virtual body he wears in this episode indicates that this episode follows the events of Digital Double Cross.)
- Early October **Thoughtscape** – Jeremiah Surd kidnaps Jessie and brainwashes her to kill the others. He then follows Dr. Quest and Jonny them as they use the Questworld technology to enter Jessie's subconscious in an attempt to free her. Surd learns a lesson about the dangers of entering another person's mind when Jessie visits a ruthless vengeance on him<sup>83</sup>.
- October **Dark Sentinel** - A clear-cut logging operation in Cameroon, Africa threatens a rare tree whose sap has healing properties. The local Zimbati tribe responds by summoning their guardian, a psychic projection that manifests physically by draining the life energy of a chosen one. The Quests must stop both the loggers and the guardian before it causes the death of the young boy it has chosen. (There is a full moon and the days are clear and sunny. The rainy season in Cameroon lasts from April to September)
- October **Other Space** – At a secret government facility in the Louisiana bayous Professor Diana Cruz has used Dr. Quest's theories to open a doorway to another dimension. When mysterious but dangerous beings begin to emerge from the gateway it is up to the Quests to find a way to close it. (The weather looks hot but is not rainy and suggests either a time before or shortly the state's rainy season.)
- November **Race Against Danger**<sup>84</sup> – A secret training facility for US elite military and intelligence operatives is hijacked by Lucius Kreed, an enemy of Race's from twelve years earlier. This episode marks the first time Jonny learns that Race's real name is Roger. (There is snow on the ground at the Quest Compound, Race wears a parka to go outside and there is a blazing fire in the fireplace.)
- November-Dec **The Dark Mountain** – The legendary “bigfoot” steals one of Dr. Quest's devices. It turns out that the creature and its kindred are actually alien space travelers who were stranded on earth over a century earlier<sup>85</sup>. With the Quests' help they are able to elude hunters, repair their ship, and return home. (The weather is very cold and snowy.)
- December 10 **Eclipse** – (1973) The Quests are in New Orleans when they encounter a demonic entity in the body of a beautiful woman. Every fifty years, on the night of a total lunar eclipse, the creature must rejuvenate itself by taking a new body, this time it wants Jessie's. (The date is from the eclipse. The only lunar eclipse visible from North America that can fit the timeline at all was a partial eclipse on 12/10/1973. The nearest total eclipses on either side were 1/20/72 and 5/25/75. For an excellent resources on lunar eclipses, check out <http://sunearth.gsfa.nasa.gov/eclipse/LEcat/LEdecade1971.html> )
- Late December **The Bangalore Falcon** – Jessie and Jonny are visiting Hadji in Bangalore when they encounter a rare breed of falcon and a beautiful ornithologist named Anaya. It turns out that the falcon is from the lost city of Shamballa, which appears only once every five hundred years. It also turns out than Anaya is the daughter of Dr. Zin. With her twin sister Melena she plans to track the falcon home and steal the waters of immortality that flow through Shamballa. They fail but Bandit manages to drink from the waters at one point, ensuring that he will be young and healthy for many more dog years to come.

(Christmas break would be a logical time for Hadji to spend with his mother without cutting into his studies too drastically.)

1974

January

**The Edge of Yesterday** – Ezekiel Rage plants a nuclear bomb deep in the earth’s crust in a mad scheme to split the world asunder. With only an hour to doomsday Dr. Quest contacts Jonny, Hadji and Jessie and tells them to use his time travel technology to undo Rage’s scheme before it begins.

This episode features what has to be the final fate of Ezekiel Rage, the destruction of Questworld<sup>86</sup>, and has a unique take on the extinction of the dinosaurs. It is also the only TRA episode to mention that the late Mrs. Quest was named Rachel, and even to show a picture of her. This picture looks a great deal like the images of Rachel we saw in Jonny’s Golden Quest. She has fairly short blonde hair and it is clear that Jonny resembles her more than he does his father.

**The Haunted Sonata** – Jonny and Jessie are guests of President Stasni of the Czech Republic when an undiscovered sonata by the great composer Franz Dunczek is discovered. They discover that the sonata was actually written by a female music student of Dunczek and the composer stole the credit from her. Eventually they manage to expose the truth and lay the woman’s ghost to rest.

**General Winter** – General Vostok (first seen in Rock of Rages) returns with a new plan to gain power in his homeland. He has kidnapped Professor Gunter Erikson<sup>87</sup> and has converted his ‘Bifrost Effect’ into a weapon capable of freezing large areas in seconds. There is an interesting personal note in this episode as Jonny and Hadji are preparing for their black belt exams in karate.

**Night of the Zinja** – Zin’s daughters Anaya and Melana return in a plot to assassinate President Nixon and Japanese Prime Minister Tanaka during a summit in Tokyo<sup>88</sup>. They are using a very sophisticated android assassin which Jonny dubs a “zinja.”

January-Feb

**The Robot Spies** – Dr. Zin sends six of the spider-like devices first seen in The Robot Spy to destroy the Quest Compound and abduct Jonny, Jessie and Estella. Race and Dr. Quest enlist Jade’s aid in tracking Zin down for a final showdown beneath the sands of Egypt. With the Maine compound destroyed it looks as if the Quests plan to move back to their old home in Palm Key.

The episode united most of the characters of TRA and CJQ and brings back more elements of the original series than ever. It also features a climactic fight between Zin and Dr. Quest. Aside from the absence of Hadji this is a fitting last episode as it brings the series to a close. (Jade mentions that it has been months since she last heard from Race.)

1992 – July 10

**Star Trek: The Eugenic Wars, The Rise and Fall of Khan Noonian Singh, Vol 2** - A genetically engineered superhuman named Khan Noonian Singh has established a power base in Chandigarh, in the Punjab region of India. Khan summons a group of Indian diplomats to hear his demands when the following encounter occurs:

*“To Khan’s surprise, one of the surviving diplomats rose to challenge him. Khan recognized him as the adopted son of a celebrated American scientist and explorer, now a prominent Calcutta statesman. ‘You may kill me, the man said. His face was tense and apprehensive, but his voice was steady. A large ruby glittered at the front of his white turban. ‘You may kill everyone here, but you cannot cut the world’s throat. Your*

*gangster tactics will carry little weight with the nations of the world, who have dealt with petty warlords and megalomaniacs before.'*

*Joaquin snarled and reached for his belt buckle, but Khan held up his hand to curb any immediate reprisals. He admired courage, which the outspoken delegate clearly possessed in plenty."*

The diplomat is obviously Hadji and his age seems to fit nicely with this timeline which places him at 35 years old. Sadly, we have only this short glimpse of the adult Hadji, and no clues at all about Jonny and the others. Their fate is left to the imagination of fans, but it is certain to be an adventurous one.

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<sup>1</sup> The novels will be a difficult job to fit in. The author seems unfamiliar with the characters and existing continuity. He consistently makes mistakes such as calling Hadji Singh 'Hadji Bingh' and referring to Race Bannon's white hair as "jet black."

<sup>2</sup> It is possible that Benton may be a relative of Simon Templar, the notorious 'Saint'. Artist Doug Wildey borrowed Benton's appearance from drawings he had done of Templar in "the Saint" newspaper strip.

<sup>3</sup> The evidence of the Quest family wealth comes from the solid-gold engineer's watch with a stylized letter 'Q' on it seen in the episode "Riddle of the Gold". The wealth and the Maine compound seen in TRA also contribute to this theory.

<sup>4</sup> In the Episode "Attack of the Tree People" Benton has a great deal of difficulty raising a ransom of \$50,000 for Jonny and Hadji's safe return. He's clearly not a millionaire and the fabulous equipment he uses would be beyond the reach of his personal finances.

<sup>5</sup> There are a lot of assumptions people have made about Benton's age, but very little hard data. The best information comes from the Comico series. In JQ#19 "Lesson One" we learn that Benton was only 16 when several universities started courting him. In JQ#15 "The Sins of Zin" Benton has only recently completed his graduate studies. By the end of that issue we learn that Mrs. Quest is pregnant with Jonny. If we assume that the brilliant Benton Quest entered college at 16 and finished his undergraduate work in three years then he would enter graduate school at the age of nineteen. Add another four years for a doctorate in applied physics (a typical student will do this in 5-6 years) and we would have a man who is twenty-four years old when Jonny is born. Thus Benton Quest would have been thirty-four years old during the events of the CJQ series.

This is at odds with the assumption in the JQ, TRA writer's "bible" that Benton is in his fifties. It is easier to disregard these statements than it would be to alter all of the events in the Comico series which establish a younger age.

<sup>6</sup> Race's name is listed as "Roger T. Bannon" in the episode "Arctic Splashdown." It is not until JQ#2 "Enter Race Bannon" that we learn the "T" stands for Tiberius. Race shares this middle name with Captain James T. Kirk of Star Trek.

<sup>7</sup> This was actually the second time Quinton vanished. His first unexplained disappearance came on the day he was to wed Jonny's grandmother. He was gone three years that time. This would have been about thirty years before the second disappearance, which would place it about 1910. It is interesting to note that this is close to the period when another scientist created his own time machine. H.G. Wells wrote an account of this mysterious individual in *The Time Machine*, which was published in 1895. It seems reasonable to posit a connection between the Time Traveler and Quinton's disappearance, especially since Quinton's own time machine is similar in size and operation to the Time Traveler's. The exact connection, if any, remains mysterious.

<sup>8</sup> Or do they? In "Double Danger" a spy named Korchek has been trained to impersonate Race. At one point he says, "My name is Race Bannon, I was born in Willmette, Illinois, I am 32 years old. My father's name is John, my mother's, Sarah." This use of the present tense is not conclusive evidence, but it does

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suggest that Race's parents were still living in 1969. If this is true, then the information on Race's background in "Here There Be Dragons" can be disregarded as fictional. Race also alludes to the fact that his parents were living in JQ#19, "Lesson One" though in this instance it is possible he was joking.

<sup>9</sup> On his entry into college, Benton says, "...I'm the "boy genius, aren't I? Did I ever tell you that three colleges offered my parents bribes to enroll me? That's an odd thing to happen to you, when you're sixteen."

<sup>10</sup> The acronym "SEAL stands Sea, Air and Land. The US Navy Seals are perhaps the best trained of any special forces groups in the world. No doubt this is where Race was first exposed to many of the combat and survival skills he exhibited so often as the Quest's protector. Race's judo skills seem especially good, which makes Japan or Okinawa a very likely place for him to have been stationed.

<sup>11</sup> Return of the Anasazi gives the Roswell incident a date of 1947 at which time Alice appears to be perhaps four years old. Her college days with Benton are given a date of 1967 and the episode is implicitly given the date of 1997 to match the year the episode was broadcast. While these dates work well in the internal TRA timeline there are several changes that must be assumed to make it fit with the dates established by CJQ. The Roswell date is historical but Alice Starseer must have been about 14 when this happened. Her youthful relationship with Benton Quest must have come during his college years, long before 1967. Also, given the hints that it was a romantic relationship, it must have happened before he had become involved with Rachel Wildey.

<sup>12</sup> The story, according to Wild Jim Cannon, is that Race challenged a girl to a car race betting saying that if he won she would owe him a date. The girl drove off without responding and Wild Jim took to calling his friend "Racer" or "Race". Race claims the story is a lie made up by Wild Jim to embarrass him. (The incident was discussed in JQ#3, "Guns for the Laughing Man".) Race later gives a different story. He claims that he got the nickname for his ability to race through the obstacle course used for training I-1 agents. He set a speed record for the course that still had not been broken when he returned in 1974. (Race Against Danger.) This second explanation seems more likely.

<sup>13</sup> Mrs. Quest has been given several different names in different versions of the stories. She was first introduced as the former Judith Waterston, a free spirit from a very wealthy Boston Family. The next mention was in Jonny's Golden Quest where her name was changed to Rachel. Her maiden name of Wildey was used in JQ,TRA, which also introduced her father, Doug Wildey. I have opted to use this final version of Mrs. Quest because it seems the most firmly established, and because of the tribute it pays to the artist who created Jonny Quest, the real Doug Wildey.

<sup>14</sup> Race's freelance work is speculative. All we really know about this period in his career comes from a brief statement he makes to the villain Magyar Dentress in JQ#26, "Reputation." The speculation is necessary to explain the implication in Jonny's Golden Quest that Race was already working for I-1 when he met the woman he was to marry.

<sup>15</sup> The woman in question is actually introduced to us in Jonny's Golden Quest as "Jade Kenyon," and is implicitly the same Jade we saw in the classic series. However, this is patently impossible, Jezebel Jade is a dark-haired Eurasian adventuress while Jade Kenyon is a red haired woman who is either American or else very Americanized. The only resemblance between the two women is the fact that they wear similar jade earrings. Estella Velasquez from TRA, on the other hand, is a close physical match to Ms. Kenyon. Add the fact that both Estella and Jade Kenyon are identified as Jessie Bannon's mother and the conclusion is obvious. The character called "Jade Kenyon" in Jonny's Golden Quest is actually Estella Velasquez. This is one of several confusing name changes that are made in the movie.

<sup>16</sup> The dialogue between Race and Estella (Jade Kenyon) from Jonny's Golden Quest is as follows:

*JK:* "...but we were married, for one brief week, twelve years ago."

*RB:* "Jade was a freelance operative working for I-1 when we met."

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JK: *“I remember we made some team Bannon! We flushed out the biggest illegal weapons dealer in Europe.”*

RB: *“And remember how we ran off and got married that same weekend?”*

JK: *“How could I forget? It’s not every girl who gets to spend her honeymoon breaking out of an Iraqi prison.”*

RB: *“That’s when we realized our careers wouldn’t qualify either of us for the ‘honey I’m home’ award.”*

JK: *We decided to go our separate ways rather than tie each other down.*

<sup>17</sup> While fans often assume that ‘Jessie’ is short for Jessica this is never established clearly. Jessie’s full name could be Jessamyn or even Jezebel (though the latter seems extremely unlikely.) It is also possible that Jessie isn’t short for anything.

<sup>18</sup> Part of what Estella apparently concealed from Jessie was her own proper last name. Since Jessie was conceived in wedlock American law would have recognized “Bannon” as her legal name even though she was born following the divorce. This is borne out by the episodes of TRA in which she is referred to as “Jessie Bannon.” The fact that she does not react on learning Race’s name is Bannon in JGQ suggests she had not been aware of this fact.

<sup>19</sup> Actually, the TRA “writer’s bible” makes Jessie a full year older than Jonny and Hadji a full year older than Jessie. This is inconsistent with CJQ in which the evidence suggest only a one year gap in the boys’ ages. In this article I have assumed that Jessie is approximately 6 months older than Jonny and about the same number of months younger than Hadji.

<sup>20</sup> Doctor Zin is indeed a mystery. In CJQ he is a brilliant scientist who seems to run his own espionage ring. In JQ86 he seems bent on world dominion. In the Comico series he is a Hong Kong crimelord with super-science weapons and his full name is Napoleon Zin. In JGQ he is a raving madman in a deteriorating body who plant to destroy the world if he cannot rule it. I believe that there are several different individuals posing as Zin and plan to explore this further in a future article.

<sup>21</sup> Though the month and date of Jonny’s birth is never hinted at in the show, September 18 is widely held to be his birthday. This is because 9/18/1964 marks the broadcast of the very first episode, “Mystery of the Lizard Men.”

<sup>22</sup> Placing Race’s piloting career here goes against what is said in some of Race’s other statements. In JQ#26, “Reputation” Race tells the villainous Magyar Dentress, *“After I left college I bummed around Europe for a couple of years, getting into trouble and doing a little bodyguard work on the side.”*

While it is problematic to ignore this statement, there are several very good reasons to do so. First, “bumming around” is rather out of character for an over-achiever like Race Bannon. He has so many skills and refers back to so many past adventures that finding time to fit them all in to his life is very difficult. Second, Race has often exhibited extraordinary piloting skills (Notably in “Shadow of the Condor”). This makes the test pilot background from The Scourge of Skyborg much more likely than Comico’s *“...bumming around Europe...”*

Since it is extremely unlikely that Race could have become a test pilot during either his Navy SEAL days or his college years it follows that he must have re-enlisted after college. His college degree would have given him an officer’s commission. Even with that, he seems to have become a test pilot in a remarkably short period of time.

<sup>23</sup> The name of the country in this episode is never given but we learn a few things about it in the course of the episode. It is opposed to the United States but it is close enough to an American airbase that Race’s test flight crosses its territory. The ruler of the unnamed nation is a bearded man in a general’s uniform who wears sunglasses and is referred to as “Your Excellency.” This ruler was in place in 1961 and was still in power during the 1970 events of The Scourge of Skyborg. There are not many nations which match all

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these criteria but Cuba, and its president Fidel Castro fit them perfectly. (Thanks to Jess Nevins and Rick Lai for this observation.)

<sup>24</sup> In Pasha's own words, *"One night Deepak hired a guy to kill you. That guy was me Hadji, but I couldn't go through with it. I stole you away from the palace 'cause I knew it'd be real uncomfortable for both of us if Deepak ever found out. That's why I fled from city to city Hadji, raising you as my own, and teaching you all my tricks..."*

<sup>25</sup> The mysterious 'eastern' phrase *sim sala bim* is actually Danish and means "thanks to you." It was the catch phrase of the magician Dante (stage name of Harry A. Jansen) who took it from a Danish folk song. So why was Hadji spouting Danish? If Pasha was an accomplished magician who taught his craft to Hadji it makes sense that he would have been well acquainted with the performances of such greats as Harry Houdini, Howard Thurston, and Dante. The idea of Dante's magic phrase must have tickled Pasha so much that he adopted it into his own act. He would have gotten a real kick out of using a pseudo-Indian line on a genuinely Indian audience. (Sim sala bim to Dennis Power for finding this gem! For more information on Dante and his phrase, visit <http://www.simsalabim.demon.co.uk/history/dante.html> )

<sup>26</sup> The Flashback scene in *Race Against Danger* shows Lucius Creed selling nerve gas to Dr. Zin. Interestingly, this version of the younger Zin shows him sporting a full head of hair. This is at odds with the *Comico* series, which depicts Zin with a shaved head going back to Dr. Quest's earliest encounter with him. Possibly the evil scientist was experimenting with a new look.

<sup>27</sup> There is little known for certain about the mysterious Jade, even her name. She appears to be a Eurasian woman, about the same age as Race, who operates on the shady side of the law. Though only the name "Jade" is used in the classic series, the character licensing from the time indicates that her full name was always meant to be Jezebel Jade. The name "Jezebel" is Hebrew in origin and is derived from the word 'izebehel which means wicked or impure. Jade is the name of a semi-precious stone believed to have curative powers. The name does a nice job of conveying the lady's dual nature of "good bad girl." She claims (in *JQ#5*) that she was a war refugee as a child and learned to steal to survive. Her age makes it quite possible that she was one of the many victims of the Japanese invasion of mainland China in the 1930's. This story may not be accurate though, Jade seems to be partly European in decent, appears to have an excellent education and speaks English with an American accent. Clearly there is much about her that remains a mystery.

<sup>28</sup> In "The Bones of Galahad, Part 1" the date Jonny and Hadji find Race's manuscript is given as "February 12, 1986" and the manuscript itself is dated "1976". Unfortunately none of these dates can be made to fit with what has been established in the *CJQ* series. There is not even enough room in the timeline to allow for the implied thirteen year gap between the writing of the manuscript the boys finding it. The date I have given this story is purely conjectural, but is the earliest one I can justify.

<sup>29</sup> The adventure series that broadcast in our own world was, of course, "Jonny Quest." That wouldn't have made sense in Jonny's world though, especially with his adventures occurring several years after the corresponding episodes were broadcast. Villains like Dr. Zin would be able to figure out the flaws in their master plans simply by watching the show's reruns. The show that aired in *CJQ*'s place, "The Saga of Chip Baloo" gets its name from the early working title for *Jonny Quest*. For more information on this check out Lyle Blosser's excellent article *Jonny Quest Origins* at <http://www.classicjq.com> and see the real history behind the wild liberties I have taken with Mr. Wildey's concepts.

<sup>30</sup> This is a different version of the story than we see in **Jonny's Golden Quest**. TRA writer Lance Falk has stated that he considers the *JGQ* version completely wrong and the *Comico* version partially wrong. He is certainly right about *JGQ*, which is riddled with continuity impossibilities. Until a new version of the story is told I am using the *Comico* story as the 'default position.'

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<sup>31</sup> When Hadji asks how long it has been since Race came to live with the Quests, Jonny answers, *"It was a couple of years before I met you Hadji. Just after my dad started working for the government... when my mom died."* This does not quite fit with a later statement by Dr. Quest in JQ#

<sup>32</sup> Very suddenly! It is implicit that Deepak's fatal fall from an upper terrace was caused by a well-placed shove from his son.

<sup>33</sup> The episode gives this flashback the date of 1978, which is impossible for to reconcile with CJQ dates. I have chosen to count "1978" as a typo for 1968.

<sup>34</sup> It is a major paradox that Jonny's adventures started in 1968 while the "Jonny Quest" series was broadcast in 1964, but the historical facts cannot be denied. Credit for this date goes to Lyle Blosser who writes: *"... I never really thought about this before, but when was the first "man to the moon" launch (Apollo 8) from Cape Canaveral? Answer: December 21, 1968! This event occurred in Mystery of the Lizard Men (Jonny says "Hey, Race, the first man to the moon shot is scheduled for today" when asked by the chief if they can guess what he plans to do with the laser), and really pegs down the timeframe for the episodes as being at least several years "in the future"*

<sup>35</sup> Hadji's adoptive status is never referred to again in the original series. In later adventures he is sometimes referred to as a foster son rather than an adoptive one. In TRA his family name is given as Singh rather than Quest. Presumably there were legal issues that kept him from ever being adopted.

<sup>36</sup> The mummy in this episode is referred to as "Anubis" presumably because he is acting on that deity's behalf by protecting its temple. In its appearance and its role as guardian this mummy strongly resembles Kharis, the mummy featured in the Universal /studios 'Mummy' series.

<sup>37</sup> When Jonny Hadji and Race are captured by a pygmy tribe in Africa we hear the following dialogue:  
*RACE: "Hadji! Do you still remember that levitation trick you learned in India?"*  
*HADJI: "I... I think so... It's been a long time, but I'll try it!"*

This episode has to come after Calcutta Adventure, where Hadji was introduced, but must precede other episodes in which he uses the trick.

<sup>38</sup> The boys recognize Jade instantly so there must be an earlier, unrecorded adventure in which they first met.

<sup>39</sup> This is a truly impressive feat when you consider that, in our world, Manfred Von Richtoven aka the Red Baron shot down only 83 planes.

<sup>40</sup> This and other episodes give us an interesting picture of Dr. Quest's spiritual life. He is a Christian and is devout enough to instill the habit of daily prayer in the boys. At the same time he is very respectful of the religions of others, such as the Buddhism of his old friend the Raj Guru (*Monsters in the Monastery*). The Real Adventures seems to bear out this view of a broad-minded man with deep convictions but respectful of the convictions of others. Hadji is familiar with a wide range of spiritual teachings from yoga to the Bible to his own nation's Hindu and Sikh roots.

<sup>41</sup> What would a pteranodon be doing in the jungles of South America? Lyle Blosser who runs an excellent Jonny Quest website at [www.classicjq.com](http://www.classicjq.com) has a theory:

*"Here's my outline of an intriguing possibility: In "The Lost World" (by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle) the team brings back to London a pterodactyl which subsequently escapes and is last seen by a ship in the Atlantic; apparently on a direct heading back to Maple White Land. While Doyle hints that the animal likely perished somewhere during its ocean crossing, there is ample cause to believe that the pterosaur could have completed the crossing (pterosaurs were great soarers, they could live off fish caught by swooping down over the water, etc.). Perhaps it was even this same animal that was discovered by Deen (the wheelchair villain in "Turu") and nursed back to health after it landed on the plateau where Deen had*

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*the mine (that would explain the affection the animal showed to his keeper; something that is hard to explain otherwise). It could be argued that the animal landed on Deen's plateau because it was similar to its original habitat in Maple White Land. Also, if Deen was working the mine by himself, it must have been very slow going, and he may have even suffered an accident which left him heel-chair bound. Then, when the rescued (and eventually returned-to-health) pteranodon showed a propensity for "collecting" people near the plateau, Deen took advantage by forcing them to work the mines".*

<sup>42</sup> Just where Dr. No, Fu Manchu and so many others got their hidden bases has always been a mystery, but the nefarious Mr. Hardin of The Dreadful Doll may provide an answer. He is effectively a building contractor for super-villains and terrorist organizations. Given the popularity of such secret bases in the 1960's and 1970's, Hardin was on the ground floor of a growth industry.

<sup>43</sup> The Chinese New Year is notoriously difficult to calculate and January 22 is the author's best effort. It falls on the new moon closest to the *li chun*, or the first day of Spring. Li chun usually falls around February 4, but can vary considerably. For an excellent article on the date of Chinese New Year visit [www.math.nus.edu.sg/aslaksen/calander/chinese.shtml/CNY](http://www.math.nus.edu.sg/aslaksen/calander/chinese.shtml/CNY)

<sup>44</sup> The first revival of Jonny Quest was an animated series that ran for 13 episodes in 1986. While it followed the character designs of the original series it departed substantially from the spirit, borrowing heavily from comic book stereotypes. Where the original series featured spies and master criminals, the new series leaned heavily on costumed super-villains. The gadgets of the original had been jet-packs, hovercraft and other James Bond-type devices while the new series introduced time machines, teleportation devices and other gadgets better suited to Star Trek. The biggest change of all was the introduction of a new character named Hardrock. An ancient warrior with a body of living stone, Hardrock's great strength was often used as a deus ex machine device for saving the Quests. Worse yet in the eyes of many fans, he managed to usurp Race Bannon's role as protector and companion to Jonny and Hadji.

<sup>45</sup> Such a device is hundreds of years ahead of modern technology and would have revolutionized virtually every area of life. The fact that the device is never mentioned again in the series suggests that there was some terrible flaw in it. In working on the device Dr. Quest may have drawn on the work of several earlier scientists. In the 1930's a young scientist took the alias "the Vanisher" and used his own matter transporter for criminal purposes. He was eventually brought to justice by the heroic Doc Savage and his device was confiscated. In the 1950's French scientist Andre Delambre also showed promise with his research, but a single housefly in his machine led to his tragic end. This technology always seems to go badly. In the words of one authority, "*It just isn't natural to scramble a man's molecules and beam them halfway across the cosmos!*"

<sup>46</sup> Jessie Bradshaw is a plucky red-haired girl about Jonny's age. She takes Hadji's place as Jonny's companion for most of the adventure, competing with him throughout and finally kissing him. If this sounds familiar, it is also a good description of Jessie Bannon, especially as she is presented in Jonny's Golden Quest. Was someone who worked on both projects really pushing for a girl character like this?

<sup>47</sup> The two countries at the table are never named, but Greece and Yugoslavia were going through a territorial dispute in 1970 over Macedonia (the Macedonia that has since become an independent country). If this is the case then Deprava may have been working for Bulgaria. That nation could have benefited if the talks fell through. (Thanks to Rick Lai for this observation.)

<sup>48</sup> Actually, Dragna is not the first to attempt this. Nearly a century earlier a man named Robur used his own airship for exactly the same purpose. It may well be that Dragna found the secrets of Robur's or another air-pirate's technology, long believed lost, and used it to best advantage.

<sup>49</sup> But the technology was not lost. In the Comico series Dr Zin has his own air-fortress which is very like Dragna's. Either the men were allies or Zin was able to gain access to Dragna's secrets.

<sup>50</sup> There is no other mention of this cult before or after this episode.

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<sup>51</sup> These artifacts are often linked to alien beings by writers who theorize about “ancient astronauts”. Since beings very like these ancients appear in several episodes of *The Real Adventures* (notably *Return of the Anasazi*) it is logical to assume that they created these objects.

<sup>52</sup> In the episode it looks as if Hardrock has made a full recovery, but he vanishes at the end of the JQ86 series and is never mentioned again. His tragic death makes a great deal of sense here... On the other hand, there are unconfirmed sources which claim that Hardrock simply left adventuring to go into business. He opened a chain of highly successful cafes bearing his name and has now retired to a home at Diamondhead.

<sup>53</sup> The *Comico* series was very true to the visual models of the characters, and worked hard at making them believable flesh and blood human beings. Unfortunately this emphasis on characterization causes the action to sag. The personalities are also off, though not as drastically as in some other versions. Race has become a stereotypically cynical tough guy, and Benton is a stereotyped ineffectual egghead. These flaws and the introduction of Kathleen Martin as an uninteresting love interest for Benton impair the enjoyment of what is otherwise generally a fine series.

<sup>54</sup> Marley seems to have been introduced to give Race a romantic alternative to Jade. Despite the title, she was not here to stay and only appeared one more time in the series.

<sup>55</sup> The first iron-clad crossover with another fictional character happens in this issue. As the boys search through the junk that Jade makes her home in Honk Kong harbor they find a set of gold-plated burglar’s tools. The case is inscribed, “*To Jade, with affection and admiration... Simon T.*” This is Simon Templar, aka “the Saint” a heroic “modern day Robin Hood of crime” whose adventures were chronicled by Leslie Charteris. The Saint first appeared in the novel *Meet the Tiger*, published in 1928.

<sup>56</sup> This story is filled with sly references to noted horror writer H. P. Lovecraft. Benton’s friend who calls him to investigate is named “Howard Phillips” after Howard Phillips Lovecraft and the town librarian is “Clara Ashton Smith” after Lovecraft’s friend and fellow author “Clark Ashton Smith. “Whatleyville” is also a reference to several of Lovecraft’s characters named Whatley who appear in the story “*The Dunwich Horror.*”

<sup>57</sup> This must be the same as Zin’s asteroid base seen in “*Jonny Quest vs. the Cyber Insects*”... even Dr. Zin couldn’t have more than one orbiting fortress.

<sup>58</sup> Following the Great War (presumably WW-1) the nobility of the tiny land of Starkgrau realized that their time in Europe was limited. To preserve their way of life the nobility packed up and resettled on the Pacific island which they made the new Starkgrau. The Name “Starkgrau” is a transposition of the name “Graustark” a fictional country featured in the stories of George Barr McCutcheon. Several of the character’s names (Prince Anthony and Lt. Hopey) also suggest the Ruritania stories of Anthony Hope. The implication is that the people of Starkgrau are the descendants of the characters in the Graustark series, the Ruritania series, or both.

<sup>59</sup> *Jonny’s Golden Quest* was meant to go back to all the things that made *CJQ* great and to add state of the art animation and expensive production values. In the eyes of most fans of *CJQ* it was a dismal failure. The concept was changed drastically, Dr. Quest was now a field agent for Intelligence-1 which had become a multi-national agency apparently run by the military. The science he dealt with was no longer cutting edge, it was exaggerated to a the level of *Star Trek* or *Star Wars*. Personalities were changed, new characters were introduced (Jessie and Dr. Quest’s female computer 3-DAC) and old characters became virtually unrecognizable. Jade bore no resemblance to the original version of her character and the urbane Dr. Zin had become a slaving, liver-spotted madman. Worst of all, all existing continuity was thrown out the window.

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<sup>60</sup> According to the movie it was actually Rachel Quest who died in the volcano, but that is an impossibility. CJQ and the Comico series are in agreement that Jonny's mother died several years before the classic series. Rachel Quest never met Race or Hadji, and she never saw Jonny's tenth birthday, let alone his twelfth. Either this is not Rachel Quest, or else everything else in JQ continuity is wrong. But if it wasn't Rachel who died, then who was it? It had to be someone who Benton Quest loved and who Jonny had come to see as a mother. The Comico series ends with Benton Quest engaged to Kathy Martin and (as this timeline demonstrates) with a 12 year old Jonny. Assuming that "Rachel" is really Kathy also explains why the woman Benton Quest proposes to is never seen again following the end of the Comico series.

<sup>61</sup> There seems to be an error in the story here. There are several winter celebrations in Japan which feature the kind of elaborate ice sculptures shown in the story. Unfortunately none of these are located in or around Tokyo. They are found in the month of February on the northern island of Hokkaido, where the weather is colder. It seems likely that the location listed as Tokyo is actually the city of Sapporo, where the most famous of the ice festivals is held.)

<sup>62</sup> Cyber Insects was the second of the made for television JQ movies. It's presentation of the characters is virtually identical to that of Jonny's Golden Quest, though its action and super-science is even more over the top. Probably the most notable addition JQVCI makes is Dr. Quest's new robot assistant, 4-DAC. Though not an especially good character, 4-DAC does have a tie to the old series that almost redeems him. He is voiced by Tim Matheson, the actor who did Jonny's voice on the CJQ episodes.

<sup>63</sup> Season One of TRA is an attempt to modernize the characters which is only successful in a limited way. Jonny and Hadji are now computer gamers with a touch of 1990's attitude. Race has picked up a strong Southern accent and Benton Quest has aged about 15 years. The series also seems to have an odd moral compass. The Quests struggle to save an endangered tiger in "Manhattan Maneater" even when the animal kills and eats a number of homeless people. In "East of Zanzibar" and "Besieged in Paradise" Jonny openly sympathizes with Captain Havel, the Russian submarine commander who sinks any whaling vessel he finds. While it is easy to share Jonny's horror at the practice of whaling, it is shocking to hear him express a lack of sympathy for the whalers Havel kills. In "Alien in Washington" Race and Dr. Quest are clearly on the side of the aliens who are extorting the American government. The message is that an arms race is madness but the alternative, blind capitulation to threats of force from an unknown power, hardly seems any more sane.

<sup>64</sup> Hadji's grasp of comparative religions falls a little short here. He claims that the river in Race's vision is the Bardo, the crossing point between this life and the next. He also claims that, in other religions, the Bardo is called Limbo or Purgatory. Actually, in Tibetan Buddhism "bardo" refers to the period between a person's death and reincarnation. Purgatory and Limbo are both Roman Catholic concepts. Purgatory is a temporary place of punishment where the soul is purged of sin in preparation for its eternal life in Heaven. Limbo is a realm which is neither Heaven nor Hell (Dante makes it the first circle of Hell in **II Inferno**) where the souls of unbaptised infants and virtuous pagans dwell eternally. Though it lacks the supreme joys of heaven, Limbo is considered a pleasant place. The river Race encounters actually resembles the River Styx from Classical Greek mythology much more than it does the bardo, Purgatory or Limbo.

<sup>65</sup> Specifically, Race flies to Russia where an old acquaintance persuades her superiors to launch the mission. This would be a remarkable level of cooperation in the 1990's when the episode was first broadcast. It was even more remarkable in 1973 at the height of the cold war. If the station had not been destroyed at the end of the episode it is easy to imagine that this incident could have become a serious crisis in US – Soviet relations.

<sup>66</sup> The use of this philosopher's stone to transmute base metal to gold requires that it is used by someone "pure of heart." For this and other reasons it seems to be very different than the gold-making processes used by Dr. Zin in The Riddle of the Gold and Jonny's Golden Quest.

<sup>67</sup> The mission of the Vice President in this episode is remarkable similar to the mission of the mysterious Gary Seven on the original Star Trek episode "Assignment Earth." Gary Seven was an alien agent using all

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the technological resources at his command to sabotage the launch of an orbiting nuclear weapons platform. The “space-based defense system” which is mentioned but never described in Alien in Washington could easily be a later version of the same program.

<sup>68</sup> There were two Vice Presidents in 1973, Spiro Agnew and Gerald Ford. Neither died in office or was reported to have died of a heart attack, but Agnew did resign from his office on October 10 while under investigation for charges of corruption. The Vice President in this episode does not resemble Mr. Agnew physically or personally and it seems likely that the true events have been somewhat distorted, possibly for national security reasons. Here is a possible reconstruction of the real events:

The Aegis realizes that Gary Seven’s attempt to end the orbital weapons program has only succeeded temporarily. A new group of hawks led by General Tyler is pushing to resume the program. The Aegis sends another agent to aid Seven by posing as Vice President Agnew. This new agent opts for a much more confrontational strategy than Seven has been using.

With the help of the Quests the false Agnew’s plan succeeds, the space defense program and General Tyler are thoroughly discredited. However Agnew is also exposed as an agent of an alien power and is forced to return the real Agnew and flee the planet.

This leaves the real Vice President in a very bad situation. He is now considered a risk to national security and is forced to resign. A cover story for his resignation is speedily implemented. This also leaves Gary Seven to deal with a government that is much more aware of, and hostile to, alien influences. His work will be much harder for the next several decades.

<sup>69</sup> The aliens are called the “Moai” and physically resemble the mysterious statues of Easter Island. Both the island and the Plains of Nasca are thought by “ancient astronaut” proponents to be signs of ancient extraterrestrial contact. The way the Moai interacted with ancient peoples is very similar to Alice Starseer’s Anasazi. It seems reasonable to suspect that the two are actually the same group.

<sup>70</sup> This is a second and closer look at the Yeti by Benton Quest, who first encountered the creatures in Monsters of the Monastery. He concludes that they are gentle creatures, descendants of Neanderthal Man who are as intelligent as homo sapiens, although in different ways. He decides that they would be harmed if their existence were to be proven.

<sup>71</sup> According to this episode, a colonial commander ordered a forgery of the Declaration made, complete with bogus signatures, rather than admit the theft. If this is correct it is amazing that Dr. Quest’s discovery of the original copy of the document did not ignite a world-wide media frenzy.

<sup>72</sup> This is the first time we see Jonny in a public school. Presumably Race had other duties interfering with his role as tutor this semester. This seems to be only a temporary situation though. It is interesting to note that while Jonny and Jessie are in class, Hadji is on an archaeology dig in the Aegean Islands.

<sup>73</sup> Surd’s “discovery” of what he calls the “cetacean internet” is old news. Natural scientists have known of the astonishing range of whale song for decades. It is thought that, before the low frequency interference of ship engines, pods of whales were able to communicate across vast distances.

<sup>74</sup> The Mary Celeste was a real cargo vessel, which suffered the mysterious loss of her crew in 1872. It is odd that Dr. Quest and Hadji should find her wreck for she did not sink on that voyage. The Mary Celeste was discovered drifting derelict by the crew of the Dei Gratia with her crew, captain and the captain’s wife and young daughter all missing. The ship was successfully salvaged and returned to service. More about the historical Mary Celeste can be found at <http://www.fortogden.com/maryceleste.html>

<sup>75</sup> Siberia is a logical destination in TRA’s setting of the 1990’s, but would have impossible in the 1970’s when it was part of the Soviet Union. To fit with this timeline a different location, probably Lapland, must be assumed.

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<sup>76</sup> TRA, Season 2 is so different than season 1 that it can almost be considered a different series. The character designs are much closer to what we remember from CJQ and the voice talents are too. Dr. Quest's voice sounds lively and intelligent instead of old and tired and Race's Southern accent has disappeared. The super-science is still exaggerated but the sense of adventure is more intense and there are a number of sly references to the original series. Sadly, these changes came in the show's last season. TRA was canceled and there have been no further versions of Jonny Quest.

<sup>77</sup> Elena Stasny is an attractive and intelligent woman who speaks excellent English and has known Benton Quest from the time that Jonny was a baby. Though she was obviously attracted to Benton there does not seem to have been a romance between them. The actual President of the Czech Republic when this episode was broadcast was Václav Havel, former dissident and playwright. The President of the Czech Socialist Republic in 1973 was Ludovik Svoboda, though the real power rested with Communist Party Chairman Alexander Dubcek. During this time the Czech Socialist Republic underwent a surge of democratization known as the "Prague Spring." It would probably have been more open to receiving Dr. Quest than any other European Communist nation.

President Stasny has no exact historical parallel. Presumably she was a high-ranking official rather than President, and was active in the Prague Spring reforms. The golem plotters, led by the Russian General Vostok, were Communist hard liners who resented the reforms.

<sup>78</sup> The golem is an authentic Jewish legend from medieval Czechoslovakia. When the Jews were suffering terrible oppression the great Rabbi Lowe made a man out of clay and brought him to life using the magic of the words and letters of scripture. Though the detail of the stylus is unique to TRA, this golem strongly resembles both the Golem that starred in a three issue run of Marvel Comics' "Strange Tales" in 1974. It also bears some resemblance to the golem which appeared in the Gargoyles episode "Golem."

<sup>79</sup> The symbol animating the golem in Rock of Rages is the Greek mathematical symbol for infinity. In Jewish legend the more traditional symbol is the word "shemhamforash" or sometimes "emet." This last word means "truth" but when one letter is erased leaving "met" (the word for "death") the golem would collapse.

<sup>80</sup> When Zin enters the room where Benton Quest is held he says, "At last we meet, face-to-face." This is an homage to the face that Dr. Quest never saw Zin in the original series, except as an image on a video screen. This statement is difficult to resolve with the many meetings the two have had in the JQ86 and Comico series' as well as the movies Jonny's Golden Quest and Jonny Quest vs. The Cyber Insects.

<sup>81</sup> Writer Lance Falk is quick to point out that this is not a sign of a budding romance. Jonny and Jessie were possessed by ghosts at the time. Their reaction immediately after the kiss demonstrates the truth of this.

<sup>82</sup> The President in 1973 was Richard Nixon who had been elected in 1968. Agent Hinkle's statement that all of Race's cronies were 'kicked out of power in the last election' is difficult to understand in this context.

<sup>83</sup> In Escape to Questworld Surd gained the ability to move around in the virtual reality of Questworld using his mind. Jessie strips him of this mobility while leaving his mind trapped in the program. Essentially, Surd was trapped in a virtual body as paralyzed as his physical body.

<sup>84</sup> This episode features our first glimpse of Race's superior, Agent Corbin, who has not been seen since CJQ. It is also interesting to note that the uniforms I-1 agents wear for field assignments in this adventure strongly resemble those of the agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. in Marvel comics.

<sup>85</sup> There is no connection between these creatures and the yeti seen in Monsters of the Monastery and Expedition to Khumbu. Dr. Quest theorized that the yeti were the descendants of Neanderthal Man while the bigfoots have no earthly origin. Neither are they related to the aliens seen in Return of the Anasazi and

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Secret of the Moai or in Alien in Washington. Their technology seems much less sophisticated than that of these other aliens. If the bigfoots had realized how many other star-faring races had been visiting earth it would have facilitated their return to their home world.

<sup>86</sup> When you consider that Jeremiah Surd's mind had been trapped in Questworld since the events of Thoughtscape, this episode probably seals his final fate as well.

<sup>87</sup> Erickson is described by Dr. Quest as a brilliant innovator in all the sciences. Though the spelling of their names is different it is interesting to speculate that he may be related to the Professor Erickson, of the Fu Manchu stories by Sax Rohmer. That scientist was the brilliant inventor of the disintegration device known as the Erickson Ray. He also was kidnapped by a villainous mastermind who used his invention for evil purposes.

<sup>88</sup> There was no summit at this time. The 1973 summit between Nixon and Tanaka was held in Washington D.C. on August 1. The summit the following year with Tanaka and President Ford was held in Tokyo on November 20. As both those dates are unworkable we must postulate an unknown Tokyo summit early in 1974.

Thanks to the following for support and ideas. Lyle Blosser of [www.classicjq.com](http://www.classicjq.com), Dennis Power, Rick Lai, Jess Nevins the members of the New World Newton Meteoritic Society and especially to Patricia Meacham for suggestions and for access to her amazing JQ video collection.