

The Luck of Roaring Camp

In 1868, Bret Harte wrote a short story called *The Luck of Roaring Camp*. It turned Harte into an internationally known writer.

The story was written about a mining town in California called Roaring Camp. The only woman in town was a Cherokee named Sal. She became pregnant, but died while giving birth to a son.

This left a baby in a town full of single men. Not just men, but rough, tough, rude, crude men of the Wild West. What were *they* going to do with a baby?



The child was thought to be a sign of good fortune, so they gave him the name of Thomas Luck. They put him in a dirty box, wrapped in dirty clothes. But that didn't look right, so they ordered a rosewood cradle with satin sheets and a soft pillow.

The best room they had was filthy, so these men got on their knees and cleaned the floors and the walls. Then they decided that if they were going to take care of a baby, they needed to start using soap. They needed to wash their hands and bathe more often.

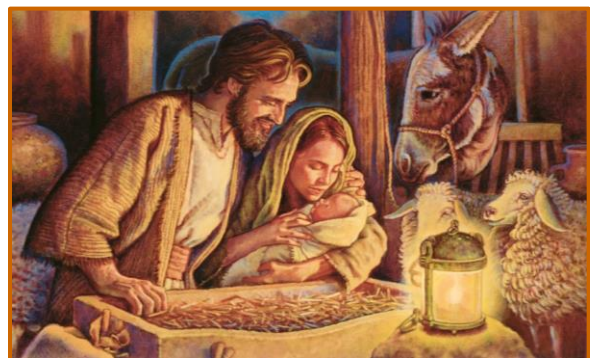
And then they said, "Maybe we don't need to be gambling so much. Maybe we don't need to be fighting so much. Maybe we don't need to be drinking so much."

And as the story progresses, the entire town of Roaring Camp was transformed by the arrival of a single baby boy.

An interesting story. One baby changed the whole town.

Two thousand years ago, the entire world was transformed by the arrival of a baby boy; only this baby was the Son of God.

And because of Jesus' birth, everything is different! He has made a whole new way of life possible.



Born in a stable in Bethlehem, Jesus wasn't in that manger there very long. He grew into adulthood, was baptized to start His ministry and taught us by His word and example. He performed miracles, healed the sick and brought the dead back to life, then died on a cruel cross and was resurrected to return to heaven, where He today is an advocate for us.

(more)

We can know salvation and peace and hope and love through Him. Because He loves us, we can learn to love others.

We love because He first loved us (1 John 4:19 NIV).

– Beecher Hunter