



## Monday Matters

December 17, 2012

### **The Story of Roaring Camp**

The story written by Bret Harte entitled "The Luck of Roaring Camp" tells about the meanest, toughest of all mining camps during the gold rush years of the 1800's in California. The camp was filled with violent men, many criminals and they were all noisy. In fact, that's how it got its name - Roaring Camp.

On one particular morning in 1850's the men in camp were totally quiet. Obviously something was not right. They had gathered outside a cabin where inside Cherokee Sal, the only woman in camp, had died while giving birth to a boy.

Later, the men of the camp formed a single line to pass through the tent to pay respect to Cherokee Sal and to see the newest resident of Roaring Camp. The baby had been placed in a small wooden box and wrapped in a bright red cloth. Someone had put a hat near the baby's box. Men dropped gifts into the hat - a gold tobacco box, a silver gun, a diamond ring and about \$200 in gold and silver.



**Joy To The World/  
Christmas Medley  
by Take 6**

### **Quote of the Week**

"For a child is born to us,  
a son is given to us.  
The government will rest on his  
shoulders.  
And he will be called:  
Wonderful Counselor,[d]  
Mighty God,



The next morning they buried the child's mother. Then they held a meeting to decide what all these men should do with this baby boy. They decided that they would raise the boy themselves. A man by the name of Stumpy volunteered to take care of the baby and the rest of the men in camp agreed and Stumpy was hired.

By the time the baby was a month old, the men thought it would be good to give the boy a name. They realized that since the baby had been born, they had been finding more gold. They decided on Thomas Luck for his name which was later changed to The Luck.

The cabin where Stumpy and Luck lived was cleaned and made more livable. The stores in camp improved their appearance and the men even shaved, had haircuts and bathed. And anyone who wanted to hold The Luck had to be wearing a clean shirt. Though Roaring Camp was named because of all the yelling and shouting going on constantly, it had become much quieter and the violent behavior had virtually ceased. The camp had certainly changed because of the birth of a child.

In few days we will be celebrating the birth of another baby, one that came into our "Roaring Camp" world and offered hope and joy and so much more. This baby is no ordinary baby. This baby is God come to earth. This baby is Immanuel - God with us. He is God in the flesh as promised for so many centuries. His name is Jesus which means God is my Salvation. God has come to earth to change our world.

Our world is so much like Roaring Camp. Sin has taken control of the lives of the people of our world. From the days of Adam and Eve, sin has ruled causing so much pain and suffering in our world. We need only to look back a few years to a September 11th or as recent as this past Friday in Newtown, Connecticut. Fear has gripped the world along with sin and evil.

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His government and its peace will never end.

He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David for all eternity.

The passionate commitment of the Lord of Heaven's Armies will make this happen!"

~Isaiah 9:6-7~

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God sent His only Son into this sin filled world, to be our Savior. God loved us so much He allowed His Son to be sacrificed on the cross - to give us salvation, everlasting life, a changed heart that is loving, kind, understanding and forgiving, and to live as God designed us to live.

The story of Roaring Camp is much like that. One year after the birth of The Luck, he died. However, the baby changed the lives of each individual miner in the camp. As individual miners were changed because of this baby, they had a powerful influence on the rest of the camp. They changed their lifestyle, their habits and behavior because of the baby.

This season, let's celebrate the birth of Jesus, the baby who changes hearts, the Savior who died on the cross, the Lord who lives! This baby lying in the manger has come to bring God's peace and joy and forgiveness to all people. This season, share this joy. You too, can influence people's lives to change.