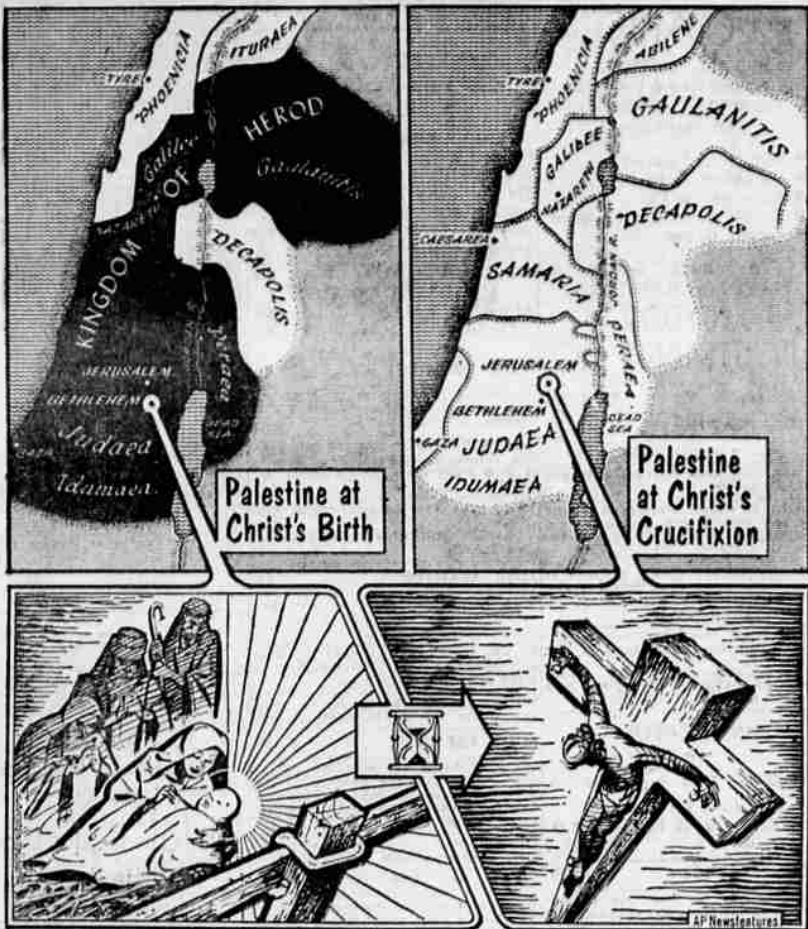




Palestine Marked By Tyranny, Revolt In Christ's Lifetime

By TOM HENSHAW
AP Religion Writer

Sometime during the 31st year in the reign of Herod, king of the Jews by suzerainty of Augustus Caesar, the child named Jesus was born in the little Judean hill town of Bethlehem.

Chroniclers of the day paid little heed to the event that was to prove the most significant of their time. There were more important things to record in Palestine at the turn of the era.

The Holy Land was a frontier province of Rome, a restless buffer state set up against the Parthians, with whom Augustus maintained an uneasy truce, and the wild Arabs, whom he tried to ignore.

Greek influence, the persistent heritage of Alexander, was heavy on the land. Across the Jordan lay the Decapolis, where the Greek language was spoken and temples were erected to Zeus.

The tyrant Herod, backed by the legions of Rome, ruled Palestine roughly between its traditional limits, Dan to Beersheba. He had been named king by the Romans in 37 B.C.

The Jews of Judaea hated Herod. Although he was a Jew himself and an observer of the law—at least in public—he also was an Idumean and the Jews disliked foreigners intensely.

They thought of Herod as a usurper who had used his influence with Rome to overthrow the legitimate rulers, the Hasmoneans, descendants of the heroic priest-kings, the Maccabees.

Herod lived in constant terror of losing his throne. He married a Hasmonean, Mariamne, to give a semblance of legitimacy to his rule. Then he killed three of his sons because they were Hasmoneans and the people acclaimed them.

His slaughter of the Holy Innocents was merely a drop in the bloody bucket of his rule. He had as many as 40 people executed at one time and he planned mass executions to coincide with his death so there would be weeping at his passing.

The subject Jews did not present a united front to Herod. There was continual bickering between the Pharisees, who stood for strict Judaism and were bitter enemies of everything foreign, and the Sadducees, who were against excessive strictness in religion and advocated a certain amount of Hellenization.

On the desolate shore of the Dead Sea, at a place later called Qumran, a dissident group of apocalyptic Jews, probably the Essenes, were busily transcribing

their teachings on scrolls to be buried in caves and come to light in the middle of the 20th Century.

Herod died in 4 B.C. and Palestine erupted in revolt. The Roman governor of Syria, Quintilius Varus, put down the uprising with great cruelty. Some 2,000 rebels were crucified when Jerusalem fell.

The Galilean town of Sepphoris, only a few miles north of Nazareth, was destroyed by the Romans and its rebellious population sold into slavery. Jesus would have been about four years old at the time.

Revolt crushed, the Romans divided Herod's kingdom among his three sons. Herod Archelaus received Judaea, Samaria and Idumea; Herod Antipas got Galilee and Peraea; and Herod Philip ruled Gaulanitis in the north.

It wasn't long before even Rome got thoroughly fed up with the inept and cruel Archelaus. He was packed off into exile and a system of rule by procurators was instituted in Judaea.

The procurators were Romans of low rank whose new-found importance mounted quickly to their heads. Pontius Pilate, procurator at the time of the crucifixion, was the fifth or sixth of the line.

The Romans never fully understood the Eastern mind. Least of all did they comprehend the Jews, with their legalistic ceremonies and their fanatical belief in one God and no others.

Pilate looked up on the Jews with contempt. His cruelties and indifference to them were such that he was recalled to Rome in 36 A.D. and disappeared from history's page. Tradition has it he committed suicide.

It was during the rule of the procurators the Jews of Galilee and Saduq the Pharisee founded the Zealots, the desperate rebels who formed the hard core of revolt that brought about the destruction of Jerusalem and the dispersal of the Jews in 70 A.D.

Such were conditions of surface importance in Palestine at the time when Jesus was crucified and his small, insignificant band of followers were setting out to remake the world in His image.

SPACE PILOTS
WASHINGTON (AP)—Space pilots who will man the Dyna-Soar—the most advanced weapon system under development today—will be chosen because of their experience and not their age. Planes, official publication of the Aircraft Industries Association, says the pilots selected for the initial flight on the Dyna-Soar—a manned boost-glide vehicle with orbital flight potential—will be approximately five feet ten, and weigh between 150 and 165 pounds. Their training will include being whirled in huge centrifuges and making simulated space flights with many of the expected conditions duplicated.

The greater snow geese migrate once a year from Artic islands to the warmer climate of North Carolina. These giant white geese never leave their nesting females for life.

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Brown's Office Mail Rivals That Of St. Nick

SACRAMENTO (UPI)—A man a lot of people think may be Santa Claus has opened for business here.

Every day he receives stacks of letters, literally hundreds of them, much as the real St. Nicholas must.

His name is Gov.-elect Edmund G. Brown. The letters are from people trying to make arrangements for one of the thousands of jobs in his new Democratic administration.

Brown opened a two-room office in the Senator Hotel here two weeks ago. At the beginning, Brown's executive secretary, Frederick Dutton sat on the floor to answer telephones while furniture was being gathered.

His small office staff likewise sat on the floor opening and answering cardboard boxes full of letters sent here from Brown's San Francisco office by bus.

Now Brown has a five-room suite of offices—all fully furnished—in the hotel. But even now, when all nine executive secretaries and eight clerical workers are on hand, the suite appears to be crowded and chaotic.

Brown's gigantic correspondence file, the biggest crush of business so far in his preparations to take office Jan. 5, covers three main categories.

The first and by far the largest is the job applications and letters recommending other persons for jobs. Most are serious and logical missives, but a few verge on the ridiculous.

One message, typed on a gaudy post card, asked Brown to rise above partisan politics and appoint a well-known backer of GOP Sen. William F. Knowland to the high post of director of the message was signed only "A Democrat."

Other letters cover a wide range of job requests and recommendations. Some cover the highest posts ranging up to \$20,000 a year department heads. Some ask for jobs in the security guard, which is furnished by the state police, and in the domestic staff in the governor's mansion.

Still others include requests of Brown to make speeches, invitations to various functions and general correspondence which includes lots of congratulations and advice.

Heading up Brown's clerical staff are Meredith Burch and Ann Bair. Both worked in the Brown campaign. Meredith, an attractive blonde, is a Democratic party worker who worked in Los Angeles for the Adlai E. Stevenson campaign in 1956 then began work on the Brown campaign even before he announced what office he was going to seek. Ann, just as attractive a brunette, is Dutton's secretary.

While Brown and much of his executive staff still spends most of their time in San Francisco and Los Angeles, the political correspondence load of his incoming administration is centered here. Boxes full of letters are shipped up regularly from Brown's San Francisco office.

Other members of the executive staff, working on the necessary background information for Brown's inaugural address, are staying here and are working partially out of the offices of various Democratic legislators.

Come January, Brown and his staff will move into the governor's suite in the capital. There they will have 29 offices surrounding an open, landscaped courtyard.

There outgoing Gov. Goodwin J. Knight now operates the state government with 10 executive secretaries and 42 women secretarial employees. Little by little, they now are clearing files in preparation to moving out.

The Pilgrims introduced the first card game in this country in the Plymouth Colony. It was a game called All Fours similar to the present day card game of Pitch.



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Home—Mrs. Iris Calkins and Miss Betty Brown, from Loma Linda, California, and Miss Thelma Brown from Los Angeles are visiting with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jess Brown, Henley.

Visitors—Mr. and Mrs. Frank Silva of Ferndale, California are spending part of the holidays with her parents Mr. and Mrs. Les Leavitt of Langell Valley.

College—students home for vacation are Sydne Ketchum, David Thomas, Jack Horn and Fred Jacobs, all of Bonanza who attend Oregon State; Janice Heseltine and Sherry Crawford of Ashland, and Jim Porterfield of Stanford.

To Portland—Bob Potucek and Raymond Jacobsen of Langell Valley are spending some of their vacation at Portland with Bob's mother, Miriam Potucek. Bob is a student at OTI.

To Texas—Mr. and Mrs. Haley Shaw and Johnny of Langell Valley and their son Jack Shaw of Philomath are spending Christmas at Adrian, Texas with their parents and other relatives.

To Idaho—Mr. and Mrs. Ted Rowell of Langell Valley are spending Christmas at Idaho Falls with their son Ted Jr. Her brother, Maurice Latell, left Langell Valley December 19, to spend several weeks at Bakersfield with relatives.

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Home—Mrs. Glen Fields has returned to her home in Langell Valley after attending funeral services for her sister at Merced, California.

Roger Nelson—4-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Nelson of Langell Valley fell from his sled-land pony and broke his arm which will be in a cast for seven weeks.

To Madras—Ted Pepple, son of Mr. and Mrs. Owen Pepple of Bonanza has bought a service station at Madras, Oregon. Mrs. Pepple and two daughters Maria and Susan will move there from Klamath Falls after the first of the year.

To Portland—Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Horn of Bonanza are spending a couple of weeks during the holidays at Portland with their daughter Mrs. Bill Beavert and family. Small grandson Billy returned home with them after several weeks here.

New Son—Mr. and Mrs. Tim Tyree of Langell Valley have a new son born December 20. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Bon Tyree of Bonanza and Mr. and Mrs. Sam Tidrick of Langell Valley.

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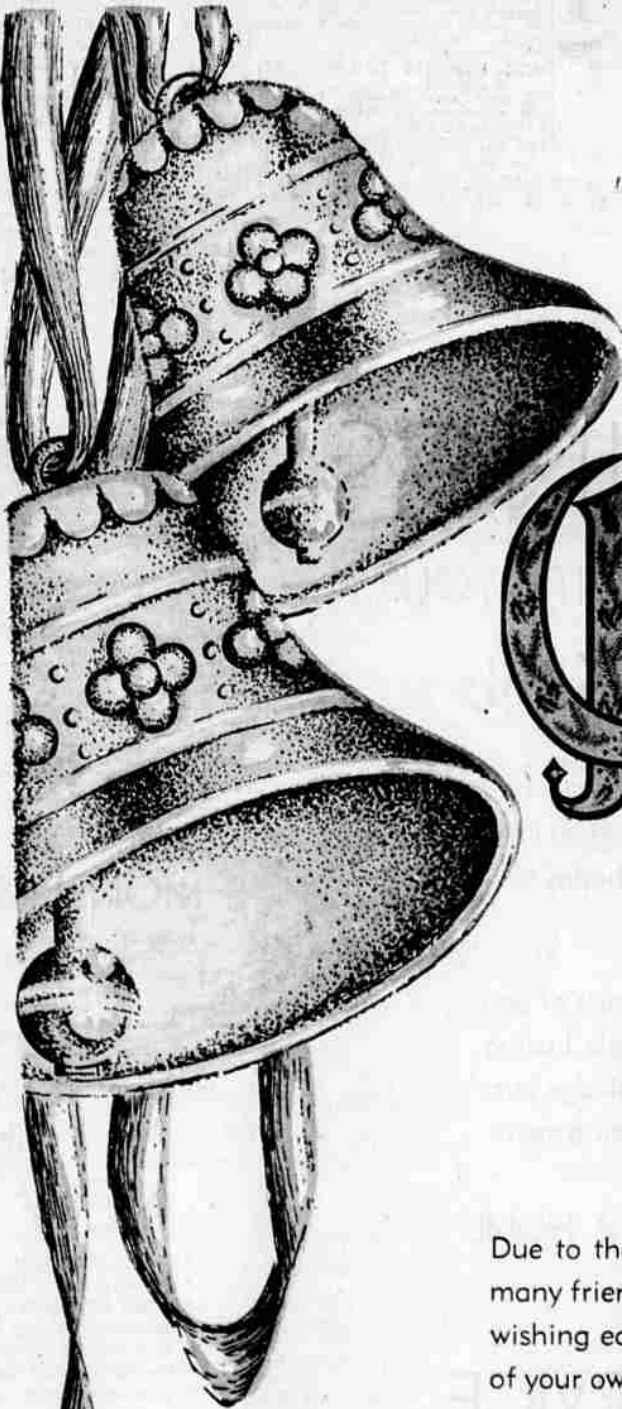
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