

The Republican Calendar

By Bob Boucher, April /2013

The early Babylonian calendars like the Hebrew were based on the cycle of the moon, 29.5 days in duration.. The months were alternately 29 and 30 days.. This lunar year was only 354 days long, so the winter solstice advanced 11 days each year. This anomaly was corrected by adding a second January of 33 days every three years. Every calendar date only returned into solar alignment once every 19 years. Clearly such a calendar could use improvement.

The ancient Egyptians already had an accurate sun cycle calendar that had been in use for thousands of years before Christ. This calendar uses twelve months of thirty days each and added five or six “*bad luck*” days when no work could be done to make up the needed 365 days for normal years and 366 days on leap years. The Egyptian work week was ten days long so their slaves got only one day off every ten days.

In the year 47 BC while Julius Caesar was enjoying himself with Cleopatra while they made a leisurely cruise up the Nile on her royal barge. Suddenly he realized that there was one more thing of hers that he wanted; her calendar. Caesar decreed that a new calendar based on the sun cycle be devised. The work was finally finished and implemented on 1 January 45 BC. The New Julian Calendar was to have seven months of thirty days and five months of thirty-one days for a total of three hundred sixty five days. Every four years one more day would be added to February keep the solar year in synchronism with the sun. In the ancient world February was the month of atonement and settling debts. Suddenly the astronomers realized the Julius Caesar’s birthday came in

July so July was made a thirty-one day month. They stole a day from February so poor old February was assigned only twenty-nine days. Later in the reign of Caesar Augustus, his birth month of August was also given thirty one days and February shorted to only twenty eight days. This new Julian calendar was a great success and is still used in many Greek Orthodox countries even today. Since the Solar year is slightly shorter than 365.25 days the winter solstice slowly advanced over the centuries, and by the sixteenth century, the calendar was eleven days out of synchronism with the sun. In 1582 Pope Gregory XII of the Roman Catholic Church in Papal Bull 24F decreed the new Gregorian calendar be used by the church and in all Catholic countries. Eleven days were dropped from September to get the Winter solstice back in synchronism. Only a small change was needed from the Julian; drop the leap year when the year was devisable by four-hundred, for example the year 1600 and the year 2000. Great Britain and its colonies persisted in their Protestant pig-headedness until 1752 when they adopted the Gregorian calendar. They dropped twelve days in September, Jumping from September 2 to September 14. Strangely the Soviets with their precious Marxist Atheism switched from the Russian Orthodox Julian Calendar to the Catholic Gregorian calendar in 1918.

On July 14, 1789 the European world was changed forever, Kings, Noblemen and Priests would be forever banned according to the principles of Rousseau. A new French Republican Nation based on the principles of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity was created. In their zeal to destroy the old with Guillotine, fire and sword, they murdered all the nobility and church hierarchy, cut the heads off of statues, burned churches and destroyed

many archives dating back centuries. The glorious Metric System was created with the help of Legendre and other mathematicians. An end to royal thumbs and royal feet let the Meter reign supreme. Let us put an end to Sun's day, Moon's day, Thor's day, etc. The new week days would be numbered days, First-day. Second-day and so on to Tenth-day. Very nice the proletariat would now work nine days and only take the tenth day off. There would be three ten day weeks in each of the twelve months, and five feast days would be added between months to fill out the 365 day year, every fourth year an extra feast day would be added. But those crazies did not stop there, they proclaimed a ten hour metric day, 100 minutes to the metric hour and 100 seconds to the metric minute. New civic clocks were installed all over France. In 1806 Napoleon put an end to all this foolishness and returned France to the Catholic Gregorian calendar.