

## COMMISSIONER'S REPORT 1997

Gentlemen:

On January 1, 1996, the Utah Lake elevation was a -0.15 feet below compromise and was 3.15 feet higher than January 1, 1995 and as this board remembers, we determined that the gates needed to be opened as a goodwill gesture for the land users in Utah County. During the following months, the lake rose to its maximum elevation of + 0.62 feet on May 11, 1996 with a discharge at that time of 930 c.f.s. and because of this heavy discharge we were able to run the system by gravity flow. This continued until July 23, 1996. At that time, the pumps were turned on and continue running until October 15 which was our shut down date. The elevation at that time was -1.72 feet below compromise. Again the lake began to rise and on December 10, 1996 we cracked the gates on the outlet structure to ensure that these gates would not freeze in place in case we had a harsh winter. Again on the 13th of December, after our Board of Canal Presidents monthly meeting, it was agreed that the lake gates should be fully opened to alleviate any possible flooding both in Salt Lake Valley and surrounding lands of Utah Lake. I contacted both Salt Lake County Flood Control and Utah County Flood Control alerting them of this action. At the present time these gates are still open and the lake is continuing to rise (-0.45 feet below compromise January 1, 1997.) On January 6, 1997, the State Engineer has called a meeting with all of the water users under the Utah Lake and Jordan River drainage area to determine just what problems may arise if we continue to have this extremely high snow pack in our drainage area. As to the 1997 irrigation season, it's pretty obvious that we will have no problem with meeting the demands on Utah Lake.

In the Spring of 1996, the Board of Canal Presidents made a survey of the living conditions of my Deputy Commissioner Greg Lewis at the Utah Lake Pumping Station and found them to be deplorable. He was living in the old Utah Power and Light home that was built in the 1920's with two bedrooms and a bathroom that was about the size of a number three tub. Greg's wife Cindy had just had her fourth child and there was virtually no room and we determined that it would not be a good move to give the baby away. So a contract was let to Kelton Larson, General Contractor to construct a new residence with all of the amenities necessary to accommodate a family of this size. On August 28, 1996 we demolished the old home and the Lewis family was able to move into their new abode.