

## Our City

It seems more like the winters I remember as compared to last year. Not much snow and just cold. The Idaho Snotel report shows we are about normal for the date as far as Snow Water Equivalent at 122% and Water-Year-to-Date Precipitation at 99%. The 14-day forecast shows some snow in sight with the biggest dumps looking to be what is last Saturday now and today, as you read this, December 20<sup>th</sup>. Christmas, it just looks COLD!

As much trouble and damage as it caused, I suppose I am a bit off in the head remembering back at liking all the white stuff last year. I have never been one for liking the cold and dry; it seems like such a waste. If it's going to be dry I would just as soon be a bit warmer too. Either way it does no good to dwell on it. At present the water being released from the dam is at 5800 cfs and will increase to 7800 cfs as you read this. The Bureau of Reclamation will begin releasing more water to help protect the rip-rap that lines the banks of the reservoir. The ice sheet is continuing to build over the reservoir and if water levels remain the same or increase heavy winds and ice could cause severe damage to the protective rock structure. The winter fishing season may be entirely different in terms of water levels than those I have fished here in the past. I very much enjoyed the fall fishing season while it lasted.

I look forward to time spent with family in the days to come. Any more that is what the season brings to me; like the evening a few weeks ago at Saint John's it fills me with warmth and peace. As you prepare for whatever it is you do during the holidays I hope that if you or your family travels it is done safely. The forecast looks decent for travel but one seldom knows at this time of year.

As those who know ventured out into the cold night air to view your Christmas and Holiday spirit their evaluation technique seemed a bit more beyond, "Oh, Papa I like that one a lot!" This year they wanted to give stars to all the houses we looked at. They wanted to use a five stars scale; suffice it to say the "Oh I like that one a lot" scale was much easier and less time consuming. After some negotiations we settled on 5 Stars, 4 Stars and Very Merry. Their results are not ranked beyond that; I am sorry but Papa didn't have the patience to mediate every contested consideration. One thing we did add this year was the three best streets and they did agree on these. They include Hutchison, Bennett from Polk to Ralphs and Autumn Way. I want to thank each of you for sharing your spirit of the season with all of us. I can only say I wish I had the imagination and energy as so many of you. I want to also thank "those who know" all about Christmas and what it is supposed to look and feel like; their results follow and I encourage you to go see for yourself!

5 Stars - 2218 Falls, 835 Fillmore, 525 East Park, 741 Bennett, 216 Adams and 761 Hutchison.

4 Stars - 115 Johnson, 538 West Park, 126 Tyler, 834 Falls, 460 Taylor, 739 Bennett, 596 Sunbeam, 352 Lee and 375 Autumn Way.

Very Merry - Waste Water Treatment Plant, 520 Hayes, 435 Hayes, 538 Johnson, 240 West Park, 538 West Park, 575 East Park, Pinch Bugs 825 Tyhee, 795 Falls, 623 Bannock, 107 Shirley, 104 Shirley, 649 Bennett, 575 Hillcrest, 871 Eisenhower, 255 Van Buren, 221 Van Buren, 245 Jefferson, 560 Snow Flake, 324 Autumn Way, 356 Autumn Way and many more.

Merry Christmas one and all.

Until next week...