

July 5, 1944
Newcastle, Wyoming

Subject: Salt springs near Cambria, Weston County, Wyoming.

Purpose: To ascertain history of springs and possibility of increasing flow.

Location: The salt springs are situated in Sec. 9, Twp. T. 46 N., R. 61 W., Weston County, Wyoming. They are 9.1 miles northward of Newcastle and 1.8 miles north of the Cambria Museum on Highway 85.

Observations

The three wells are situated in the bottom of a small creek whose bed is nearly dry above the salt springs. The springs are not more than 100 yards to the eastward of Highway 85, and can be seen from the road. Three wells, whose depth could not be ascertained from any source, have been drilled and the casings enclosed in concrete boxes. The latter are about 6x6 feet and serve as collecting basins from which the water is drawn off downstream by pipes. At present the greater part of the discharge is diverted into the swimming pool of the Missionary and Bible School at the Cambria Museum. The property occupied by this Missionary School belongs to Cambria Park, the attorney for which estate is Mr. E.C. Raymond, of Newcastle, Wyoming.

At the time of examination well #1 manifested the most active flow and it was from this well that the water sample was taken. Well #2 was essentially inactive although slight bubbling from the bottom could be observed. Well #3 showed substantial flow though less active than #1. At Sta. 4 (see accompanying sketch map) are two gate valves and a six inch pipe which draws off the total flow from all three wells.

The surrounding rocks in the walls and bottom of the canyon are red beds and white gypsiferous portions of the Spearfish formation. The wells are discharging about 75 feet below the top of the Spearfish (leaving approximately 400 feet of Spearfish below). The sandstones and shales of the Sundance formation outcrop at about highway level above the springs. The regional dip of formations in this area is in general southerly and south-westerly off the Black Hills uplift.

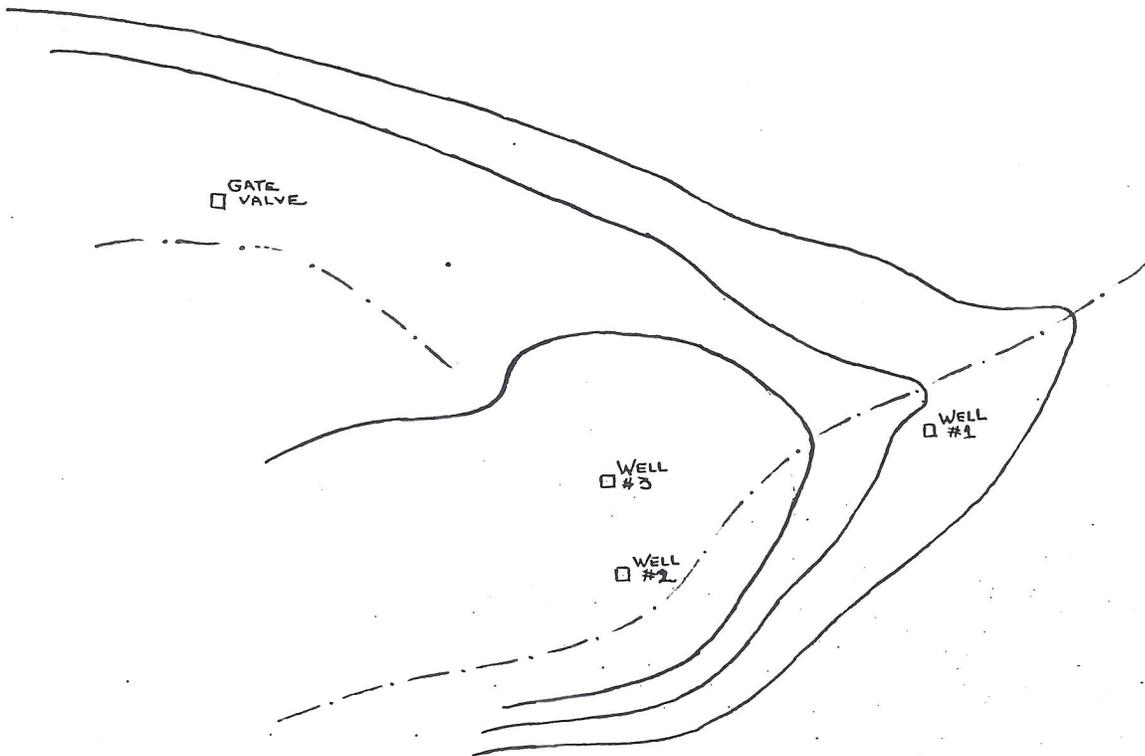
In about 1904 salt was extracted from these waters commercially at an evaporating plant set up in the former coal mining town of Cambria. According to reliable reports from local residents this plant was closed down shortly after beginning operations, for reasons not explicitly given. It is rumored that the salt thus obtained carried substances injurious to livestock. No information regarding the depth of the wells or the formations penetrated in drilling, could be secured. According to Mr. Ray V. Allen of Newcastle, Mr. Coyle of the Stockman's Bank, Gillette, Wyoming should know most regarding details of the drilling program and general history of the project.

Conclusions

The only method of increasing the flow potential which suggests itself would be to tap the aquifer elsewhere or, possibly to plug back or deepen the present wells in order to tap other saline water horizons in the Spearfish or lower formations.

Respectfully submitted,


J. C. Haff



Pace and Compass Map Showing the Relative Positions of
Wells and Gatevalves.

Salt Creek, Sec. 9, Twp. T.46 N., R.61 W., Weston Co., Wyo.

Scale: 1" = 40'

Contours schematic