

Ken Crothers description of the homemade water pressure gauge they monitored during Perrier's test pumping

At the time of the pump test my dad put a tee on the outlet pipe of one of our artesian wells with a restrictor valve on the outlet into the stock tank and a piece of transparent tube going up from the tee. He adjusted the restrictor until water raised about a foot in the tube and took the handle off the valve. He marked the level in the tube. Somehow the Dells paper caught on to it and took a picture. Within an hour of the time the pumps started, the level began to drop. It continued to drop until one very cold morning when the diesel pumps gelled up and stopped the pumping for about three hours. At the end of that three hours the level had risen about a half inch. When the pumps began to run the level again began to fall. At that point the US Geological Survey folks, the DNR, and hydrogeologists from Perrier began to come and take pictures of the set up. They stopped the pump test when the level of the water was only a half inch above the outlet into the stock tank. The water flow at the culvert where Golden Ave and G intersect had visibly slowed by that time as well. The measuring stick placed there is still in place the last time I looked.

Historically, when the well by Cheryl Coon's house was put in, the artesian well which fed the boiler at the cheese factory where Rosemary Carlson lived lost pressure to the point it would no longer feed the boiler. They put the long pipe that is still there on the new well, and the pressure came up enough to feed the boiler again. When the big well at Hamel's shop was put in the water at the Jensen barn began to lose pressure quite rapidly. Norm Jensen put the cap and riser pipe on the new well and the pressure came back.

Some of us tried to explain this to the Perrier representatives but they did not believe it. They do now.