



# SWITCHING BACK

Frederick R. Holley | Circuit Rider

Before the days of electricity and refrigerators, it was a struggle to keep things cold so they didn't spoil. A farmer was fortunate if he had a free-flowing spring located on his property. The water flowing from the ground was usually the same constant temperature year-round. The system I operated, the water from 3-400 feet below ground was a constant 52°. Imagine milking your cows and storing your milk cans in a building housing a free-flowing spring. These springs were a good source for drinking water. Some were large enough to supply water to a whole community.



Overflow from spring collector.

Sometimes when a decision is made it is based on cost. A few years ago, spring fed water systems throughout NYS had to decide, should we filter our spring source or change to a well system? In some cases, interconnecting with a neighboring system was the most cost-effective answer. The DOH labeled most spring water sources as "GWUDI" or Ground Water Under the Direct Influence of Surface Water. In the case I am reviewing, finding a new source was chosen. There were no neighboring communities to connect with, so a well source was developed.

Canaseraga, NY, in 1895, a major fire devastated most of the business district. There was no water system at this time. Canaseraga Water Works Co. was organized in July 1895. J. A. Bailey, President; A. T. Peabody, Secretary; S. J. Craig, Treasurer, issued bonds for \$14,000, owned by the Village of Canaseraga. It is not clear at this time what their water source was. In the 1930's a spring fed source was located in Livingston County and was piped by gravity to the village. Moving ahead many years,



Spring Collector

Health Department regulations determined that most spring fed systems in the area were in some way under the influence of surface water. Many were located near farmland where fertilizer, pesticides, manure, and erosion were indirectly in contact with the water entering the spring.

In 2014, two wells were drilled in a shallow aquifer in the area of an old riverbed. An adequate supply of water was found and the once, all gravity spring system was cut and capped. The people did not like the new water. The complaints started rolling in. A pilot study was run to determine the feasibility of filtering the existing spring source, and returning to the 1930's source leaving the new well system as a backup.

At the time of writing this, the small water system is well on its way with a project to switch back to the spring collector system. Engineering, pilot study, and funding all in place. Construction of the filter plant is well on its way. Covid-19 has held up progress, and the delivery of some materials. Completion is slated for late 2020 / early 2021. I will be following this project through its completion.

I hope to see you in my travels. 💧💧💧



Filter Plant