City of Hailey Water System – The Early Years

January, 1885 – Sanborn map describes water supply as 30000 gallon reservoir elevated 110 feet above town level, filled by mountain streams.

June, 1888 – Sanborn map describes water supply as 150000 gallon reservoir elevated 110 feet above level of Main Street 1½ miles distant from court house filled by creek.

August, 1890 – Sanborn map describes water facilities as earth reservoir capacity 150000 gallon situated 1½ miles NE of court house and elevated 110 feet above level of Main Street. Supply obtained from creek.

August, 1897 – Sanborn map describes water facilities as earth reservoir capacity 150,000 gallon situated 1½ miles NE of court house and elevated 110 feet above level of Main Street. Supply obtained from creek.

December 24, 1900 – Caldwell v. Tucker: Nancy Tucker receives all of the water of Indian Creek, with the exception of water diverted through a pipeline by Alturas Water Company under 37-1216 during the non-irrigation season.

October 27, 1905 – Hailey Water and Power conveys the Tucker land to Leo Cramer. (Deed is not recorded until May 8, 1909.

November, 1907 – Sanborn map describes two separate water systems, Alturas Water Company and the Cramer Water Company.
"The Alturas Water Company – Earth reservoir capacity 150,000 gallon situated 1½ miles NE of court house and elevated 110 feet above level of Main Street. Supply obtained from creek.
The Cramer Water Company – 330,000 gallon reservoir situated 2000 feet west of and 180 feet above Main Street supplied by well with two triplex electric pumps of 20 HP and 30 HP."

October 6, 1909 – Frost Decree: Alturas Water Company decreed sufficient water to fill 10 inch pipeline during the non-irrigation season above the 45 inches (37-1216) decreed to Alturas Water Company in Caldwell v. Tucker under 37-717. And, Hailey Water & Power Company decreed all of the water from Indian Creek as successor to Nancy Tucker under 37-296. This would limit 37-296 to the irrigation season. Page 95 of the Frost Decree also describes 100 inches of water that was purchased by the Alturas Water Company and diverted through the Riley Ditch for the purpose of supplying the inhabitants of the Village of Hailey with water for domestic and other purposes.

October 11, 1913 – Idaho State Life Insurance Company to Dave G. Devine deed: Conveys Tucker land except for 131 inches of water from Indian Creek to be used to supply the City of Hailey. The deed further describes the 131 inches of water as coming from the springs. And, any water from the springs not used by the City of Hailey may be diverted at the springs and used by the second party. This deed also describes the conveyance system and calls for the preservation of the spring area by fencing it to exclude livestock from entering the spring area and polluting it.

September 1, 1915 – Correction Deed from Idaho State Life Insurance Company to Hailey Water Company: States the 131 inches conveyed to the Hailey Water Company is the same 131 inches that was reserved in the Idaho State Life Insurance Company to Dave G. Devine deed.

October, 1920 – Sanborn map describes water facilities as privately owned by Hailey Water Company, with two sources of supply.
"Primary supply is a gravity system with water from living springs on Indian Creek, 5½ miles N.E. of court house and elevated 500 feet above same. A concrete intake box, size 8' x 8' x 4' deep collects flow from several springs, average flow about 131 miner's inches.
Secondary supply is a direct pumping system from auxiliary pumping plant located near foot of Silver Street close to river bottom consisting of an Aldrich 7" x 9" triplex power pump, capacity 320 gallons per minute driven by 20 HP electric motor. Pump takes suction from a 9' x 14' stone lined well 12' deep with an inexhaustible seepage from Wood River "

September, 1931 – Sanborn map describes water facilities as privately owned by West Coast Power Company.
"Primary supply is a gravity system with water from living springs on Indian Creek, 5½ miles N.E. of court house and elevated 500 feet above same. A concrete intake box, size 8' x 8' x 4' deep collects flow from several springs, average flow about 131 miner's inches.
Secondary supply is a direct pumping system from auxiliary pumping plant located near foot of Silver Street close to river bottom consisting of 1 Fairbanks-Morse electric centrifugal pump capacity 750 gpm and 1 Aldrich 7" x 9" triplex power pump, capacity 320 gallons per minute driven by 20 HP electric motor. Pumps take suction from a 9' x 14' stone lined well 12' deep with an inexhaustible seepage from Wood River "

Summary: By 1915 Hailey Water Company or its predecessor had the right to the first 131 inches of water from Indian Creek Spring for year round municipal use. While the 131 inches water diverted in the irrigation season could be from right 37-296, and the 131 inches of water diverted in the non-irrigation season could be from right nos. 37-1216 and 37-717, all of these rights were originally from the Indian Creek rather than Indian Creek Spring. The October, 1920 Sanborn map verifies system from Indian Creek Spring was installed and operational as of 1920, with the spring diversion a significant distance upstream from the original creek diversion.

Possible unclaimed ground water rights for the City of Hailey:

A well was supplying water to the city at least as early as November of 1907.

20 HP triplex pump produced 320 gpm
30 HP triplex pump produced 480 gpm?
Possible 800 gpm Ground Water right with November 1907 priority date. (320 gpm + 480 gpm)

By September of 1931 the 30 HP triplex pump (480 gpm) has been replaced with a 750 gpm centrifugal pump.

Possible 270 gpm Ground Water right with a Septmeber 1931 priority date. (750 gpm – 480 gpm)