

15118

OFFICE OF
Indian Affairs
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1906

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Moqui School,
Keams Canon, Ariz.,
Feb. 8, 1906.

Theo G. Lemmon, Supt.,

Reports on water conditions
at Oraibi

1 Enclosures

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RG 75 Bureau of Indian Affairs
E.91 (PI-163) Letters Received, 1881-1907
Box 3054
year: 1906 Letter #: 15118

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,

Moqui School,

Keam's Canon, Ariz. Feb. 8, 1906.

The Honorable,

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:-

I beg the honor of offering a partial report on your letter of instructions based on the recommendation of Ex-Supervisor Mead relative to locating water and making provision for pumping it to the Oraibi school and the Indians on the Mesa at the Oraibi village.

By the work of the Indians for stoves issued to them we sunk a well at the Oraibi wash where there was reason to believe we would find water. This was done after we had gone down three hundred and six feet- the utmost limit of the drilling machine- at a point near the school without indications of water.

At the wash we found water which stands at a depth of twenty-three feet. The Gould pump I requested was so delayed enroute that we could not wait for it, as the sand was falling in and would have filled the excavation. We were stopped by the water, as we were wholly unable to get it out of the way fast enough to progress with the work, after having gained but six inches in depth for a days work of all the men that could be handled on the work digging was stopped and the well wall ed. Further up on the Wash and some further from the school a simialar well has furnished the water for the school all the time of its existens

this has been hauled by a team through very heavy sand for a mile.

I have been delayed some by the fact that I had not instruments with which to determine levels, but as Mr. Butler was passing through to Tuba city I got him to stop and make some surveys and give me the benefit of his judgment on two propositions I have superficially investigated and the Oraibi pumping proposition.

I realize that with water at hand and under pressure the Oraibi school will do as other people, and use three or four times as much water as ever before. But I have not the slightest doubt the water is there, in fact, I am ~~not nearly~~ ^{not nearly} as confident the Keam's Canon School will be able to keep its supply of water as I am ^{that} ~~the~~ it is there for the Oraibi school and will stay there.

The Location is but 4400 feet from the School and but 120.9 ft below the door sill of employes building at the school-measured from the surface of the water in the well, and but 4961 ft. from a tank site the tank bottom being 172 feet above the surface of the water in the well thus 51 ft. above the above mentioned door sill. This is the preliminary survey and when corrected may make a slight variation but it will not be sufficient to effect the proposition. We had so much there to ^{do} that it was not practical to verify these levels but as they were carefully made at the time there can not be sufficient variation to seriously effect it.

My suggestion is that wells be dug as shown on inclosed sketch and the pump set at the wells. As soon as I have received quotations in answer to letters of inquiry sent out I will submit estimate and such recommendations as are warranted but feel that I can not in the interest of the Indians on the Oraibi Mesa recommend that the plant be extended so as to pump water up there to them. Would as soon think of recommend-

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a "soup-house" that they be fed without expense, in fact, would have, in my judgment, greater warrant for so doing as the securing of food is much more difficult. There is plenty of water in two miles of them and if they are to exercise the choice of residence location they should take the natural difficulties with the location, in minor matters. I realize that it is the women that carry the ^water and also realize that it is the women who are the least progressive, and the least desirous of anything that belongs to civilization except such as can be begged.

Nevertheless, will submit full report on receipt of the data.

Very Respectfully

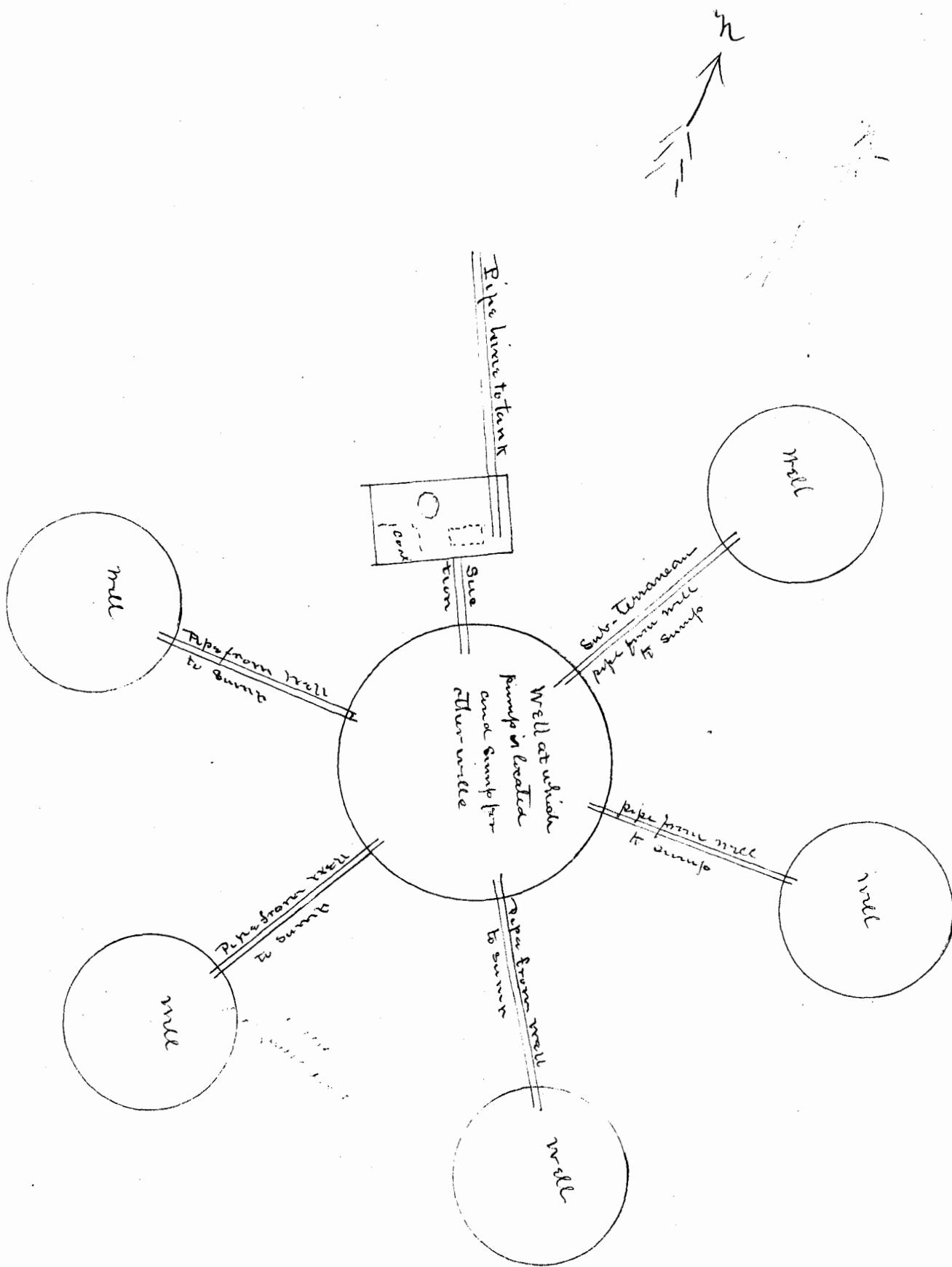
Mrs. G. Kimman
Superintendent.

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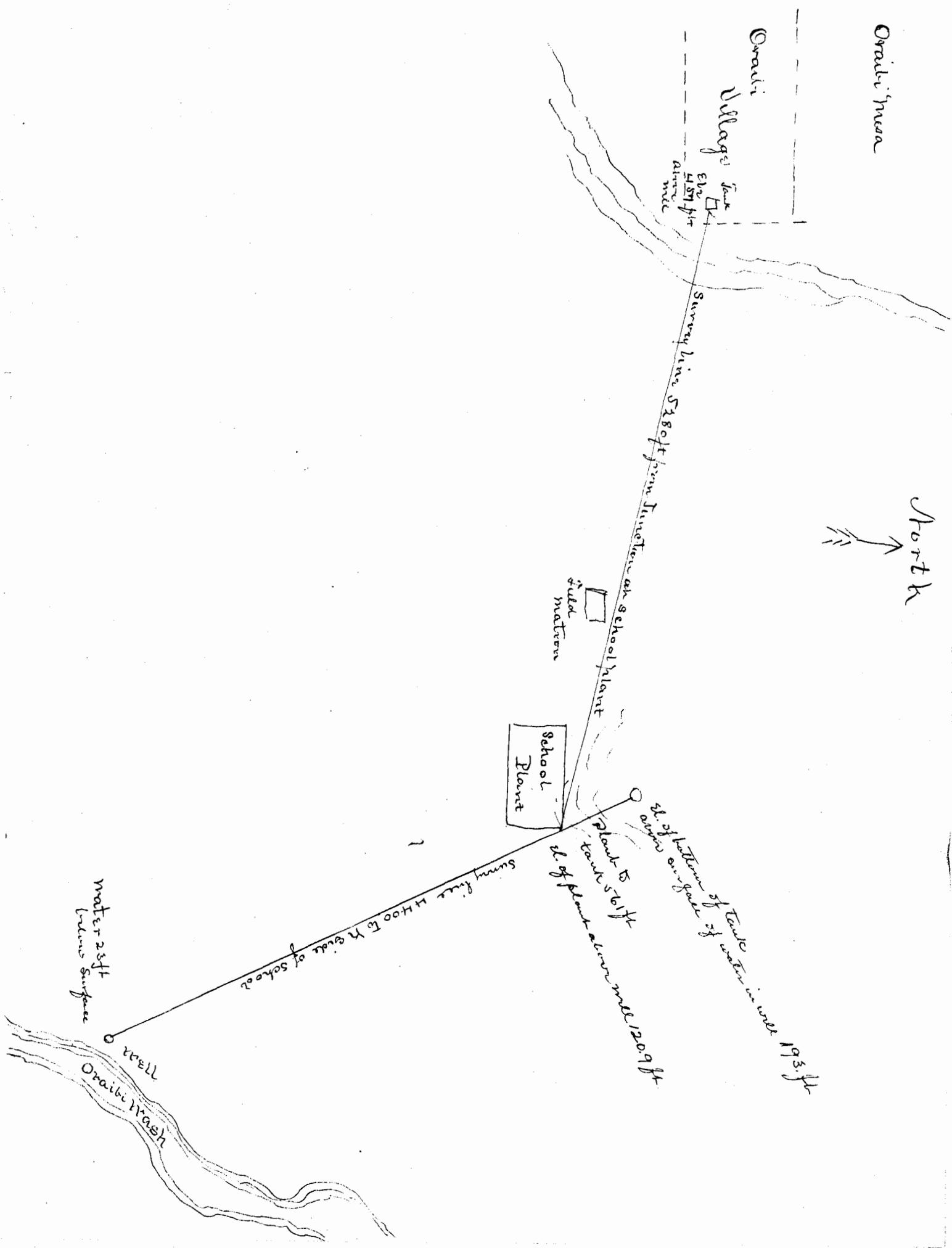
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