

FLORIDA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

POLK COUNTY

Kissengen Spring



Figure 187. Kissengen Spring old photo (anonymous).



Figure 188. Kissengen Spring (photo by T. Scott).

Location – Lat. 27° 50' 33.50" N, Long. 81° 48' 39.92" W (SE¼ SE¼ NE¼ sec. 28, T. 30S., R 25 E.) Kissengen Spring is located approximately 4 miles (6.4 km) southeast of Bartow along the western side of the Peace River. From the intersection of SR 60 (Main Street) and US 98 in Bartow, drive south on US 98 approximately 3.5 miles (5.6 km) to the intersection of a small, unnamed road on the east (left) side of the road. The spring is surrounded by private property and land access is restricted.

Description - Kissengen Spring ceased flowing regularly in February, 1950. Cessation of flow at Kissengen Spring was primarily due to over pumping of the aquifer systems within the springshed which lowered the potentiometric surface such that flow stopped. Prior to that, Kissengen Spring was a popular recreational area known to have been the site of political rallies and gatherings that were attended by thousands of people. Today the spring basin is overgrown with dog fennel and other encroaching plants and its original dimensions are hard to discern. When the spring flowed, it discharged into a spring pool that was approximately 200 ft (61 m) in diameter and discharged from a cavern located in the center of the pool. The depth recorded over the pool was 17.6 ft (5.4 m) on December 27, 1946. The springhead was partially walled and contained a control weir. Large oak trees once surrounded the spring pool (Ferguson, et al, 1947). Discharge at Kissengen Spring averaged approximately 20 million gallons per day (mgd) from the late 1890's to the mid-1930's (Jackson, in prep). The maximum known discharge was recorded at 43.6 ft ³/s⁽¹⁾ in October 1933.