

Pony Gulch mine, situated in Township 148, Range 74, just over the McLean county line. Between Harvey and Pony gulch a rolling and slightly hilly topography, broken by numerous sloughs, plainly indicates that if any coal exists in Wells county west of Harvey it has been deeply buried in from forty to 100 feet of drift. An examination of the area in which the Pony Gulch mine is situated leads to the conviction that, while the seam outcrops further west in the direction of Dogden Butte, remnants of the seam may yet remain in Wells county. These remnants would probably be struck in wells between Harvey and Pony gulch, should any of them penetrate the thick surface layer of sand and gravel which overlies them. Few of the wells, however, are deeper than twenty-five feet, as good water is found on almost every farm at about that depth.

Pony Gulch mine lies about three miles north of the junction of two loops of the moraine. Hills of considerable size rise above the gulch on the south, while to the north are the low sand and gravel ridges above mentioned. The position of the hills gives the gulch an east-west direction, in which it extends for several miles as a low hollow bordered immediately on the south by a bench-like rise of land between thirty and forty feet in height. Bordering this bench in the hollow at the north lies a lake a quarter of a mile wide and a mile long with shores of clean sand. The drainage from the east seems to be toward this lake. The lignite outcrops in the lakeward slope of the bench. A closer inspection of the mine shows that the fifteen or twenty feet of clay, gravel and sand that overlie the lignite on the bench have been stripped away from more than an acre of ground, thus allowing access to the seam from the top. The lignite lies exposed to view in many places, but the following section probably furnishes the best idea of its position :

	FEET	INCH
6. Soil	2	
5. Gravel and sand	2	
4. Boulder clay	8	
3. Clay shading into sand	5	
2. Lignite	3	6
1. Clay	Unknown depth	

The pit is easily drained into the lake at the north, and the only equipment necessary for working the mine is a plow and a scraper. Wagons are backed down into the pit and filled by the purchasers themselves from the pile of lignite broken out by the miners. This opening is said to have been worked for lignite for many years. A low estimate would place the coal removed from the mine at several thousand tons.

Other outcrops of lignite are reported from the gulch farther west, but of much smaller seams, sixteen inches being the largest.