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PENNSYLVANIAN-PERMIAN MIOGEOSYNCLINE TO NEARSHORE SHELF CARBONATE FACIES TRANSITION, CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

Pennsylvanian and Lower Permian carbonates of Clark County, Nevada, were studied at Arrow Canyon (AC), Frenchman Mountain (FM), and Azure Ridge (AR). Distinct facies changes are observed from the AC section (2,193 ft, Bird Spring Group, restricted, miogeosynclinal) where limestones are 65.5% micrite to FM section (1,055 ft, Callville Formation, outer shelf) where limestones are 57.2% pelsparites, biosparites, or oosparites to AR (779 ft, Callville Formation, inner shelf) where limestones are 50.9% pelsparites, biosparites, and oosparites. The marked change in facies provides evidence for support of a dual terminology, Bird Spring Group for the basin facies and Callville Limestone for the shelf.

The Bird Spring-Callville interval is subdivisible into a lower eastward thinning member (1,634 ft, AC; 634 ft, FM; 322 ft, AR) characterized by abrupt vertical fluctuations in facies (AC 14.3, FM 8.0, AR 15.2 fluctuations per 100 ft) causing the steplike outcrop appearance characteristic of the interval. Gray to buff weathering and lack of quartz silt distinguish the lower member from the arenaceous buff to brown upper member. The latter contains several quartz sandstone units (zero AC, 41.7% FM, 51.1% AR) in which the size of the fine ($<0.1$ mm maximum apparent diameter in thin section) angular grains increases eastward. The upper member ranges from 559 ft at AC to 421 ft minimum at FM (491 ft maximum depending on contact position in a covered interval) to 457 ft at AR. A relatively small number of fluctuations in facies (8.4 AC, 5.2 FM, 3.9 AR) produces a uniform outcrop appearance.

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ASPECTS OF TRACE FOSSIL OCCURRENCE IN TRINIDAD SANDSTONE (CRETACEOUS) OF NORTHERN NEW MEXICO

The Trinidad Sandstone was deposited near the shoreline in a marine-to-continental transition during the last retreat of the Cretaceous sea from northern New Mexico and southern Colorado. The Trinidad primarily was deposited in shallow neritic and beach environments. It lies conformably on mudstone of the Pierre Shale and consists successively upward of mudstone with siltstone interbeds, interbedded siltstone and sandstone, and sandstone; inorganic structures include ripple marks, crossbedding, channel-fill structures, parting lineation, and crumpled and contorted bedding. These linear directional structures indicate that the paleoslope of deposition and the direction of sea withdrawal were toward the east-southeast.

*Rhizocorallium, Ophiomorpha, Aulichnites, Asterosoma, Teichichnus, Desmograpton,* and a yet-unidentified trace similar morphologically to a spiny echinoderm, as well as other tracks and trails, were found in the Trinidad in outcrops from Cimarron northeastward to Raton, New Mexico. These trace fossils indicate that the Trinidad environments dominantly were shallow neritic, littoral, dune, backshore, and in small areas, estuarine.

Amount of carbonaceous debris decreases upward in the stratigraphic section, and the fauna changes correspondingly from scavengers to domicile-building organisms. Dune sediments contain very few trace fossils, but overlying backshore sediments contain a large biota.

The Trinidad is overlain by very carbonaceous to coaly sediments of the Vermejo Formation. The Vermejo was deposited on an alluvial plain, behind the Trinidad beach, and contains only *Planolites* and shipworm-type traces in carbonaceous rocks.

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SUBMERGED REEFS OF EASTERN CARIBBEAN

Submerged early Holocene or late Pleistocene reefs up to 90 km long and with bottom relief commonly about 20 m were established in relation to preexisting lower sea levels on outer edges of terraces at depths ranging from 30 to 80 m off most islands in the eastern Caribbean. They are far more impressive physiographic features than their modern counterparts. These reefs are distinguished from modern reefs in that they are present at depths greater (below about 15 to 20 m) than are commonly associated with present reef-framework construction by hermatypic corals. Data from echo-sounder profiles, rock dredging, bottom photographs, and first-hand observations indicate that off the Virgin Islands, St. Martin, St. Barthelemy, Montserrat, Guadeloupe, Martinique, St. Lucia, and the Grenadine Islands, submerged reefs are dead and covered by only a few scattered living corals. On these reefs, reef corals below 15 m cannot cope with skeletal destruction by boring organisms and cannot compete for substrate with other encrusting or attached organisms. Off the west coast of Barbados, however, reef-framework construction is still occurring below about 15 m. Although the age relations of these reefs are not known, they are probably no older than late Pleistocene, and have a minimum age for initial development of about 8,000 years B.P. The eastern Caribbean is characterized by living inner-shelf fringe reefs; however, the common occurrence of shelf-edge submerged reefs indicates that during the latter stages of the Holocene transgression, reefs in this area were generally adjacent to deep waters similar to the modern Pacific barrier and atoll reefs.

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PRIMARY STRATIGRAPHIC TRAPS IN SANDSTONES

Primary sandstone stratigraphic traps involve lateral termination of the reservoir as a direct or indirect result of factors related to the depositional environment; Burbank, Bell Creek, and Pembina are among the very few giant oil accumulations found in them. As these traps rarely can be detected by surface measurements, other discovery methods are essential. The understanding of depositional process and environment is a promising approach.

Primary sandstone stratigraphic traps occur in many facies, including fluvial, deltaic, shallow-marine, and deeper marine. The largest sizes and greatest number occur in shallow-marine and shoreline environments. Knowledge of sandstone models of all kinds may provide valuable clues in interpreting fragmentary well data in terms of size, shape, trend, and characteristics of the reservoirs being sought.

The distribution of many sandstone bodies may be