THE OIL FIELDS OF VENTURA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

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I. NOTES ON THE GEOLOGY OF VENTURA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

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INTRODUCTION

The present paper is intended as an introduction to the papers on the two important oil fields of the county by F. S. Hudson and W. N. Craddock, in which the geography, stratigraphy, structure, and a brief description of the various fields in Ventura County will be outlined. No references to the geologic literature on the subject are given, but special acknowledgment must be made of the publications by Eldridge and Arnold, Louderback, and Kew, since these form the basis for much of our present knowledge of the Tertiary history in this region. At the present time data are being collected by Mr. Hudson and the writer for a detailed account of certain of the oil fields of the county, and a more complete paper will be presented at a later date.

GEOGRAPHY

Ventura County extends northward from the Pacific Ocean to the crest of the high mountainous region just south of the southern end of the San Joaquin Valley (Plate VII). The southern part of the county is made up of relatively low ranges separated by shallow valleys and by one coastal plain formed by the junction of several valleys, the largest of which is the Santa Clara.

The chief topographic features, from south to north, are the Santa Monica and Conejo mountains, the Simi and Las Posas valleys, the Oxnard Plain, the Santa Susana–South Mountain ridge, the Santa Clara Valley, and the very complex, high, rugged mountainous area which occupies the entire northern half of