At the beginning of the Tertiary period folding movements brought the San Rafael uplift into existence in the area of the old Central geosynclinal basin, but left a basin along the south margin and particularly near the landward apex. The basin as a whole will be referred to as the Santa Barbara embayment, the apical part as the Ventura Basin. These subprovinces, San Rafael uplift and Santa Barbara embayment (including Ventura Basin), persisted, though not without important changes, throughout the Cenozoic era. The San Rafael uplift was flooded, at least in large part, during each of the major Tertiary transgressions but underwent elevation and erosion during the regressive periods. The Santa Barbara embayment seems to have subsided continuously but not at a uniform rate. The blanket of sediments deposited in its western part is now well exposed in the Santa Ynez Mountains, which lie along its north margin. Ventura Basin gradually became restricted in area, especially after the Oligocene. So many parts of it were strongly uplifted during Pleistocene and earlier disturbances that the thick formations deposited during the different Tertiary epochs can now be readily examined. The most persistently negative area lies east of the plunging southeast end of the axis of the San Rafael uplift. Part of this negative area seems to lie east of the limits of the Lower Mesozoic geosyncline. In other words, the embayment seems to have developed not only in the margin of the geosyncline, but also on the neighboring granitic province.

The more important aspects of the post-Franciscan history of the old basin may be illustrated by a description of two areas: the Santa Ynez-Santa Barbara area, which includes part of the San Rafael uplift and of its southern border; and the Ventura Basin.

SANTA YNEZ-SANTA BARBARA AREA (FIG. 31)

From south to north, the area consists of, first, the modern Santa Barbara Channel, lying within the Tertiary Santa Barbara embayment; second, the Santa Ynez Mountains, consisting of a single high ridge east of Gaviota Creek, and of several low ridges farther west; third, the eastern part of the triangular Santa Maria lowland, which is crossed from east to west by low anticlinal ridges that become crowded together east of the village of Santa Ynez; fourth, the high,