

To overcome seismic data problems associated with the high-speed Tertiary section, navigational problems due to the size of the area, drilling problems associated with geo-pressured shales and the highly porous Tertiary beds, new techniques constantly were required and introduced.

To integrate the interpretation of the large volume of data and to apply the maximum amount of geologic rationalization require the cooperation and mutual support of competent geologists and geophysicists. Large areas to be mapped and steadily increasing volume of data from this area required the utilization of computer-assisted mapping.

By mid-1971 approximately 40,000 mi of seismic data were in the files. At the same time wells 11 (Scott Reef No. 1) and 12 (North Rankin No. 1) were drilling and located what promise to be commercial accumulations of hydrocarbons. However, feasibility studies still are being evaluated and step-out wells have yet to be drilled. Since completion of these wells, other wildcats have been drilled resulting in several discoveries.

Future potential in the area looks very bright with source, reservoir, and cap rocks in Triassic, Jurassic, and Cretaceous rocks. The potential of the Paleozoic section is as yet virtually unknown.

MCALINDEN, J. M., Marine Geophysics Mapping, National Ocean Surveys, Rockville, Md.

#### SYSTEMATIC GEOPHYSICAL MAPPING OF CONTINENTAL SHELVES AND DEEP OCEAN AREAS

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Ocean Survey program is mapping systematically the geophysical characteristics of the continental shelves of the U.S. and certain deeper ocean areas. Properties measured are bathymetry, geomagnetics, gravity, and seismic reflection profiles. The purpose of the program is to provide maps, data lists, reports, etc., to meet requirements stated for coastal zone management and exploitation.

The map scales produced are 1:250,000 on shelves and 1:1,000,000 in deeper areas. Coverage now includes parts of the east and west coasts and Alaska. Work is underway off Oregon and Washington. The next year's program includes the west coast, Gulf of Alaska, and part of the Atlantic east of Bermuda.

The program objective is to produce data packages for each map unit. Survey control, line spacing, instrumentation, and collection accuracies vary according to the scale, area, and characteristics found. Critical to program development are the known and stated area and data requirements of major segments of the national economy such as the petroleum and other mineral industries, and fisheries. Recreational and environmental aspects are likewise important.

McCUBBIN, D. G., Marathon Oil Co., Littleton, Colo.

#### FACIES AND PALEOCURRENTS OF GALLUP SANDSTONE: MODEL FOR ALTERNATING DELTAIC AND STRAND-PLAIN PROGRADATION

The Upper Cretaceous Gallup Sandstone of northwestern New Mexico, is a regressive, shallow-marine to alluvial sequence up to 140 ft thick. Vertical and lateral facies sequence and orientation of current- and wave-produced structures show that the shoreline advanced by episodes of delta progradation, followed by minor erosional transgression and subsequent seaward accretion of surf-zone and beach deposits. Each epi-

sode is thought to be a reaction to stream positions on a broad coastal plain. In a 200-sq mi area, 2 delta progradations and 3 strand plains are recognized, each with some important variations.

The deltaic deposits consist of: (1) distributary-channel sandstones, entrenched in older beach deposits; and (2) more widespread marine sandstones, thinning and grading seaward. The marine deltaic sandstones are in tabular beds deposited from short-duration currents; these beds vary in thickness and bioturbation, depending upon distance from dispersal centers. There is little evidence of sand transport or reworking by waves.

The strand-plain units consist of: (1) coarser sandstones with high-angle cross-strata in trough-shaped sets and minor interbeds of siltstone, overlain by (2) finer sandstones with low-angle cross-strata in wedge-shaped sets and local seaward-sloping heavy mineral placers. The coarser sandstones rest on a basal scour surface cut on older deltaic deposits, probably representing adjustment of profile with decrease in sand supply and increased effectiveness of wave action. Cross-strata dip directions record sand transport parallel with shore but in frequently reversing directions, suggesting the influence of surf generated by seasonal or more frequent weather changes. Upward gradation to sandstones with the characteristics of beach foreshore deposits indicates beach progradation.

MCCUNN, H. J., Pennzoil United, Houston, Tex.

#### THEORY OF CRUSTAL DEVELOPMENT BASED ON ANALYSIS OF VERTICAL UPLIFT EXPERIMENTS

One of the most important concepts resulting from oceanographic data is the segmented nature of the oceanic ridge and rise areas. These segments are separated by transverse faults. Continental orogenic areas both past and present possibly may exhibit this same phenomenon.

Model studies using vertical uplift were conducted in an effort to duplicate the segments. The forces involved in the development of the individual segments were analyzed, as well as those caused by the interaction between segments resulting from differential uplift. By applying principles observed in the modeling, known first-order orogenic areas were modeled. These areas include parts of the Rocky Mountain system and the California system.

A theory is developed which mechanically relates the orogenic events of the past with those of the present. A proposed corollary relates the major transgressions and regressions of past geologic seas to the geographic distribution of the orogenic belts. During times of extensive oceanic orogenic activity, the belts were distended and the water was displaced onto the continents. The distention was followed by extrusion and collapse which resulted in regression of the seas.

The theory is applied to the continental United States, and a series of sketches shows the possible tectonic development of the southern part of the North American continent from the late Precambrian to the present.

MCGOWEN, J. H., and L. E. GARNER, Bur. Econ. Geol., Univ. Texas, Austin, Tex.

#### RELATION BETWEEN TEXAS BARRIER ISLANDS AND LATE PLEISTOCENE DEPOSITIONAL HISTORY

The 400-mi-long Texas shoreline is characterized by barrier islands separated from the mainland by la-