The overlying structureless muddy sandstone may represent deposition in a vegetated back-beach environment. The redbeds of the Caliente Formation probably formed in coastal swamps, lagoons, or alluvial plains.

COUCH, RICHARD, Oregon State Univ., Corvallis, Ore.

GRAVITY AND STRUCTURE OF CONTINENTAL MARGIN: OREGON TO SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA

Reconnaissance surface-ship gravity measurements over the continental margin of western North America extend from northern California to southern Alaska. The gravity measurements, spaced approximately 2.5 km apart along tracklines approximately 40 km apart, have an estimated RMS uncertainty of approximately 5 mgl. A negative free-air anomaly along the base of the continental slope is attributed to the dip of the Mohorovič discontinuity, lateral density variations in the upper mantle, and in some locations a sediment-filled trough. Off the north end of Vancouver Island a free-air anomaly greater than −150 mgl occurs over the Scott Islands fracture zone, suggesting a sediment thickness in the fracture zone of 4–6 km. Hypothetical crustal cross sections of the continental margin constrained by the free-air anomalies and the available seismic refraction data suggest crustal thicknesses are approximately 20 km in western Oregon and Washington, and 25–30 km in the Insular Belt of British Columbia and the Alexander Archipelago. The relatively thin crust in the region between the continental shelf and Coast Mountains of British Columbia and the Cascade Range in Oregon and Washington is characteristic of the transition from oceanic to continental structure in western North America.

DIBBLEE, THOMAS W., JR., U.S. Geol. Survey, Menlo Park, Calif.

RINCONADA FAULT IN SOUTHERN COAST RANGES, CALIFORNIA AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE

The Rinconada fault near Santa Margarita is a major northwest-trending, high-angle fault that separates a terrane of granitic basement on the northeast from one of Franciscan basement on the southwest. Southeastward from Santa Margarita this fault extends continuously into the "Nacimiento" fault across Cuyama Gorge to intersect the Big Pine fault in the San Rafael Mountains. Northwestward the Rinconada fault does not extend into the Nacimiento fault near the Nacimiento River, as presumed, but veers northward through Paso Robles into a line of faults locally called San Marcos, Jolon, and Espinosa faults, nearly to Reliz Canyon west of King City.

Detailed mapping reveals that all these aligned faults are parts of one major fault, 160 mi long. Therefore, it is proposed to call it the Rinconada fault. It is separated by a 2-mi gap from the Reliz fault, aligned northwest along the base of Sierra de Salinas. The Rinconada fault, as defined herein, is nearly parallel with, and about 22 mi southwest, of the San Andreas fault. Southeastward from Santa Margarita the Rinconada fault is along the southwestern border of the Salinia block; northwestward from that town it extends into this block. Drag folding along and near the Rinconada fault indicates right-lateral movement. Much of this movement occurred before deposition of the Paso Robles Formation. Strata of Miocene and early Pliocene ages are offset about 11 mi near Paso Robles; those of Late Cretaceous-early Tertiary age are offset nearly 40 mi.

DICKERTS, PAUL, Consulting Geologist

USE OF PHOSPHATES IN SEARCH FOR OIL

Phosphatic facies are useful in oil exploration as tools for stratigraphic analysis, and as identifiable sources of hydrocarbons. Such discrete, near-continuous phosphate-bearing strata of mid-Eocene age have extended over 20,000 sq mi in southern and central California. Foraminiferal studies establish that correlative phosphate deposition began in Relizian time, was particularly widespread in the early Luisian, and continued locally in Mohnian time. Other extensive facies appear in late Eocene and in early late Pliocene beds.

The use of phosphatic facies in stratigraphic studies may be cited in four examples: (1) they may represent condensations of large thicknesses of strata, (2) differentiate between apparently similar formations, (3) establish equivalency of units on either side of major faults, and (4) have shown that formations of the same apparent lithology and foraminiferal age, juxtaposed across major faults, are not continuous.

Because phosphorus-rich waters nourish phytoplankton, underlying strata are commonly rich both in phosphate and organic remains. Five examples of phosphatic facies as source beds for the generation of oil of giant fields may be given: in California, in Colombia and Venezuela, in eastern Kansas, in Alaska, and in Wyoming. Other examples are known around the world. In California, the regional distribution of phosphate correlates with the regional distribution of petroleum.

DOMNING, DARYL P., Dept. of Paleontology, Univ. of California, Berkeley, Calif.

SIRENIANS IN WEST COAST MARINE STRATIGRAPHY

Sirenians are fairly common as fossils in many late Tertiary nearshore marine deposits of the West Coast. The general pattern of their evolution in the North Pacific from early Miocene to recent times is now known. With the exception of the early Miocene forms, all the known species are stratigraphically successive and seem to belong to a single, unbranching evolutionary sequence.

Their evolution was particularly rapid during the late Miocene and early Pliocene in response to changing climate, and the resulting morphologic changes were so profound that different evolutionary stages can be recognized, and rough stratigraphic correlations made, on the basis of quite fragmentary skeletal material. In at least two areas of California (Santa Cruz and Orange Counties), sea cows have been collected from several different zones near the Miocene-Pliocene boundary. These sequences of fossils well illustrate these rapid changes, and in the former case considerable evolution can be observed even within a single species. More detailed study of these and other sections may permit the use of sirenians in correlating widely separated marine deposits on the West Coast.

ESCHNER, S., and M. K. SCRIBNER, Occidental Petroleum Corp., Bakersfield, Calif.

DISCOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT OF SAWTELLE OIL FIELD

The Sawtelle oil field, discovered by Occidental Petroleum Corporation in 1965, is the westernmost of nine producing fields along a 15-mi trend of anticlinal oil accumulations distributed *en échelon* along the northerly margin of the Los Angeles basin.

Wells at Sawtelle confirm that the normal stratigraphic section has been disordered by approximately 7,000 ft of apparent vertical displacement along the northerly trending Santa Monica thrust fault zone. The mountainous hanging wall block is comprised of a thin veneer of recent sediments; nonproductive lower Pliocene and upper Miocene sandstone and shale; middle Miocene sandstone, shale, and volcanic rocks; and Mesozoic Santa Monica Slate. Beneath the fault zone, within the basinal footwall block, are lower Pliocene sandstones and shales, oil-bearing upper Miocene sandstone and shales, and middle Miocene sandstones and shales.

Production has been established in two pools: on the south in the upper Miocene "Rancho" sands within an asymmetric southeast-trending anticline where net pay exceeds 500 ft, and on the north where these same sands appear even thicker within the south limb remnant of a parallel anticline which has been