The Guadalupian shelf crest provides a unique setting for the study of changing carbonate-shelf environments. Previous works by King, Newell, Dunham, Smith, Pray, and others have provided models and interpretations to define a generalized morphology of the carbonate facies for the Guadalupian shelf, behind the Capitan Limestone. Detailed field studies of about 50 m of carbonate units within the upper Yates and lower Tansill Formations reveal significantly different facies patterns and suggest changing shelf profiles and environments through time.

Alternating carbonate and sandstone units are apparent as the product of cyclic shelf sedimentation. Major carbonate units within the stratigraphic interval studied are informally named (Hairpin dolomite, Triplet dolomite, and basal Tansill dolomite). Recognition of five major carbonate lithofacies within the three identified carbonate units at the shelf crest (the paleotopographic high of Dunham's marginal mound) indicates variance in deposition owing to highly restricted water conditions as well as more "normal" marine water circulation.

The three carbonate units differ in the following respects: the Hairpin dolomite is dominated by fenestral peloid grain-supported, pisolite-rich facies, and is associated with erosion surfaces and abundant tepee structures. Carbonate facies in the Hairpin dolomite repeatedly grew to "fill level," and the shelf crest extended at least 3 km perpendicular to the Capitan Limestone. The Triplet dolomite is composed primarily of peloidal grainstones with abundant admixed siliciclastic grains. Shelf-crest features, that is, pisolites, tepees, and fenestral strata, are uncommon, suggesting an absence of a nearly emergent paleotopographic high and a more continuous basinward sloping shelf. The basal Tansill dolomite contains abundant skeletal grains, that is, dasycladacean algae, ostracods, gastropods, and foraminifers, suggesting a deeper shelfward penetration of more open marine water than for the other two units.

Erosion surfaces common at the upper boundaries of the identified major carbonate units are most common and traceable horizontally 0.5 to 3 km behind the Capitan front, locally 50 m behind the Capitan Limestone. Simple progradation of the shelf-crest facies with the Capitan Limestone through time does not explain the change of facies within the three major carbonate units.

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Relations of Gas Occurrence to Geologic Parameters in Eastern Kentucky Gas Fields

A study of initial open-flow gas data from 4,750 wells in eastern Kentucky gas fields relates gas occurrence to geologic parameters including structural/stratigraphic sections, lithology, and geochemistry.

Approximately 300 formation density logs are used for stratigraphic correlation, reinforced by data from two cored wells and cuttings from 11 wells in this 3,000-sq-mi (7,800 sq km), 10-county study area known historically as the Big Sandy field. This field has produced for over 50 years.

Trend traces of initial open-flow data are interpreted as zones of more intense fracturing and show four preferential directional trends.

The gentle anticlinal structure in the northern part of the field, which may be an extension of the Paint Creek uplift, broadens to the south and bifurcates. Small faults are identified southwest of the main field and the Rome trough crosses the northern part of the field.

The 100-ft/mi southeast dip of the basement rocks is subdued to 30 to 50 ft/mi in the producing Devonian shale sequence which thickens by an order of magnitude into the basin to the northeast.

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Discovery and Development of Nembe Creek Oil Field, Nigeria

The discovery well for the Nembe Creek field in the coastal swamp of the Niger delta was drilled in 1973. Average recoverable reserves have risen to over 600 million bbl after the drilling of 30 wells. Nearly one-third of the wells drilled have been proposed on the basis of direct reflection seismic support, principally in the form of seismic structure mapping and cross sections. In addition, lateral predictions on the basis of true amplitude impedance data have been made for two appraisal wells.

The timely acquisition and interpretation of sufficient seismic lines in an area of complex structure, but good reflection quality, have permitted the drilling of long step-out appraisal wells, leading to early delineation of field limit and rapid growth of proved reserves.

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Application of Palynology to Age Determination, Correlation, and Paleoecology of Gas-Bearing, Nonmarine Rocks in Central Rocky Mountains

Potentially economic, low-permeability (tight), gas-bearing sandstone reservoirs in the Uinta, Piceance Creek, and greater Green River basins are found in predominantly nonmarine rocks of Late Cretaceous, Paleocene, and Eocene ages. Accurate subsurface correlations are essential to the estimation of reserves and to the understanding of the nature of reservoirs; but, in the absence of paleontologic data, the nonmarine rocks historically have proven to be difficult to correlate with geophysical logs. Pollen, spores, and other plant microfossils recovered from surface exposures and from boreholes have provided data on the age of the rocks and have facilitated accurate biostratigraphic correlation of surface and subsurface sections.

The rocks generally represent sediments deposited in lacustrine, alluvial-fan, braided- and meandering-stream, delta-plain, lagoonal, and littoral-marine environments. The nature of source, reservoir, and trapping units in these rocks is commonly, in part, a function of the depositional environment of the units. Palynologic data in combination with sedimentological, petrographic, mineralogic, geochemical, and other paleontologic data, all derived from the same samples, have been used to refine interpretations of lithofacies and to determine the paleoclimate, paleoecology, and paleoenvi-