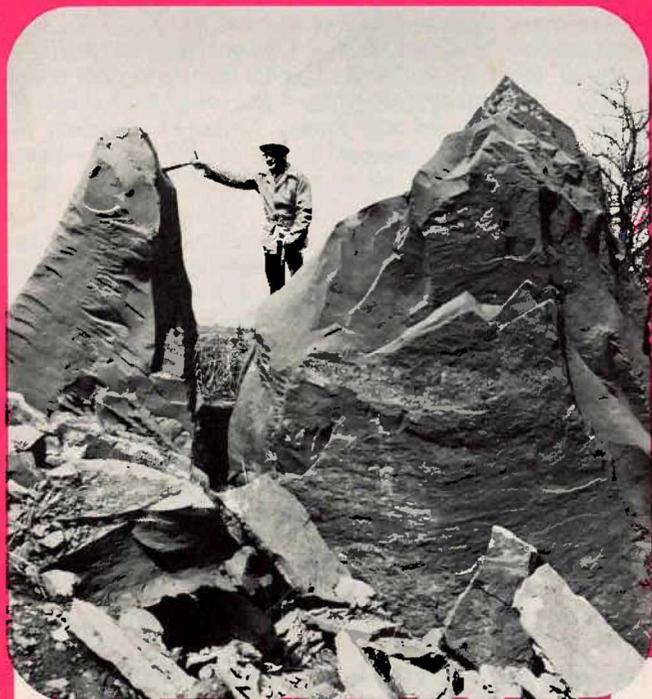


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Cover Picture

THE ELK CITY BLOWOUT

February 23, 1973, the Oklahoma Geological Survey received a telephone inquiry about huge rocks that appeared to be sprouting from smooth pasture land owned by James Walter about 5 miles south of Elk City, Beckham County, Oklahoma (sec. 22, T. 10 N., R. 21 W.). Initial investigation revealed that a blowout had occurred, resulting in a hole about 30 by 50 feet wide and 15 feet deep plus several large cracks parallel to a creek bed. Fifty- and even 100-pound blocks of red siltstone and shale of the Doxey Shale of Permian age were thrown as far as 75 feet, several 30-ton boulders were lifted to an upright position (cover picture), and 15-foot trees in the vicinity were tilted 45°.

The blowout site is about 2,000 feet south of Shell Oil Company's Yelton LPG well, where liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), mostly propane, has been pumped into a pear-shaped storage cavity dissolved from salt of the Blaine Formation of Permian age at a depth of 1,360-1,411 feet (see *Oklahoma Geology Notes*, v. 19, no. 2, Feb. 1959, p. 32-34). After personnel from Shell and the U.S. Bureau of Mines detected 1 to 2 percent or more of total hydrocarbons, including 75 to 85 percent propane, emanating from the cracks at the blowout site, Shell tested the storage system for leakage and found that approximately 30 gallons of propane per day was escaping.

So the blowout was apparently caused by the escaping propane—not from the storage cavity itself but from a leak in the well bore. The propane must have moved laterally along a thief zone or zones in the shallow subsurface until it had built up sufficient pressure to cause a noncombustible eruption at the topographically lowest point in the area, the creek bed.

In late March, Shell evacuated the remaining propane from the storage cavity and began operations to pinpoint the source of the leak. Meanwhile, on March 12, the boulders pictured were bulldozed to rubble and the blowout feature destroyed. Thus the strange emergence of the rocks near Elk City has been relegated to history.

—Robert O. Fay

(Photograph of Survey geologist R. O. Fay by Kenneth S. Johnson)

Editorial staff: William D. Rose, Rosemary Croy, Elizabeth A. Ham

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Short articles on aspects of Oklahoma geology are welcome from contributors. A set of guidelines will be forwarded on request.

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KANSAS SURVEY OPENS NEW BUILDING AND HONORS RAYMOND C. MOORE



View of new 6-story building occupied by the State Geological Survey of Kansas.

The State Geological Survey of Kansas has just moved into its new building on the west campus of The University of Kansas in Lawrence. The new \$1,350,000 building was named Raymond C. Moore Hall in recognition of Dr. Moore's long and honored position as geology teacher, department chairman, and state geologist. The 6-story structure's 34,000 square feet of floor space affords ample "elbow room" for the 70 full- and part-time survey staff members. Equipment in the new facility is valued at \$450,000.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony on February 2, 1973, gave friends of the survey and the public a splendid excuse to visit the new building en masse and tour the facilities. More than 200 visitors arrived at the appointed hour to see Dr. Moore and Governor Robert B. Docking cut the ribbon. William W. Hambleton, state geologist and survey director, introduced both Dr. Moore and Governor Docking as well as Frank C. Foley, director emeritus of the survey, and other dignitaries from the university community. Drs. Moore, Foley, and Hambleton have reason to be proud of this moment of accomplishment, for they each had a part in building the new facility: the three geologists have directed the survey since 1916 and have guided it to its present position as one of the best in the country.

Formal dedication of the building is scheduled for September 28-29, 1973, and will feature a symposium on "Elements of a National Energy Policy." Among the participants will be Rogers C. B. Morton, secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior, Robert D. Ray, governor of Iowa, and Vincent E. McKelvey, director of the U.S. Geological Survey.

—*Kenneth S. Johnson*



Ribbon-cutting ceremony, with (from left) Dr. Raymond C. Moore, Governor Robert B. Docking, and Dr. William W. Hambleton. (Photographs courtesy of State Geological Survey of Kansas.)

THE LATE EARLY ORDOVICIAN GASTROPOD *Ceratopea* IN THE ARBUCKLE MOUNTAINS, OKLAHOMA¹

ELLIS L. YOCHELSON²

Abstract—The gastropod *Ceratopea*, best known from its massive operculum, is an important fossil for differentiating zones within the Kindblade and West Spring Creek Formations and for correlating to other regions. A summary of the occurrence of species of *Ceratopea* was published in 1957, but no details were presented. In the present work, the geographic localities and stratigraphic positions of collections made by the late W. E. Ham are given for the first time.

INTRODUCTION

The Early Ordovician gastropod *Ceratopea* is important to stratigraphic studies of the Arbuckle Group. This gastropod is characteristically represented by its massive operculum rather than by its shell. The operculum may be replaced by silica and can be readily etched from the limestone. Vertical distribution of *Ceratopea* species provides a useful stratigraphic framework (fig. 1) for subdividing the great thickness of limestones in the Arbuckle Mountains. A general summary that included a description and the stratigraphic distribution of species of *Ceratopea* in Oklahoma was published by Yochelson and Bridge in 1957. The present note provides details about the collection used to write the summary.

HISTORY OF THIS NOTE

Ceratopea was named by E. O. Ulrich in 1911. Although Ulrich did not describe species from Oklahoma at that time, he and Josiah Bridge began a major study of the genus in the early 1930's, and this study included specimens from the State. The incomplete manuscript based on the study was modified by Bridge and P. E. Cloud, Jr., to include material from the Llano uplift of Texas, but it was not completed. After Bridge's death on April 30, 1953, the manuscript was eventually turned over to Yochelson, who revised it for publication (Yochelson and Bridge, 1957).

In January 1950, the late William E. Ham of the Oklahoma Geological Survey submitted a large number of Arbuckle Mountain *Ceratopea* to Bridge, who reported on them 2 months later. I did not consult with Bridge on the *Ceratopea* manuscript, but a great deal of information was transmitted to me indirectly via his report. The Ham collections were exceptionally well documented as to geographic and stratigraphic position; details as shown on the original labels are given in tabular form in this note. Most specimens were well preserved, all having been etched free from the matrix. However, after the zonal arrangement had been worked out, Ham placed increasing reliance

¹Publication authorized by the director, U.S. Geological Survey.

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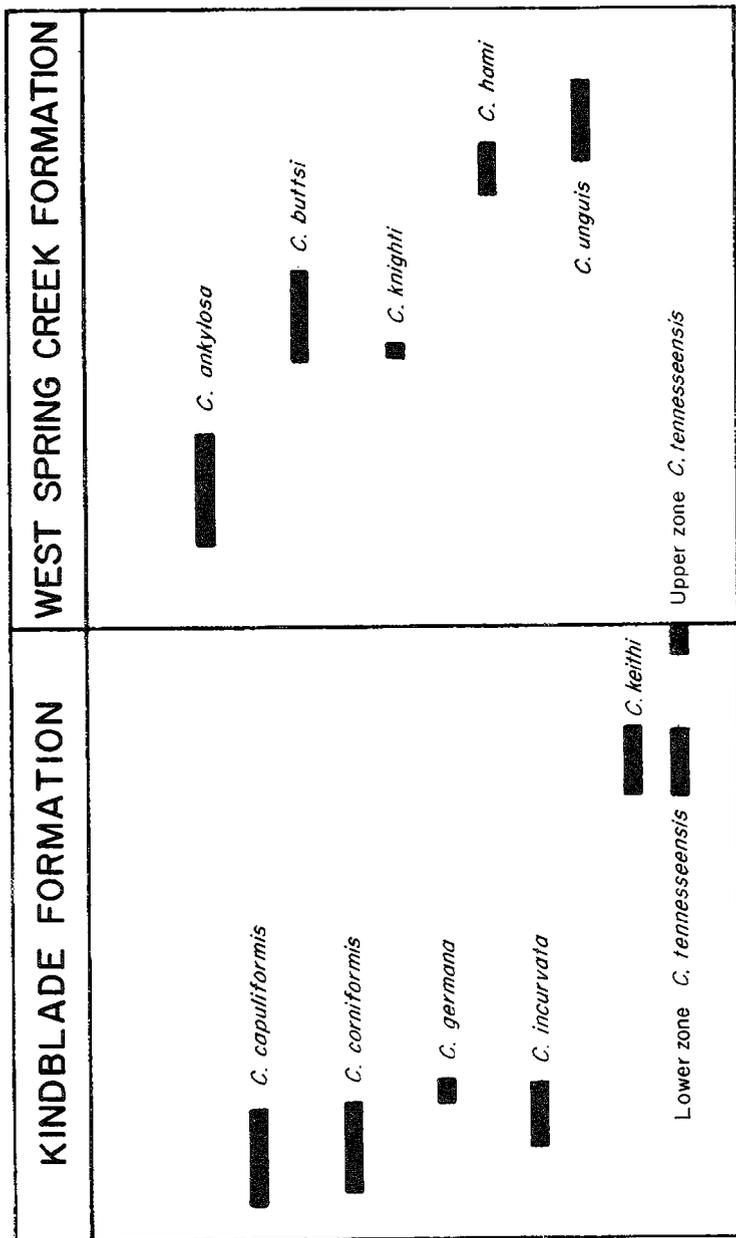


Figure 1. General range of *Ceratopea* species in Arbuckle Mountains (modified from Yochelson and Bridge, 1957, fig. 103, column 3).

on outcrop identification of species. Thus, the Ham collections, although extremely important, do not provide a fully accurate guide to relative abundance or detailed geographic distribution of specimens in the Arbuckle Mountain region.

Ham and Yochelson agreed that it would be useful to give more specific details about *Ceratopea* in the Arbuckle Mountains than could be presented in the summary work (Yochelson and Bridge, 1957). To this end, a short manuscript was prepared by Yochelson, but the press of other duties led Ham to other projects and he could not complete the work. The present study is limited mainly to raw data on occurrence, identification, and number of specimens in the 1950 Ham collections.

Recently, there has been considerable work in later Early Ordovician rocks of Arkansas by O. A. Wise, Jr., and E. E. Glick. As a result of their efforts, large collections of *Ceratopea* opercula and some accompanying shells have been accumulated. In connection with their study, the Ham material was reexamined. The zonal scheme remains unmodified, but some of the clear-cut zones in Oklahoma are not quite so clear-cut in Arkansas. In part, this may be the result of faster sedimentation in the micogeosyncline, relative to the shelf, so that ranges are stratigraphically longer and therefore less likely to overlap. In part, it may be that the barren zones of the Arbuckle Group constitute a facies unfavorable to *Ceratopea*. In part, this may be a consequence of the Arbuckle collections being smaller, and, because they were prepared in the laboratory, not subject to modification in shape and weathering on the outcrop. The zonal arrangement still holds, but much remains to be learned about *Ceratopea* in terms both of individual variation and range of its various species.

By and large, my determinations of species in 1955 and again recently have been the same as those of Bridge in 1950; only a few minor changes have resulted. Possibly, further collections from the Arbuckle Group might require additional changes in the concept of a particular species.

Although this paper is based on collections more than two decades old, the data provided are still pertinent to understanding the stratigraphy of the Arbuckle Group in its type area. This note is respectfully dedicated to the memory of Jo Bridge and Bill Ham, who, among other things, taught me to appreciate *Ceratopea*.

KINDBLADE FORMATION

In a summary section compiled early in 1955, Ham plotted the Kindblade occurrences of *Ceratopea* through an interval of 1,300 feet. On an apparently earlier plot, found among Ham's manuscript papers, he shows these occurrences through a 1,450-foot interval, noting that the Kindblade may be 1,000 to 1,450 feet thick but that the greater thickness was the average for the Tishomingo and Arbuckle anticlines. This formation does show some change in thickness from east to west (Ham, 1955, p. 2, fig. 1). Most of the "extra" thickness is in the middle of the formation where no *Ceratopea* were collected. I have used the shorter plot, but where additional details or notes were available on

the earlier version I have added them. This plot is given in figure 2; positioning and annotations are from Ham's sections. The Kindblade is readily divided into two zones where *Ceratopea* opercula are moderately common; these zones are separated by a wider interval, where they are virtually unknown.

The lower zone carries opercula of four species: *C. capuliformis* Oder, *C. incurvata* Yochelson and Bridge, *C. germana* Yochelson and Bridge, and *C. corniformis* Yochelson and Bridge. The first three opercula are easy to identify, being relatively short, strongly curved in the early growth stage, and inflated but having a sharp carina. They are also easy to distinguish among themselves on the degree of curvature and on the degree of twisting out of a plane of symmetry. In the Arbuckle Mountains, *C. germana* is far less common, and, judging from other areas, it is generally rare.

The operculum of *C. corniformis* is much more elongate and thus resembles those in the overlying West Spring Creek Formation; it differs from the younger forms in being generally smaller and in having a more circular cross section. The occurrence of opercula of *C. corniformis* and *C. capuliformis* together in three collections (Ok 106, 120, 121) is definite. Its marked difference in shape from the other opercula strongly suggests that *C. corniformis* might represent a somewhat different stock within the *Ceratopea* complex.

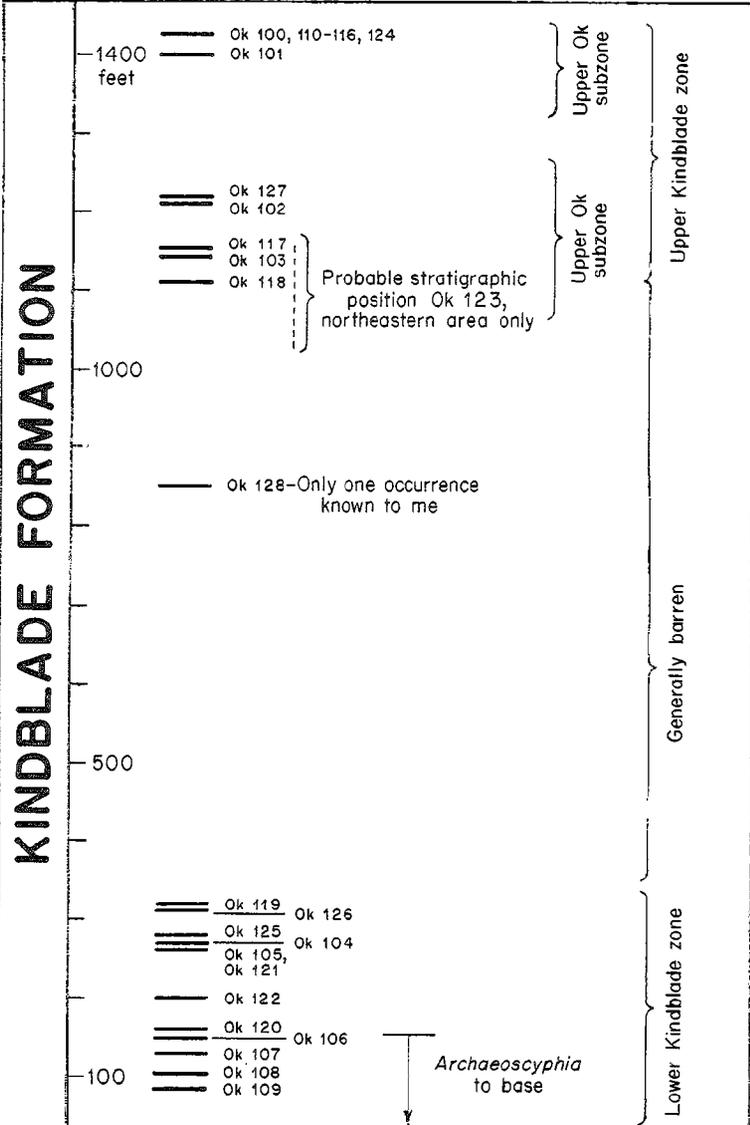
Though Ham did not attempt to distinguish any subzones, the available material indicates that the lower 50-200 feet of the Kindblade is characterized by *C. capuliformis* and *C. corniformis*, occurring either separately or together. The interval from 250 to 375 feet above the base is characterized by *C. incurvata* or *C. germana*, again occurring separately or together (Ok 104). More collections from the lower part of the Kindblade might help prove whether *C. germana* is a true biologic species. As noted, elsewhere in Early Ordovician rocks *C. germana* is exceedingly rare. It is certainly closely related to *C. incurvata*, and there is a possibility that it may be a spurious form, modified by solution or wear. At this time, however, I consider it a distinct species.

The upper zone of the Kindblade is characterized by *C. tennesseensis*. The operculum of this species is short, broad, flattened, and virtually uncurved. It is shaped like a crude arrowhead and is readily distinguishable from all four older species. So far as can be determined, there is no difference between the specimens above and below the apparent gap at the 1,100-1,200-foot interval.

Ok 128, the only occurrence in the barren zone, presents special problems. It is plotted at the stratigraphic interval indicated on Ham's earlier section and is in approximately the same relative position on his shorter section (fig. 2). Were the position plotted at 850 feet above the base of the shorter section, it would fall only a short distance below the lower of the two subzones of *C. tennesseensis*. Clearly, this locality should be reinvestigated to see if the distances from the top and from the base of the section are correct, or, alternatively, if minor faulting is involved.

The last species in the Kindblade is *C. keithi*, known only from Ok 123. This operculum is essentially like that of *C. tennesseensis*,

WEST SPRING CREEK FORMATION



COOL CREEK FORMATION

Figure 2. Occurrences of *Ceratopea opercula* collected by Ham in Kindblade Formation, Arbuckle Mountains (from W. E. Ham, unpublished section).

except somewhat longer. Its possible range in position is indicated by a bracket on figure 2. Placing it within or near the zone of *C. tennesseensis* is reasonable and is comparable with occurrences in Georgia (Charles W. Cressler, Calhoun, Georgia, oral communication, 1970). However, on the earlier chart, Ham indicated 60 feet below Ok 118 as the approximate horizon of *C. keithi*. There is a notation "at two localities in Hunton anticline only." Again, reinvestigation seems desirable.

No gastropod shells or shell fragments that might be attributed to *Ceratopea* opercula occur in the Kindblade Formation. Locality details for the Kindblade collections follow.

COLLECTOR NUMBER	GEOGRAPHIC LOCALITY	STRATIGRAPHIC POSITION	NUMBER OF SPECIMENS	SPECIES IDENTIFIED
Ok 100	150 feet N., 150 feet W. of SE. corner sec. 4, T. 2 S., R. 1 W., Murray County	30 feet below top	5	<i>C. tennesseensis</i>
Ok 101	200 feet N., 200 feet W. of SE. corner sec. 4, T. 2 S., R. 1 W., Murray County	50 feet below top	16	<i>C. tennesseensis</i>
Ok 102	1,400 feet W., 2,100 feet N. of SE. corner sec. 4, T. 2 S., R. 1 W., Murray County	243 feet below top	7	<i>C. tennesseensis</i>
Ok 103	1,300 feet W., 2,050 feet N. of SE. corner sec. 4, T. 2 S., R. 1 W., Murray County	304 feet below top	7	<i>C. tennesseensis</i>
Ok 104 (Holotype, USNM 128186)	200 feet E., 1,400 feet S. of NW. corner sec. 3, T. 2 S., R. 1 W., Murray County	279 feet above base	1 20	<i>C. germana</i> <i>C. incurvata</i>
Ok 105	200 feet E., 1,350 feet S. of NW. corner sec. 3, T. 2 S., R. 1 W., Murray County	265 feet above base	4	<i>C. incurvata</i> (<i>Orospira</i> sp. also in collection)
Ok 106	2,000 feet E. of SW. corner sec. 3, T. 2 S., R. 1 E., Murray County	160 feet above base	6 2	<i>C. capuliformis</i> <i>C. corniformis</i>
Ok 107	1,000 feet N., 900 feet W. of SE. corner sec. 4, T. 2 S., R. 1 E., Murray County	140 feet above base	8	<i>C. capuliformis</i>
Ok 108 (Hypotype, USNM 128181)	2,400 feet E., 2,150 feet N. of SW. corner sec. 6, T. 2 S., R. 1 E., Murray County	100 feet above base	1	<i>C. corniformis</i>
Ok 109	2,300 feet E., 400 feet S. of NW. corner sec. 11, T. 2 S., R. 1 E., Murray County	75 feet above base	7	<i>C. capuliformis</i>
Ok 110	SE $\frac{1}{4}$ sec. 5, T. 1 S., R. 1 W., Murray County	30 feet below top	9	<i>C. tennesseensis</i>
Ok 111	2,550 feet W., 2,250 feet N. of SE. corner sec. 30, T. 1 S., R. 1 W., Murray County	30 feet below top	2	<i>C. tennesseensis</i>
Ok 112	NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ sec. 4, T. 2 S., R. 1 W., Murray County	30 feet below top	9	<i>C. tennesseensis</i>
Ok 113 (Hypotype, USNM 128188)	SE $\frac{1}{4}$ sec. 10, T. 2 S., R. 1 W., Murray County	30 feet below top	5	<i>C. tennesseensis</i>
Ok 114	NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ sec. 30, T. 2 S., R. 1 W., Murray County	30 feet below top	5	<i>C. tennesseensis</i>
Ok 115	1,250 feet S. of NW. corner sec. 23, T. 2 S., R. 2 E., Carter County	34 feet below top	7	<i>C. tennesseensis</i>
Ok 116	2,400 feet E., 50 feet N. of SW. corner sec. 18, T. 2 S., R. 4 E., Murray County	29 feet below top	4	<i>C. tennesseensis</i>
Ok 117	650 feet W., 600 feet N. of SE. corner sec. 18, T. 2 S., R. 4 E., Murray County	298 feet below top	5	<i>C. tennesseensis</i>
Ok 118	1,000 feet W., 700 feet N. of SE. corner sec. 18, T. 2 S., R. 4 E., Murray County	343 feet below top	1	<i>C. tennesseensis</i>

Ok 119 (Holotype, USNM 128129; paratype, USNM 128180)	1,650 feet W., 250 feet N. of SE. corner sec. 17, T. 2 S., R. 4 E., Murray County	328 feet above base	4	<i>C. germana</i>
Ok 120	1,400 feet W., 300 feet N. of SE. corner sec. 17, T. 2 S., R. 4 E., Murray County	174 feet above base	2 2	<i>C. capuliformis</i> <i>C. corniformis</i> (<i>Archeoscyphia</i> sp. also in collection)
Ok 121	250 feet E., 500 feet N. of SW. corner sec. 4, T. 3 S., R. 4 E., Johnston County	265 feet above base	8 3	<i>C. capuliformis</i> <i>C. corniformis</i>
Ok 122	600 feet E., 400 feet N. of SW. corner sec. 4, T. 3 S., R. 4 E., Johnston County	198 feet above base	1	<i>C. capuliformis</i>
Ok 123	1,100 feet N., 700 feet W. of SE. corner sec. 26, T. 1 N., R. 5 E., Pontotoc County	About 200 feet below top	76	<i>C. keithi</i>
Ok 124	350 feet S., 1,600 feet W. of NE. corner sec. 4, T. 1 S., R. 5 E., Johnston County	30 feet below top	5	<i>C. tennesseensis</i>
Ok 125	1,000 feet N., 1,700 feet W. of SE. corner sec. 14, T. 2 S., R. 7 E., Johnston County	282 feet above base	3	<i>C. incurvata</i>
Ok 126	1,050 feet N., 1,600 feet W. of SE. corner sec. 14, T. 2 S., R. 7 E., Johnston County	318-320 feet above base	7	<i>C. incurvata</i>
Ok 127	750 feet E., 2,000 feet S. of NW. corner sec. 19, T. 2 S., R. 2 E., Carter County	236 feet below top	3	<i>C. tennesseensis</i>
Ok 128	800 feet E., 400 feet N. of SW. corner sec. 17, T. 2 S., R. 4 E., Murray County	607 feet below top; 852 feet above base	1	<i>C. tennesseensis</i> (<i>Tritoechia</i> cf. <i>T.</i> <i>delicatula</i> also in collection)

WEST SPRING CREEK FORMATION

In contrast to the opercula in the underlying Kindblade, those in the West Spring Creek are not readily distinguishable from each other. The problems of stratigraphic utility are compounded by more pronounced differences between the fossils of the Arbuckle-Tishomingo anticline and those from outcrops in the eastern Arbuckle Mountains. Again, in the Ham papers there is a plot of the stratigraphic positions in which collections from these two areas were distinguished (apparently earlier than the one used by Yochelson and Bridge in 1957). I have reproduced the plot in figure 3, except for the eastern collection numbers that were duplicated on the Arbuckle-Tishomingo anticline column. Eastward thinning of the West Spring Creek is more pronounced than in the Kindblade (Ham, 1969, p. 33, fig. 27).

In figure 4, the part of the summary sheet in which Ham attempted to place the eastern collections in presumed proper stratigraphic sequence is reproduced. A great deal depends here on the interpretation of the species concept. I now believe that this correlation of the two areas may not be entirely correct. It may be that the 150 feet or so of strata between Owsc 109 and Owsc 110 is approximately the same as the 350 feet between Owsc 123 and Owsc 120 (as shown in fig. 3); it may be that the species in the eastern facies coexisted with a different species in the Arbuckle-Tishomingo anticline area. Alternatively, it may be that the ranges of individual species are shorter but that the species are not so readily distinguished. Without additional collections, this problem cannot be resolved. In any event, the data do support the notion that the western sections are thicker.

The lowest group of collections in the formation, fortunately, are

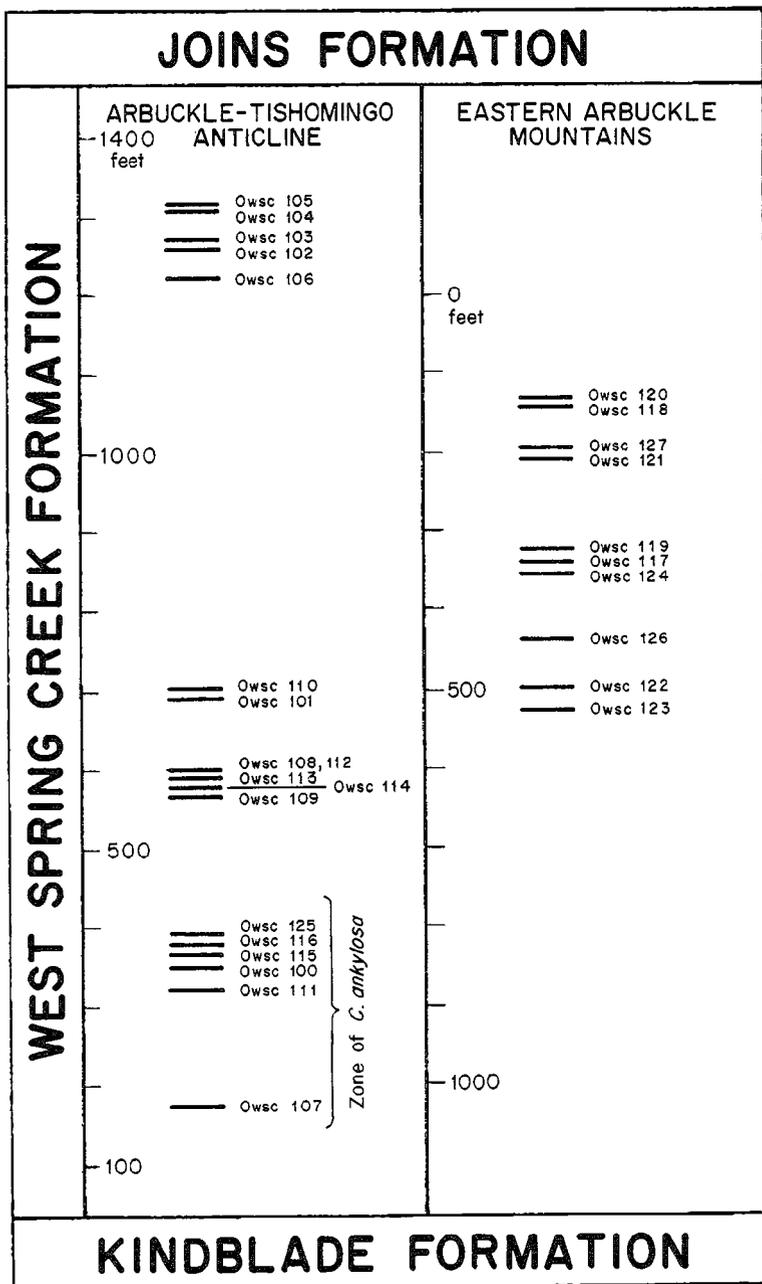


Figure 3. Occurrences of *Ceratopea opercula* collected by Ham in two outcrop areas of West Spring Creek Formation, Arbuckle Mountains (from W. E. Ham, unpublished section).

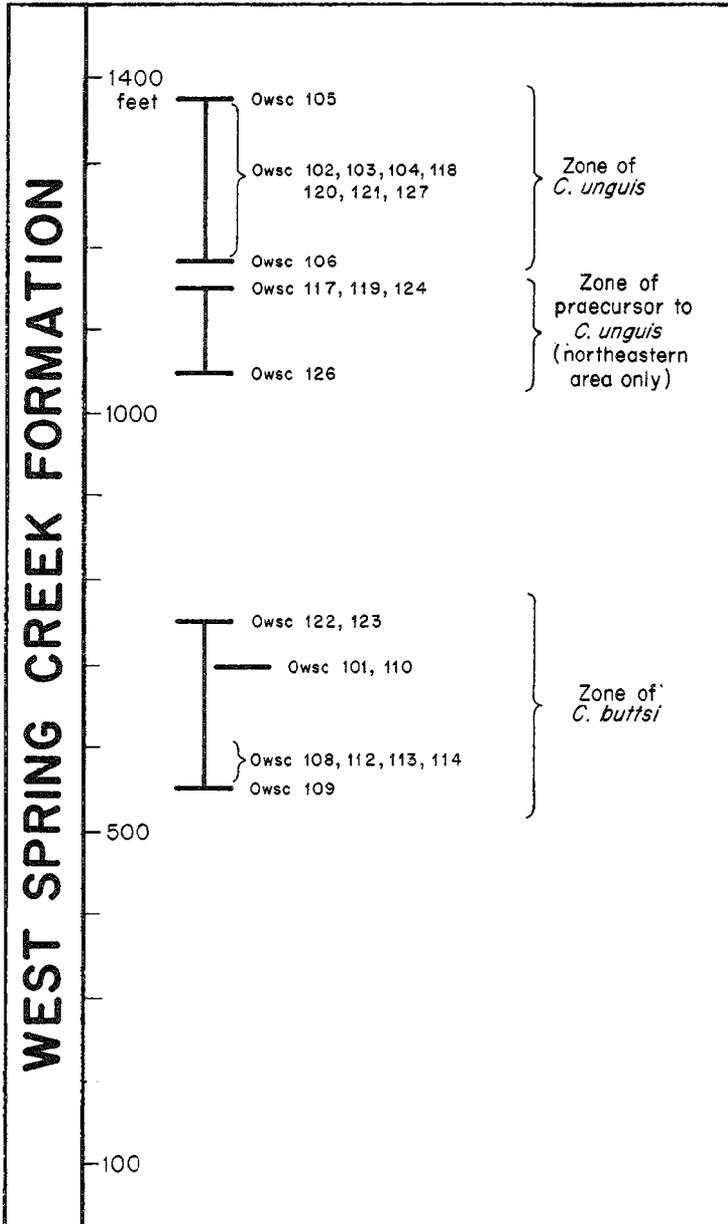


Figure 4. Combined stratigraphic position of Ceratopea collections in upper two-thirds of West Spring Creek Formation in eastern and Arbuckle-Tishomingo anticline areas of outcrop, as suggested by Ham in 1956 (from W. E. Ham, unpublished section).

not involved in any uncertainty. All specimens in the lowest six collections are referred to *C. ankylosa* Cullison. This is a wide, flattened, short, abruptly expanding hooked form, having two muscle pits connected with a groove. Its range is separated by almost 200 feet of presumably unfossiliferous strata from the next younger group of collections. In passing, it must be pointed out that Bill Ham noted a drafting error in Yochelson and Bridge (1957, p. 293, fig. 103); *C. ankylosa* does not occur near the top of the section in the El Paso Limestone.

Above the occurrence of *C. ankylosa*, five collections from the Arbuckle-Tishomingo anticline area contain opercula of *C. buttsi*. This is a long (thick) form, very little curved, and expanding gradually in width; it has one deep pit within the general muscle-attachment area. The position of Owsc 112 is given as the same as that of Owsc 108; there is a discrepancy between the plotted position and the stratigraphic data in these two collections. One additional collection from the eastern areas of outcrop, Owsc 122, is assigned to this species.

Within this interval, collection Owsc 114 contains a single specimen, the holotype of *C. hami* Yochelson and Bridge. Although it is not the intent of this paper to modify the systematics of *Ceratopea* substantially, upon reexamination I do not find it feasible to differentiate between that species and *C. knighti* Yochelson and Bridge, directly overlying in Owsc 113. Accordingly, *C. knighti* is herewith placed in the synonymy of *C. hami*.

My current view of *C. hami* is that this is a far more variable species than could be surmised from the lone original specimen. Opercula of this species are broadly hook shaped, though some opercula of *C. buttsi*, which are more strongly curved, approach them in shape. The opercula are relatively wider and higher than those of *C. buttsi* but not commonly as long. The attachment surface bears a pit almost as prominent as that of *C. buttsi*. However, there may be a second shallow pit—this is a variable feature—with a connecting ridge, so that small worn specimens appear similar to *C. ankylosa*. I now think that some specimens collected from the eastern facies should be identified as *C. hami*. A group of these were considered by Ham (fig. 4) as a “zone of praecursor to *C. unguis*”—quite a reasonable assignment.

However, two specimens in Owsc 122 constitute what might be an undescribed species; they are stratigraphically below two other poorly preserved specimens in Owsc 127 that might be identified as *C. hami*. If one assumes that the occurrence of *C. buttsi* in the eastern outcrops is at about the same level as its lowest occurrence to the west, the resulting correlation indicates that the section to the east is thinner but has fossiliferous beds extending through a greater thickness. The two youngest collections, Owsc 118 and Owsc 120, each contain a few rather large, sturdy opercula. They are differentiated with difficulty from *C. hami* but seem to show more of the features of *C. unguis*, the youngest species. The transitional form of these specimens is further complicated by erosion of their exterior. Once again, it would be desirable to have a larger collection for study.

With the eastern facies specimens assigned, with varying degrees of assurance, to several species, the specimens from this general interval

in the Arbuckle-Tishomingo anticline are assigned to *C. unguis* Yochelson and Bridge. The operculum is another large form. It is more strongly curved than that of *C. buttsi* and slightly less strongly curved than typical *C. hami* opercula, though in this feature there is overlap between the two. Opercula of *C. unguis* seem to widen at a slightly slower rate than those of *C. hami* and at a slightly faster rate than those of *C. buttsi*, though again there is overlap. The prime distinguishing feature of the operculum is a deep cup-shaped muscle-attachment surface which contains one deep pit. Although this is distinctive, incomplete specimens can be confused with the other two elongate forms of opercula in the West Spring Creek.

Although *C. unguis* can be distinguished from the underlying *C. buttsi* and *C. hami*, care should be taken that one is not misled by poor material. In the Arbuckle-Tishomingo anticline area, *C. unguis* marks the upper part of the formation and has a wide stratigraphic separation from underlying species.

Shell fragments are known along with opercula of *C. hami* from Owsc 117. Well-preserved shells were found by Ham and Yochelson with opercula that are probably conspecific with the type of *C. buttsi*. These were collected 400 feet west and 200 feet north of the E $\frac{1}{4}$ corner sec. 17, T. 5 S., R. 1 E., Carter County, Oklahoma (Yochelson and Bridge, 1957, pl. 37, figs. 27, 30, 31, 33, 34). Not unexpectedly, these are similar to the one in a life association of *C. unguis* shell and operculum found at Smithville, Arkansas (Yochelson and Wise, 1972). Locality details for the West Spring Creek collections follow.

COLLECTOR NUMBER	GEOGRAPHIC LOCALITY	STRATIGRAPHIC POSITION	NUMBER OF SPECIMENS	SPECIES IDENTIFIED
Owsc 100	NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ sec. 9, T. 2 S., R. 1 W., Murray County	354 feet above base	1	<i>C. ankylosa</i>
Owsc 101	750 feet W., 1,550 feet S. of NE corner sec. 9, T. 2 S., R. 1 W., Murray County	563 feet above base; 810 feet below top	7	<i>C. buttsi</i>
Owsc 102 (Paratype, USNM 128185)	1,100 feet S. of E $\frac{1}{4}$ corner sec. 9, T. 2 S., R. 1 W., Murray County	238 feet below top	31	<i>C. unguis</i>
Owsc 103	1,100 feet S. of E $\frac{1}{4}$ corner sec. 9, T. 2 S., R. 1 W., Murray County	229 feet below top	27	<i>C. unguis</i>
Owsc 104	1,150 feet S. of E $\frac{1}{4}$ corner sec. 9, T. 2 S., R. 1 W., Murray County	196 feet below top	6	<i>C. unguis</i>
Owsc 105	200 feet N., 1,800 feet W. of E $\frac{1}{4}$ corner sec. 9, T. 2 S., R. 1 W., Murray County	179 feet below top	10	<i>C. unguis</i>
Owsc 106	SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ sec 19, T. 2 S., R. 2 E. Carter County	270 feet below top	8	<i>C. unguis</i>
Owsc 107	1,700 feet E., 500 feet S. of NW corner sec. 19 T. 2 S., R. 4 E., Murray County	169 feet above base	3	<i>C. ankylosa</i>
Owsc 108 (Holotype, USNM 128183)	1,400 feet E., 1,700 feet N. of SW corner sec. 6, T. 3 S., R. 4 E., Johnston County	*About 550 feet above base; about 900 feet below top	6	<i>C. buttsi</i>
Owsc 109	Center SE $\frac{1}{4}$ sec. 24, T. 1 S., R. 2 W., Carter County	550 feet above base	6	<i>C. buttsi</i>
Owsc 110	1,000 feet W. of NE corner sec. 5, T. 2 S., R. 4 E., Murray County	800-905 feet below top	40	<i>C. buttsi</i>

Owsc 111	1,050 feet E., 750 feet S. of NW. corner sec. 19, T. 2 S., R. 4 E., Murray County	335 feet above base	2	<i>C. ankylosa</i>
Owsc 112 (Paratype, USNM 128184)	1,500 feet E., 1,000 feet N. of SW. corner sec. 10, T. 2 S., R. 1 E., Murray County	595 feet above base; about 960 feet below top	1	<i>C. buttsi</i>
Owsc 113 (Holotype <i>C. knighti</i> , USNM 128187)	Center NE $\frac{1}{4}$ sec. 5, T. 2 S., R. 1 W., Murray County	610 feet above base	3	<i>C. hami</i> (= <i>C. knighti</i>)
Owsc 114 (Holotype, USNM 128182)	300 feet W., 950 feet N. of SE. corner sec. 14, T. 2 S., R. 2 E., Murray County	About 600 feet above base	1	<i>C. hami</i>
Owsc 115	2,400 feet W., 1,100 feet S. of NE. corner sec. 13, T. 2 S., R. 1 W., Murray County	About 370 feet above base	6	<i>C. ankylosa</i>
Owsc 116	1,350 feet W., 700 feet S. of NE. corner sec. 24, T. 1 S., R. 2 W., Carter County	Lower middle Owsc	1	<i>C. ankylosa</i>
Owsc 117	1,600 feet N., 1,800 feet E. of SW. corner sec. 16, T. 1 S., R. 5 E., Johnston County	About 350 feet below top	39	<i>C. hami</i> (opercula and shell fragments)
Owsc 118	400 feet S., 900 feet W. of NE. corner sec. 17, T. 1 S., R. 5 E., Johnston County	Upper(?) part	12	<i>C. unguis</i>
Owsc 119	1,000 feet S., 650 feet E. of NW. corner sec. 22, T. 1 S., R. 5 E., Johnston County	Upper(?) part	1	<i>C. hami</i>
Owsc 120	2,300 feet N., 1,300 feet E. of SW. corner sec. 3, T. 1 N., R. 6 E., Pontotoc County	Upper part	5	<i>C. unguis</i>
Owsc 121	1,900 feet S., 1,100 feet W. of NE. corner sec. 33, T. 2 N., R. 6 E., Pontotoc County	210 feet below top	2	<i>C. sp.</i>
Owsc 122	NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ sec. 21, T. 2 S., R. 6 E., Johnston County	500 feet below top	8	<i>C. buttsi</i>
Owsc 123	500 feet N., 2,300 feet E. of SW. corner sec. 25, T. 1 N., R. 4 E., Murray County	About 500 feet below top	4	<i>C. hami</i>
Owsc 124	1,000 feet N., 1,800 feet E. of SW. corner sec. 28, T. 1 N., R. 4 E., Murray County	About 350 feet below top	1	<i>C. hami</i>
Owsc 125	1,750 feet E., 300 feet S. of NW. corner sec. 30, T. 2 S., R. 4 E., Murray County	395 feet above base	5	<i>C. ankylosa</i>
Owsc 126	2,000 feet S., 1,500 feet E. of NW. corner sec. 19, T. 1 N., R. 5 E., Pontotoc County	450 feet below top	1	<i>C. hami</i>
Owsc 127	2,300 feet S., 500 feet E. of NW. corner, sec. 25, T. 1 S., R. 6 E., Johnston County	About 200 feet below top	2	<i>C. hami</i>

¹Plotted position on Ham's log is 690 feet above base.

²Plotted position on Ham's log is about 600 feet above base.

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USGS Assesses World Resources

The U.S. Geological Survey has announced publication of results of the first assessment of critical mineral and fuel commodities ever attempted on a worldwide scale. The ambitious project netted data on production, imports, exports, proved reserves, and estimated reserves of oil and gas, copper, nickel, cobalt, and manganese for 120 nations and 6 continents. In addition, historical trends and the impact of probable future developments were considered.

According to the report, Asia (including the USSR) and North America, currently the dominant oil-producing regions of the world, also have the largest reserves for the future. Proved oil reserves for the world total about 634 billion barrels (511 onshore and 101 offshore plus an additional 22 billion for which onshore-offshore distribution data are not available). The United States has 45.3 billion barrels of proved reserves (39.6 onshore and 5.7 offshore), while the Soviet Union has about 75 billion barrels (less than 73.6 onshore and greater than 1.4 offshore). Asia alone contains over 70 percent of the total reserves of all 120 countries considered.

Oil and gas production in the United States is rising dramatically—from about 2,900 million barrels of oil and 14,945 billion cubic feet of gas in 1960 to 4,091 million barrels of oil and 23,905 billion cubic feet of gas in 1971. However, the report indicates that oil and gas production is shifting from North America to Africa and Asia. Also interesting if not disturbing is the prediction that the center of the world supply and production of gas may shift from North America to an area of the USSR east of the Ural Mountains.

Prepared by a task force of USGS scientists under the direction of Dr. John P. Albers, associate chief geologist and senior author of the publication, *Summary Petroleum and Selected Mineral Statistics for 120 Countries, Including Offshore Areas* has been released as USGS Professional Paper 817. It can be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, for \$2.10 a copy.

RESULTS OF AIPG QUESTIONNAIRE ON REGISTRATION IN OKLAHOMA

Following several months' discussion of the pros and cons of the recognition of the professional practice of geology and geophysics in Oklahoma by State registration, the Oklahoma Section of the American Institute of Professional Geologists decided to prepare and mail out a questionnaire so that a consensus on this question could be obtained from the largest possible number of geologists and geophysicists in Oklahoma.

The purpose of the questionnaire was twofold: (1) to guide the Oklahoma Section of AIPG in determining whether or not to advance a registration bill to the State Legislature and (2) whether or not the "Model Bill Providing for the Registration of Geologists and Geo-

physicists in Oklahoma”¹¹ was an appropriate vehicle for registration.

The questionnaire itself comprised three main sections requesting personal data, opinions on the proposed Model Bill, and opinions on statutory registration. Copies of the questionnaire were mailed out in August 1972 and were to have been returned by September 1, 1972.

John W. Ramsey, Jr., was appointed chairman of the committee to handle the distribution and tabulation of the questionnaire. His committee members were Louis R. Wilson, Ralph H. Espach, Jr., and Joe W. Ferguson (a member of SExG). The work of John and his committee is acknowledged and appreciated.

A total of 1,481 questionnaires were distributed in the following manner: 1,114 to members of The American Association of Petroleum Geologists residing in Oklahoma, 41 to members of the Ardmore Geological Society not on the AAPG list, 97 to members of the Geophysical Society of Oklahoma City, 121 to members of the Oklahoma City Geological Society not on the AAPG list, 76 to members of the Tulsa Geological Society not on the AAPG list, and 32 picked up by geologists using the Oklahoma City Geological Society library. (The membership of the Geophysical Society of Tulsa was inadvertently omitted from the mailing because of an oversight; this oversight is regretted.)

By September 1, 1972, the closing date, 439 questionnaires had been received, representing a return of 30 percent. Following is a detailed breakdown of the information obtained from the returned questionnaires.

A Personal Data

1. Years of professional experience: 0-5 years, 18 persons; 5-15 years, 76 persons; 15-25 years, 225 persons; 25-35 years, 69 persons; over 35 years, 48 persons; no answer, 3.
2. Employment status: major company, 113; independent company, 131; teaching, 12; consultant/independent, 178; government agency, 8; retired, 7; other, 14; no answer, 3.
3. Principal endeavor: research, 60; administration, 66; operations, 299; other, 57; no answer, 22.
4. Are you: a geologist, 363; a geophysicist, 25; both a geologist and geophysicist, 42; other, 11; no answer, 5.
5. Is your principal membership in: Tulsa Geological Society, 105; Geophysical Society of Tulsa, 21; Oklahoma City Geological Society, 252; Geophysical Society of Oklahoma City, 37; Ardmore Geological Society, 38; no answer, 36.
6. Are you a member of: AAPG, 364; SExG, 70; AIPG, 71; no answer, 47.
7. Do you practice professionally in states other than Oklahoma? Yes, 327; no, 95; no answer, 17.

B Model Registration Bill

1. Have you carefully read the “Model Bill Providing for the Registration of Geologists and Geophysicists in Oklahoma”? Yes, 329; no, 99; no answer, 11.
2. Did you attend any meeting where the Model Bill/registration was the principal topic of discussion? Yes, 182; no, 244; no answer, 13.

This bill was drafted early in 1972 by a joint committee representing the State’s geological and geophysical societies. The draft was published in the *Shale Shaker* (v. 22, no. 4), the official organ of the Oklahoma City Geological Society.

3. Which one of the following statements most nearly reflects your opinion? (a) I would like this bill introduced into the Legislature at the earliest appropriate moment, 68; (b) this bill should be shelved until statutory registration is forced upon us by outside interests, 136; (c) this bill is unsatisfactory and efforts toward registration should be discontinued, 189; no answer, 46.

C Statutory Registration

1. Which one of the following statements most nearly reflects your view? (a) I favor statutory registration, 53; (b) I favor statutory registration but do not feel strongly about it, 48; (c) I am neutral, 37; (d) I am opposed to statutory registration but do not feel strongly about it, 94; (e) I am strongly opposed to any form of statutory registration, 202; no answer, 5.
2. If a registration law is passed in Oklahoma in the next 5 years, will you: (a) have to apply for registration, 173; (b) not have to, but probably would, apply for registration, 155; (c) not have to, and will not, apply for registration, 77; no answer, 34.
3. If registration becomes law in any state adjoining Oklahoma, how would you feel about registration in Oklahoma? Would favor, 137; would oppose, 262; no answer, 40.
4. Do you believe that some form of registration will ultimately be necessary? Yes, 152; no, 262; no answer, 25.
5. As an alternative to statutory registration, would you prefer official state recognition of certification by existing national geological and geophysical organizations? Yes, 300; no, 108; no answer, 31.

In view of the information obtained from this questionnaire, the Oklahoma Section of AIPG has dropped all efforts to seek statutory registration as a means for recognizing the professional practice of geology and geophysics in Oklahoma until such time as the geocommunity requests that it be recalled.

—*Executive Committee, Oklahoma Section, AIPG*

OKLAHOMA ABSTRACTS

AAPG SOUTHWEST SECTION-SEG MIDWEST SOCIETIES JOINT MEETING FORT WORTH, TEXAS, MARCH 14-16, 1973

The following abstracts are reprinted from the February 1973 issue, v. 57, of the *Bulletin* of The American Association of Petroleum Geologists. Page numbers appear in brackets below each abstract. Per-

OKLAHOMA ABSTRACTS is intended to present abstracts of recent unpublished papers relating to the geology of Oklahoma and adjacent areas of interest. The editors are therefore interested in obtaining abstracts of formally presented or approved documents, such as dissertations, theses, and papers presented at professional meetings, that have not yet been published.

mission of the authors and of A. A. Meyerhoff, managing editor of AAPG, is gratefully acknowledged.

Application of Reservoir-Pressure Data in Prospecting

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The search for stratigraphic traps is basically the search for barriers to the movement of fluids. Such barriers can be identified more surely by pressure information than by stratigraphic correlation. We think of normal reservoir pressure as "that necessary to sustain a column of water to the surface." However, when oil or gas is in lenticular sands, the initial reservoir pressures may be much less or much more than "normal." Examples of low pressures are found in the Cretaceous of New Mexico and Alberta, and the Morrow of western Oklahoma. Abnormally high pressures are found in many areas of the world, especially in Tertiary sediments, but also in the Pennsylvanian Morrow sandstones of central Oklahoma. In Blaine County there are about 10 separate Morrow reservoirs. All the wells in each reservoir have similar initial pressures and subsequent pressure-decline histories, which differ markedly from one reservoir to another. It should be possible from well performance, or even good drillstem-test data, to tell which reservoir a wildcat well has penetrated, or whether it has found an entirely new reservoir. Thus the regional extent of each reservoir can be ascertained very early during exploration. [420]

Stereo and Mosaic Aerial Photo Study of Part of the Central Ouachita Mountain System in Oklahoma and Arkansas¹

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A careful study of stereo aerial photographs of a central part of the Ouachita Mountains in Oklahoma and Arkansas, followed by a related study of photo-index sheets of a much larger area in the Ouachitas, yields the following tentative conclusions:

1. The earliest structural dislocations of field dimensions are a series of approximately parallel "early bedding faults" in the Stanley Shale, increasing in number downward in the section. A slight schistosity and (or) cleavage, also nearly parallel to bedding, may likewise increase downward. The prime source of this deformation was probably an underthrusting basement moving northward. There is a scarcity of proven overthrusts, as opposed to underthrusts, but there are a great

¹Abstract expanded at authors' request.

many thrust faults with a normal age sequence of formations across the fault.

Other investigators have pictured the predominant faulting as overthrusting. Some overthrusts should form even with predominant underthrusting, and some are believed to exist. The most likely place for this is in the western part of Windingstair Mountain and in the Ti Valley fault zone. These are outside the area of this study.

2. The next major episode seems to be steep faulting, probably involving the basement and overlying sediments, producing semi-fault-block structures with tight broken anticlines; this was followed or accompanied by a collapse of the sediments into deep synclines. Most of the high synclinal and more complicated ranges have straight or gently curved bordering steep faults in the adjacent lowlands.

3. The next recognizable tectonic movements were probably the uplifts of three main anticlinoria. At this time the Ouachitas began to shed coarse as well as finer clastic sediments toward the west and probably in other directions. The Fallis, Garber, and Duncan-San Angelo sandstone stratigraphic wedges may have been deposited to the west in Oklahoma at this time.

4. The Mid-Continent regional uplift which included the Ouachitas must have produced a flood of coarse clastics adjacent to the mountains. These tectonic conglomerates have been removed by subsequent deep erosion, except for their distal equivalents—the three units mentioned in item 3 and the Whitehorse (Marlow and Rush Springs) sands—which are present in the Lower and Middle Permian of western Oklahoma and the western part of north-central Texas. This episode cannot be definitely separated from those of item 3 above.

5. The nearly vertical Big Cedar (Y City?) fault extends nearly 200 mi from near Big Cedar, Oklahoma, to Jacksonville, Arkansas, northeast of Little Rock. It probably was formed during a period of relaxation or tension in Jurassic or Cretaceous time, and may roughly parallel other faults in the Coastal Plain in southwest Arkansas. The Big Cedar fault touches 9 or 10 separate local structures along its length.

Plate Tectonics and New Proposed Intercontinental Reconstruction

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Published reconstructions of the pre-drift positions of North and South America have failed to take into account many geologic continuities present in the Paleozoic fold belts of southwestern United States, Mexico, Central America, and northwestern South America. The well-known Bullard "fit" terminates Mexico at about 23°N lat., but if southern Mexico and Central America are added, they overlap the Guianan shield of South America. Dietz and Holden attempted to solve this problem by postulating crustal blocks that filled the Gulf of Mexico

and subsequently rotated southwestward to form part of Central America.

We propose a new reconstruction in which the Gulf of Mexico is completely closed by northern South America and where Mexico is adjacent to northern and northwestern South America. The evidence for this reconstruction is found in the similar geologic history of the Appalachian, Ouachita, Marathon, and Coahuila fold belts as well as throughout the eastern Andean Cordillera of Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru. We further propose that the Gulf of Mexico resulted from (1) the separation of North and South America by spreading and transform faulting, (2) the opening of a sphenochasm to produce the Mississippi embayment, and (3) great left-lateral displacements of the initially linear Paleozoic mobile belt along the Wichita, Texas, Coahuila, and other megashears. [422]

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