UNITED STATES ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION GRAND JUNCTION OPERATIONS OFFICE EXPLORATION DIVISION AIRBORNE SECTION

AN AIRBORNE RADIOMETRIC RECONNAISSANCE OF THE FILLMORE-OJAI AREA, CALIFORNIA, FINAL REPORT

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UNEDITED MANUSCRIPT

June 1956 Grand Junction, Colorado TM-268

metadc1393062

-1-INTRODUCTION

On December 12, 1955, an airborne radiometric survey of the Fillmore-Ojai Area, (see figure # 1) California was started. The project was not completed because poor flying conditions forced the airborne crew to spend the majority of the time on the ground. Consequently, work was stopped April 8, 1956 and the airborne unit was moved to another project to more effectively utilize the aircraft and personnel.

The geographic location of the area was the cause of the poor flying weather. The proximity to the Pacific Ocean and equal nearness to the Mojave Desert cause a climatalogical condition not conducive to low level flying. The hot, dry desert air flows over the mountains and is channeled into the deep out valleys leading to the ocean. The air mass usually assumes a high velocity (30 to 100 m.p.h.) during its migration. When the point of equilibrium is reached the wind velocity dreps to zero. This allows the coastal fog to move inland. Quite frequently the fog does not rise or dissipate until late in the afternoon. As might be imagined the high velocity winds cause downdrafts and turbulence so violent survey work is virtually impossible. The fog/precludes any attempt at flying.

This weather exists in addition to the usual climactic cycle typified by frontal movements. During the stay at Santa Paula 21 days of operation were lost because of fog; 16 days were lost because of high winds. The only available weather records for the general vicinity of the Fillmore-Ojai area are the mean precipitation statis tics compiled by the U.S.Weather Bureau. (see table # 1) From these figures it is not possible to forsee the situation just described.

The Fillmore-Ojai area lies within a subdivision of the Coastal Range Geomorphic Province alled the Transverse Ranges.

	OJAI	OXNARD	SANTA PAULA	SAN FERNANDO
JANUARY	4.71	2.53	3•43	3.14
FEBRUARY	4•71	2.98	2.50	3.40
MARCH	3•70	2.26	3.28	2.87
APRIL	1.31	1.06	0.62	1.18
MAY	0.46	0.20	0.40	0 . 44
JUNE	0.06	0.06	0.04	0.09
JULY	0.01	Trace	0.01	0.02
AUGUST	0.04	0.04	0.02	0.02
SEPTEMBER	0.31	0.11	0.35	0.18
OCTOBER	0.67	0.52	0.82	0.63
NOVEMBER	1.33	1.10	0.87	1.20
DECEMBER	3.65	3.14	2.82	2.92

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Monthly mean precipitation expressed in inches of rainfall. (From U.S. Weather Bureau records.)

-TABLE # I-

The Transverse Ranges trend east-west at the south end of the coastal ranges. I Folding and faulting dominate the physiographic development in this area. The canyons are deeply incised and have many small tributaries. The interfluves are well dissected and moderately narrow. The flight lines used during the survey were controlled by the topographic expression of the horizon being surveyed.

PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS

The first sample of abnormally radioactive rock from the Fillmore-Ojai area was brought to the Bakersfield Office of the Atomic Energy Commission by

- Robert B. Sharp, Geology of Southern California, Bullitin 170, Department of Natural Resources, State of California. Chapter V, Page 5.
- 2- William A. Bowes, Personal communication.

Nels Sandquist. It had been taken from the Florence claim, Sec.2,T5N,R23W, Ventura County,California. The sample was a coarse grained, arkosic sandstone containing carnotite. Chemical assay by the Commission showed it to contain 0.42% U₂O₈. Ground investigation, by personnel of the Bakersfield Office, proved the sample came from the transitional contact between the Eccene Coldwater Formation and the Oligocene Sespe Formation. The deposit is very small and not of commercial value.

Another such deposit was brought to the Commissions attention by Max Hoff with a sample from his Cayote # 1 claim, Sec.4,T4N,R24W,Ventura County, California. Mr. Hoff continued to prospect in the transitional zone and found the Payoff claims,Sec.10,T4N,R24W, Ventura County,California.^{*} These claims are on the northeast flank of an anticline and show several pockets of carnotite associated with carbon trash. Further exploration in the vicinity of the Payoff claims uncovered more of the ore grade pockets. Enough interest was created to obtain finances for a small drilling program; which has not yet been put into effect.

To date there are 8 claim owners in the area with claims in the transitional zone. Each claim owner has more than one claim and more than one showing of ore grade material. Even so, there has not yet been any production from the area.

The carnotite from these deposits has a variable equilibrium and vanadium content. In addition to carnotite, minor amounts of autunite have been found. Also, radioactivity, from an unidentified source, is associated with some of the carbon trash.

*For a description of this property see RME+2073 by W. A. Bowes and B. L. Myerson.

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GEOLOGY (See figure 2)

The Ventura Basin is an elongate, east-west trending trough in which a thick section of sedimentary rocks has accumulated throughout the Tertiary period. The formation of the Ventura Basin probably began during the Paleocene epoch. The western half of southern California was downwarped and the invading sea deposited sediments over a vast area. By the end of the Miocene epoch several minor mountain chains had developed. These were the Transverse Ranges. They divided the large basin into several smaller ones. The basins continued to sink until nearly recent time. Finally, sedimentation exceeded subsidence and the basins were filled.

The recency of folding and faulting is very evident. Deformation has been going on intermittently during the Tertiary and Quarternary periods. Northwest of the city of Fillmore, Eccene rocks have been thrust over Pleistocene beds. It can be seen where diastrophism has modified the modern topography. Extensive thrust faults and numerous folds exhibit the influence of compression as the major factor in the structual development of the area.³

These structual features are readily apparent from the air. The Oak Ridge and San Cayento Thrust faults, the Santa Ynez fault, numerous unnamed faults and anticlines were briefly surveyed from the air. The uranium deposition was not apparently controled by these structual phenomena.

The transitional contact between the Eocene Coldwater formation and the Oligocene Sespe formation was the zone of primary interest during the survey. (For a complete list of formations see stratifigraphic chart, Sugare #3)

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³⁻ C.W.Jennings and B.W.Troxel, Geologic Guide Through the Ventura Basin and Adjacent Areas, Southern California, Bulletin 170, Department of Natural Resources, State of California.

The Coldwater is, for the most part, a white, marine sandstone. The Sespe is characteristically a red, continental shale with interbedded red sandstone. It is conglomeratic in some places. It also contains some green, white, and grey sandstone and may be marine in part.⁴

The contact between these two formations is gradational and is typified by intertongueing and interfingering of the formational members. Also, in this zone are areas which resemble neither formation. Many carbon trash pockets occur along this horizon. Some of the uranium occurences are associated with the carbon trash.

AIRBORNE PROCEDURES

The airborne work was performed with a Piper PA-18 Supercub. The aircraft is a high winged monoplane, powered by a 135 horsepower Lycoming engine. The seating arrangment is tandem. This arrangment is superior to a side by side seat in that it allows the pilot maximum visibility in all directions. The Supercub is a high performance **arrange** plane. It takes off and lands in a short distance, has a high rate of climb, and is capable of sustained operation at high altitudes. All of these characteristics are essential for an aircraft being used for airborne radiometric survey purposes.

The aircraft has been slightly modified from the factory version. The rudder stops and elevator stops have been altered. The alterations allow the pilot more control travel and consequently more maneuverability.

4- Op. Cit. C.W.Jennings and B.W.Troxel. There seems to be quite a controversy over the deposition of the Sespe formation. Some geologists say the red color is due to the formation of a lateritic clay soil under tropical conditions. Others point out the noteworthy lack of fossil plant remains and say their absence makes the hypothesis somewhat untenable.A lack of marine and lacustrine fossils seem to rule out those two origins. The vertebrate fauna are not only meager but also are not diagnostic of the climate, environment or mode of deposition of the Sespe. Some geologists believe the vertebrate fauna are derived fossils and do not belong in the strata in which they are found. Consequently, the mode of deposition of the Sespe formation remains an enigma.

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A Mark VI airborne scintillation counter⁵ was used as a detecting instrument during the survey. It is semi-permanently mounted in the aircraft. The instrument has essentially three components: the detector head, the control panel and the meter. The detector head contains the detecting crystal, the photomultiplyer tube and the amplifying circuit. It is mounted in the baggage compartment behind the rear seat. The location of the detector head places it as far as possible from any stray radiation emanating from radium dial instruments in the aircraft panel. The control panel contains the switches and the bias control knob. It is mounted on the left side of the aircraft above the window. The meter registers the changes in radiation measured by the detector head. It is mounted on a paddle and is held in the observer's Hand. This arrangement allows the observer to watch the meter and the geologic structure simultaneously. At the beginning of the project the instrument was calibrated over an alluvial fan. The alluvium exhibited no appreciable variation in its radiation, so it was assumed to be an average horizon. The aircraft was flown over the fan at survey height (50') and the background reading was adjusted, by means of the bias control, to 160 counts per second.

The type of coverage used during a project is governed by two factors, the topography and the geologic structure. All airborne work is essentially a modification or a combination of two basic types of flying: rim flying and grid flying. Rim flying is employed where the horizon being surveyed is exposed on vertical or near vertical faces. Flights are conducted at a distance of 50' horizontally from the/outcrop. The degree of coverage is controlled by varying the vertical distance between the flight lines. Grid flying is utilized where the horizon being surveyed is exposed horizontally in flat or rolling topography. Flights are conducted at a distance of 50' vertically from the horizontal outcrop. The degree of coverage is controlled by vary-

5* Manufastured by, Nuclear Enterprises Ltd. Winnipeg, Canada.

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During the Fillmore-Ojai project both types of flying were used. The complex geologic structure and advanced dissection of the topography made it necessary to switch rapidly from one to the other. In the area of saturation coverage (see figure I) the flight lines were 100' apart. In the area of general coverage the flight lines were 200' apart.

RESULTS OF AIRBORNE PROCEDURES

During the survey 61:05 flying hours were logged. For the breakdown of the flying time into separate categories see **Table II**. No anomalous radioactivity was detected. Some of the known deposits are so small that no appreciable increase in radioactivity was registered when flying directly over the workings.

Two aerial photo reconnaissance flights were made over specific areas. One was conducted with George Hood of S.L.E.B. for color pictures. The other was made by the regular crew to obtain black and white photos. Both sets of pictures were satisfactory.

TYPE OF FLYING	HOURS	LOGGED					
RIM AND GRID	24	:10					
RECONNAISSANCE	18	•55					
CROSS-COUNTRY	18	100					
TOTAL FLYING TIME	61	: 05					
TABLE II							

MISCELLANEOUS

Well's Aircraft and Engine Service, at the Santa Paula Airport, provided hangar space and excellent shop facilities at a nominal fee. Housing facilities at Santa Paula presented no problem. The B &L Motel, within walking distance of the airport, has good accommodations at a moderate cost. Several taxpayers contacted the airborne crew at the airport. They desired assays, mapping and claim investigation. They were referred to the Bakersfield Office.

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CONCLUSIONS AND RECCOMMENDATIONS

The weather and the topography, being as they are, make any airborne program in the general area impractical. Inquiries made of the commercial pilots operations from the Santa Paula Airport revealed their opinion to be; at no time during the year is the weather in the area conducive to low level flying. They said the best chances would probably be during September and October. Even then it is doubtful that the crew could operate efficiently.

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1947. Control by U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey. Land-net by U.S. Geological Survey. Culture revised by California Division of Mines 1954.











PREPARED UNDER DIRECTION OF OLAF P. JENKINS COMPILATION BY CHARLES J. KUNDERT

1955



A Algonkian metamorphic rocks AR Archean metamorphic rocks



FIGURE 3

DIVISION OF MINES Ferry Building, San Francisco II OLAF P. JENKINS, Chief STATE OF CALIFORNIA GOODWIN J. KNIGHT, Governor DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DeWITT NELSON, Director

EXPLANATORY CHART LOS ANGELES SHEET

			GEO	LEGEND LOGIC MAP OF CA		191		him	BERGE	PUB	LISH	ED S		E DA	TA SEL SOT	ED PEE	RENCES		
A	GE		MAP	STATE MAP UNIT	GROUPING OF GEOLOGIC UNITS	Clements	Crowell 3	Dibblee 4	Durrell 5	Hoots 7	Kew 8	Miller 9	Noble	Page	Putnam 13	Simpson 18	Upson 19	Wiese 21	Woodford 22
(((0-	Recent sand dunes	Dune sands											Sand dunes			
	ecent	ecent	QS	Recent alluvium	Alluvium; Qf- fan and flood plain	Alluvium	Alluvium	Alluvium	Alluvium	Alluvium	Alluvium	Alluvium	Younger al-	Alluvium	Alluvium	Alluvium	Younger al-	Younger al-	Alluvium
	α	r (Qal		deposits of San Joaquin Valley								older allu- vium						
		(Qt	Pleistocene river and stream terrace deposits	Terrace deposits	Terrace	Terrace deposits and sur- faces	Fanglomer- ate and un- divided Qua- ternary deposits	Terrace deposits	Terrace deposits	B.C	NIT			Terraces and older al- luvium	gravels, older al- luvium	Terrace dep osits and older allu- vium	-Terrace dep osits and older al- luvium	-Terrace deposits
ERNARY			00	Pleistocene non-marine deposits	Older alluvium, Nadeau gravel, Har- old fm.; Casitas fm.; Pacoima fm., Saugus fm. (in part)	Saugus fm.		depost us	aMili	de P.	OD	UCT	Nadeau gravel, Harold fm.		Saugus fm.		Casitas fm.	Continental deposits	
QUATE	ana	eue		Pleistocene lake dep-	Playa deposits											Playa dep- osits			
	Plaisto	PIEISTO	QI	Disistence waying and	Merine terrace denosits and Palos				Marine beds						1		Santa Bar-		Marine ter
			Qm	marine terrace deposits	Verdes sand, San Pedro sand, Timms Point silt, Lomita marl; Santa Bar- bara fm.; Las Posas fm.												bara fm.		ace depos & Palos Ve des sand, San Pedro sand, Tim
			QP	Pliocene-Pleistocene non-marine depesits	Tulare fm.; Paso Robles fm.; Sau- gus fm., (in part), Sunshine Ranch member of Pico fm.					Tulare fm.	Saugus fm.		1-3						Pt. silt
	-	-	Pue	Upper Pliocene non- marine sedimentary rocks	Hungry Valley fm.		Hungry Valley fm.												
		-	Puc	Pliccene non-marine	Ridge basin group; Ridge Route fm.;	Ridge Route	Peace Val-	Morales fm.		Chanac fm.			Anaverde fm.						
	or on o	locene	Pc	Honer Pliceere marine	Morales fm.; Chanac fm.; Anaverde fm.		Violin in breccia (in part Mio- cene)										Unnamed fm.		Upper Pli
	10	a	Pu	sedimentary rocks	Fito im. (in paro), carcaga sano														cene rock and rocks commonly called Pi
			Pml	Middle and lower Plio- cene marine sedimen- tary rocks	Pico fm. (in part); Repetto fm.; Etchegoin and Jacalitos fms.	Pico fm.			Pico fm.	Etchegoin and Jaca- litos fms.	Pico fm.				Pico fm.		-	12.5	Rocks com monly cal ed Repett fm.
			TI	Tertiary lake deposits	Tertiary (Pliocene lake deposits)													Pliocene lake dep- osits	
	divided	divided		Tertiary volcanic rock	s Andesite		Andesite							100					
	11 v	"	Τv						54					201					
			Muc	Upper Miocene non-mar- ine sedimentary rocks	Mint Canyon fm.: Punch bowl fm.; Quatal fm.; undivided non-marine sedimentary rocks	Mint Canyo fm.	n Mint Canyor fm.	n Non-marine sedimentary rocks			Mint Canyon fm.		Punch Bowl fm.					Continental deposits	
			Mu	Upper Miocene marine sedimentary rocks	Sisquoc fm.; Santa Margarita fm.; Castaic fm.; Puente fm.; Modelo fm (in part); Monterey shale (in part	Modelo fm.	Santa Mar- garita fm.; Castaic fm.	Santa Mar- garita fm.	Modelo fm.	Santa Mar- garita îm.	Modelo fm.	0AV	Divi		Santa Mar- garita fm.			Santa Mar- garita fm.	Puente fm
				Miocene non-marine sed imentary rocks	- Bena gravel; Rosamond series		TAN				RO	DUG				Rosamond			
			Mc	Miocene volcanic rocks	Diabase, trachyte, rhyolite, andesite				Intrusive									Volcanic	Basalt, i
			Mv		basalt, tuffs, breccias				diabase, basaltic breccia, trachyte,									rocks	trusive a extrusive
RY		e	Mv ^r	Miocene rhyolitic vol- canic rocks	• Dacite				INJULIUS							Dacite flow	73		
TERTIA	Missed	Miocer	Mul	Miocene andesitic vol- canic rocks	- Andesite flows, tuffs, and agglomer- ates					Andesite (lower Mio- cene)									
			1010 -	Miocene hasaltic vol-	Basalt					Basalt (low-	Andesite an		PHYCHIC		0.00				
	-		Mvb				5-500			er Miocene)	UADALU		- Alie	No.	151				
			Mmc	Middle Miccene non-ma- rine sedimentary rocks	 Caliente fm.; Tick Canyon fm.; un- divided non-marine sedimentary rocks 			sedimentan rocks (in part, low- er Miocene											
			Mm	Middle Miccene marine sedimentary rocks	Modelo fm. (in part); Monterey sh. (in part); Maricopa sh.; Tequepis ss., Salinas sh.; Topanga fm.; Bit- ter Creek ss.; Temblor fm. (in	, Temblor fr	n.	Monterey sh.	Topanga fm, in three members (Middle mem.	Maricopa sh.	Topanga fm.			Monterey sh "Temblor" ss.	"Modelo fm.		Monterey si	n.	Topanga f
				Lower Miocene marine sedimentary rocks	Temblor fm. (in part); Painted Roo fm., Soda Lake fm.; Rincon sh.,	k Vaqueros		Temblor fm Painted	andesite, basalt,etc. . vaqueros fm.	Vaqueros fm. and undifer-	Vaqueros fm				Rincon sh., Vaqueros fr	5.	Rincon sh. Vaqueros ss.	,	
			MI	Oligocene non-marine	Vaqueros im. Sespe fm.; Simmler fm.; Tecuya fm.	; Sespe fm.		Soda Lake fm. Simmler fm	"Sespe fm.	later beds	Sespe fm.		Vasquez fm.		Sespe fm.		Sespe fm.		
			φc	sedimentary rocks	Vasquez fm.		Ronalsa	and undiv- ided non- marine sed imentary rocks											
	increase	ligocene	φv	Oligocene volcanic rocks	Basalt														
	C	0	φ	Oligocene marine sedi- mentary rocks	Pleito fm.; San Lorenzo fm.; Alegri fm., Gaviota fm.	la				San Loren- zo fm.				and and					
				Eocene non-marine sed- imentary rocks	Undivided non-marine sedimentary rocks														
		ocene	Ec	Eocene marine sedimen-	Coldwater sandstone,Cozy Dell sh.,			Eccene rock	6	Tejon and	Tejon and	EM	EN	Coldwater	Coldwater	PD-	Undifferen	-	
		e	E	CALLY FOCKS	ca ls.;Domengine fm.;Las Llajas fm. Santa Susana fm.;Tejon fm.,Meganos fm.;Mono sh.;San Emigdio fm.			010141060		Meganos fms.	Meganos îms.			Dell sh., Matilija s Juncal fm. Sierra	Dell sh., sa Matilija , Undiff Eocene	55.	cene		
		Paleocen	Ep	Paleocene marine sedi- mentary rocks	Martinez fm.	Martinez fm.	Martinez Îm.		Martinez fm.		Martinez fm.			Blanca 15		Martinez fm.			fm.
$\left(\right)$	(-(Ku	Upper Cretaceous marin sedimentary rocks	e Chico fm., Trabuco fm.; Pendola sh., Debris Dam ss.; undivided marine sedimentary rocks			Cretaceous rocks, un- divided	Chico fm., Trabuco fm.		Chico fm.			Pendola si Debris Dau ss.	1.y				Chico fr Trabuco
CEOUS				Lower Cretaceous marin sedimentary rocks	e "Knoxville" group; undivided marine sedimentary rocks	2							1	Unnamed marine se	1-				
CRETA			KI	Cretaceous-Jurassic	School Canyon granite,Lebec quartz	Sc it mo	hool Canyon,g e,Lebec quart nzonite,Tejor	gran- tz						rocks	12.20	1			
			KJgr	granitic rocks	monzonite, Tejon Lookout granite, Liebre quartz monzonite; undivided granitic rocks	Lo Li zo gr	okout granite ebre quartz m nite; diorite anodiorite	e, non- e,											
			gr	Granitic rocks, age un known	- Echo granite, Rubio diorite and metadiorite;undivided granitic roch	Ø5							U in	non-ter i					
			Jar	Jurassie granitie rock	s Lowe granodiorite, Wilson diorite, Parker diorite; undivided granitic rocks	Granite, granodiori and diorit	te,		Quartz dio- rite	-	Pre-Jurassi metamorphic sedimentar;	c Lowe grano diorite, Wilson dio	-			Quartz mor zonite and other acid	1+ 	Quartz mo zonite, quartz di rite.grap	on- 10-
IRASSIC				Upper Jurassic serpen-	Serpentine						intrusive granite	er diorite		Serpentine	*	rocks,gran diorite,di rite	10-1	ite,diori gabbro	ite
AL JL	°		Jub	igneous rocks	- Franciscan group									Francisco					
			Jf	can group	Brown									group					
IASSIC	í		Ŧŧ	Friassic marine meta- sedimentary rocks	Santa Monica slate (fm.)				Santa Mon- ica fm.							Bean Canyo series	m		
TR	:((Pre-Cretaceous marine metasedimentary rocks	Placerita series (fm.); San Gabrie fm.; undivided metasedimentary	l Gneiss, marble and	3	Basement		Granodio- rite,gran-		San Gabrie fm.	1 Basement rocks			Granitic rocks,			Basemen rocks, Mesozoi
			рК	Pre-Franciscan marine	Undivided metasedimentary rocks	quartzite				and associ- ated dark- colored sch	-		(putonic)			gneiss		/51	
DIVID			pfs	metasedimentary rocks	HAMMERY		PRO	DU									A	La cui	NA B
S) N	1		ſP	Paleozoic marine meta- sedimentary rocks	Bean Canyon series; ls-limestone; undivided metasedimentary rocks		Limestone, hornfels, schist											marble,mi nor quart ite and hornfels	- Z-
LALEOS						1		1	A DECEMPTOR OF THE OWNER	1			1				1	-	
TIAN UN			p€gr	Pre-Cambrian granitic rocks	Anorthosite, gabbroic and noritic rocks							Anorthosite and related rocks; Echo granite. Pub							





GEOLOGIC MAP OF CALIFORNIA SCALE 1:250,000 1955

LOS ANGELES SHEET

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Geology of entire sheet modified by T. W. Dibblee Jr.