

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

BUREAU OF MINERAL RESOURCES, GEOLOGY AND GEOPHYSICS

RECORD No. 1966/57

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OORAMINNA SEISMIC SURVEY,
AMADEUS BASIN,
NORTHERN TERRITORY 1962

by

F.J. MOSS

The information contained in this report has been obtained by the Department of National Development as part of the policy of the Commonwealth Government to assist in the exploration and development of mineral resources. It may not be published in any form or used in a company prospectus or statement without the permission in writing of the Director, Bureau of Mineral Resources, Geology and Geophysics.

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SUMMARY

A seismic survey was made in the Ooraminna area of the Amadeus Basin, Northern Territory, by a seismic party of the Bureau of Mineral Resources, Geology and Geophysics, between 6th July and 29th August 1962. Reflection traverses were recorded between Deep Well and Alice Springs and across the culmination of the Ooraminna Anticline, and a refraction depth probe was recorded on the crest of the Ooraminna Anticline.

The purpose of the survey was to obtain information on the structure of the Basin in the eastern part of the Missionary Plain, and on the structure of the Ooraminna Anticline.

The Basin was shown to be generally synclinal between Deep Well and Alice Springs with a maximum sediment thickness of 20,000 feet north of the Ooraminna Anticline. Seismic evidence suggested that the uplift at Deep Well and the Ooraminna Anticline have resulted from thickening in a deep formation, which has been tentatively identified as the Bitter Springs Formation.

The survey was unsuccessful in relating reflectors in the cross-sections with outcropping formations in the MacDonnell Ranges and on the Ooraminna Anticline.

1. INTRODUCTION

A seismic survey was made in the Amadeus Basin in the area between Deep Well and Alice Springs by the Seismic Party No. 2 of the Bureau of Mineral Resources, Geology and Geophysics (BMR), from the 6th July to 29th August 1962. The lease (OP43) covering the survey is held by Magellan Petroleum (NT) Pty Ltd.

The survey was part of the BMR programme of seismic operations in the Amadeus Basin, which began in 1961 with a series of north-south traverses across the eastern part of the Basin between Alice Springs and Finke (Moss, 1962); this was followed in the same year by a short survey over the Palm Valley Anticline, 80 miles west of Alice Springs (Turpie & Moss, 1963). From 26th March to 3rd July 1962, a seismic survey was made in the Gosses Bluff area approximately 110 miles west of Alice Springs (Moss, 1964).

The results of the seismic reflection work carried out indicated that relatively simple techniques generally yielded reliable information in the sedimentary basin away from rock outcrops, but that more elaborate recording techniques were necessary for attempting to obtain reflections in the vicinity of surface structures. They also indicated that only limited results could be obtained by the seismic refraction method owing to the presence of shallow high velocity refractors in the areas tested.

The results from seismic traverses at Deep Well and Polhill in 1961 (Moss, 1962) indicated the probable margin of the Basin at Deep Well, a deepening of the Basin to the north of Deep Well, and a major reversal occurring in the section to at least 12,000 feet below the surface expression of the Ooraminna Anticline at Polhill. An event on the cross-section at Deep Well at a depth of about 5000 to 6000 feet at Shot-points 219-212 on Traverse G was considered to be an unconformity, which probably marked the Lower Palaeozoic/Upper Proterozoic boundary. No interpretation was offered as to the significance of low dip reflections recorded at times greater than 2 seconds on the Polhill traverse.

The seismic programme for the Ooraminna survey was planned to obtain information, additional to that obtained in 1961, on the structure of the Basin between Deep Well and Alice Springs and on the structure of the Ooraminna Anticline. In an attempt to obtain this information seismic reflection traverses were surveyed as follows:

- (a) To connect the Deep Well and Polhill 1961 traverses.
- (b) To extend the Polhill 1961 traverse northwards to Alice Springs.
- (c) To cross the surface culmination of the Ooraminna Anticline, the traverse to start from a point on the main north-south traverse between Deep Well and Polhill.

A seismic refraction depth probe was surveyed on the outcropping Arumbera Sandstone, at the culmination of the Ooraminna Anticline, to investigate refractors in the Proterozoic formations below the Arumbera Sandstone.

2. GEOLOGY

A summary of the geology of the Amadeus Basin relative to the seismic survey has been given by Moss (1962). A report on the petroleum prospects of the Basin has been given by McNaughton (1962), and the geology of the Alice Springs area in particular has been outlined by Quinlan (1962). A regional geology map (after Quinlan, loc. cit.) is shown in Plate 3. The geology of the area covered by the seismic survey (Plate 2) is taken from the photographic maps of the Alice Springs and Rodinga 1:250,000 map areas, which

were prepared by the Institut Francais du Petrole, Mission in Australia, and issued by the BMR (Scanvic, 1961). The stratigraphy of the Basin is shown in Appendix F.

The eastern part of the Missionary Plain Syncline is bounded in the north at Alice Springs by the MacDonnell Ranges and in the south at Deep Well by the Rodinga Block. Heavitree Quartzite, Bitter Springs Formation, and Pertatataka Formation, all of Upper Proterozoic age, and the Cambrian Pertaoorrtta Group, which is exposed in the MacDonnell Ranges, appear to dip steeply southwards under more recent sediments, which are exposed on the Missionary Plain. Recent gravity evidence suggests, however, that the structure of the northern margin of the Basin is not so simple as that which is envisaged from a study of the surface geology (Langron, 1962 a). Sandstones and conglomerates of the Pertnjara Formation, of Devonian to Carboniferous age, are exposed on a large part of the Plain. These are covered in some areas by alluvium, sand, and sand dunes of Quaternary age. At Deep Well, Cambrian-Ordovician sediments of the Larapinta and Pertaoorrtta Groups and the Mereenie Sandstone (?Silurian to Ordovician), which crop out in the James Ranges, dip northwards under the Pertnjara Formation sediments, which are exposed on the Plain to the north of the James Ranges.

The Ooraminna Anticline rises above the Missionary Plain and lies about midway between the Macdonnell and James Ranges. The rocks exposed on the Anticline range in age from the Cambrian Arumbera Sandstone exposed at the culmination of the Anticline, to the Cambrian Jay Creek Limestone, exposed on the flanks. Substantial thicknesses of the Upper Proterozoic Pertatataka, Areyonga, and Bitter Springs Formations were considered to be present below the Arumbera Sandstone. From considerations of salt-controlled structures that resulted from studies of the Goyder Pass diapiric structure, doubts arose as to the existence of the Ooraminna Anticline at depth in the Proterozoic formations. It was suggested that the Anticline could have a salt core and could even possibly be diapiric. It was alternately postulated as having a basement core. The time periods of the anticlinal growth and the relative altitude between the younger and older sediments are questions that have been raised regarding the Ooraminna Anticline on consideration of the first postulate.

No deep stratigraphic bores had been drilled in the north-eastern part of the Amadeus Basin until the recent Ooraminna No. 1 (Exoil N.L., 1962), and Alice No. 1 (Exoil N.L., 1963) bores, the results of which are summarised in Appendix D. Knowledge of the thickness of sediments and structure in the sediments under the Pertnjara Formation in the Basin, at the time of the seismic survey, was confined to that known from outcrop thickness measurements at the margins of the Basin and that shown by the previous seismic survey in 1961.

The principle tectonic episode in the Basin is post-Ordovician and pre-Pertnjara. It resulted in the formation of anticlinal structures, with elongated axes roughly parallel to the east-west axis of the MacDonnell Ranges at the northern margin of the Basin. The dips on these anticlinal structures are generally less than 45° although, locally, some steeper dips have been measured. Unconformities are known to exist in the sequence, but little is known of their extent and nature in the eastern part of the Amadeus Basin. In this area the attitudes of the formations that underlie the unconformity known to exist at the base of the Pertnjara Formation are not evident.

The petroleum prospects of the Amadeus Basin, in general, are discussed by Ranneft (1963), and his estimates of the potentials of the various formations in the sedimentary sequence are summarised in Appendix F.

3. PREVIOUS GEOPHYSICAL SURVEYS

Gravity

Gravity readings were taken at intervals along the railway line between Alice Springs and Deep Well by Sydney University geophysicists on a traverse that extended from Tennant Creek to Oodnadatta (Marshall & Narain, 1954). The station interval on this reconnaissance traverse was large (approximately 20 miles); thus the gravity results indicated only regional trends.

The BMR has conducted several reconnaissance gravity surveys in the Amadeus Basin between 1957 and 1962. The most recent of these were made in 1961 and 1962, using helicopters for transport (Langron, 1962 a; Lonsdale & Flavelle, 1963). The results of these helicopter gravity surveys have been integrated with those of previous ground surveys in the preparation of the Bouguer anomaly map shown in Plate 4. In the eastern part of the Basin, detailed gravity measurements were taken along the seismic traverses surveyed by the BMR in 1961 (Langron, 1962 b) and 1962 (Neumann, in preparation) and along existing roads around and over the Ooraminna Anticline in 1961 by Magellan Petroleum (NT) Pty Ltd (1961). Bouguer anomalies, derived by Neumann (in preparation) from compilation of all existing gravity data in the Ooraminna area, are included in Plate 2.

The helicopter gravity survey indicated general regional gravity trends in the Deep Well - Alice Springs area: namely, a general northerly gradient from Deep Well, a gravity 'low' just south of Alice Springs, and a steep southerly gradient north of Alice Springs. The fact that the main gravity gradient is to the north of the northern margin adds weight to a theory that the northern margin is a major overthrust. The station density of one reading per 50 square miles was intended only for investigation of the major structure of the Basin. Gravity results along the seismic traverses at Ooraminna together with those from the helicopter survey between Deep Well and Alice Springs are shown in profile form in Plate 5.

Langron (1962b) had postulated that a positive anomaly could be present at Polhill, but that the gravity expression of the Ooraminna Anticline was largely obscured by the large regional gravity gradient. He observed two residual gravity 'highs' on the steep regional gradient along seismic Traverse G, where the strike of the outcrops on the plunging 'nose' swung parallel to the traverse. This suggested that there could be two axes on the western extension of the Anticline. Neumann (in preparation) shows that features similar to those found in the gravity profiles along Traverse G are also found along Traverses GY and N. Gravity features associated with the Anticline have generally high Bouguer anomalies, but there are particular areas on the crest with associated negative anomalies. A negative anomaly on the culmination of the Ooraminna Anticline suggested that a core of low density material could be present. This postulate was confirmed when salt was found in the Ooraminna No. 1 well in the Bitter Springs Limestone.

Seismic

The BMR has made four seismic surveys within the northern part of the Amadeus Basin. Two of these surveys, at Palm Valley-Hermannsburg (Turpie & Moss, 1963) and at Gosses Bluff (Moss, 1964), were made in the western part of the Basin. In 1961, a seismic refraction survey was made in the Alice Springs Farm Area (Moss, 1963), where refractors, thought to represent the surface for deposition of Mesozoic sediments, were located at a depth of about 1000 to 1500 feet. Also in 1961, seismic reflection and refraction traverses were shot along the railway line to the south of Alice Springs at intervals as far as Finke (Moss, 1962). During this survey, the following traverses were recorded in the area between Deep Well and Alice Springs:

- (a) At Deep Well - $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles of continuous correlation reflection profiling and a refraction depth probe.
- (b) At Polhill - $9\frac{1}{4}$ miles of continuous correlation reflection profiling and a refraction depth probe.

Reflection traversing at Deep Well showed the existence of approximately 15,000 feet of sediments dipping northwards at about 8° . Owing to structural complexity immediately to the south of Deep Well in the Rodinga Block, it was impossible to extrapolate reflecting horizons to the surface and so positively identify them with outcropping formations. Tentative identification was made, however, of a reflector considered to be in the Lower Jay Creek Limestone on the basis of the stratigraphic position of the formations at the surface and of thicknesses previously measured at Mount Peachy 10 miles to the west of the Deep Well traverse.

At Polhill, reflection results showed that the axis of the Ooramina Anticline was under Shot-point 118. South of this axis, the reflections showed strong southerly dip. Relatively low-dip reflections were recorded below the steeply dipping reflections at times greater than 2 seconds (approximately 16,000 feet), but no interpretation of these low dip reflections was made because of the limited available information. Furthermore, a gap of 10 miles between the Deep Well and Polhill traverses did not permit correlation of the reflections between the two cross-sections to be carried out with any certainty. The reflection quality deteriorated to the north of Shot-point 118, where only poor reflections were recorded from shallow depth. This portion of the traverse followed the strike of the outcrops as they swung north around the plunging nose of the Anticline.

Refraction depth probes at Deep Well and Polhill gave the following information on refractors :

<u>Location</u>	<u>Refractor velocity</u> (ft/s)	<u>Approx. depth</u> (feet)	<u>dip</u>
Deep Well, SP 219	11,900	800	8° N
	19,500	2700	8° N
Polhill, SP 118	11,900	700	3° N
	19,750	2700	1° S

The high velocity refractor was tentatively identified as being in the Lower Jay Creek Limestone sequence. The application of the refraction method for investigation of deeper formations was found to be unsuitable in this area, where the shallow refractors have such high velocities.

4. OBJECTIVES AND PROGRAMME

Objectives of the survey

The objectives of the seismic survey in the Ooramina area were outlined as follows:

- (a) To determine the structure of the northern part of the Amadeus Basin between Deep Well and Alice Springs and attempt to relate reflectors in the section with outcrops of the MacDonnell Ranges.

- (b) To define the Ooraminna Anticline in its underlying formations and attempt to relate reflectors with outcrops near the culmination of the Anticline.
- (c) To measure the velocities of refractors in the Proterozoic sediments near the culmination of the Anticline.

Programme

To achieve the objectives, a programme of seismic reflection and refraction work was carried out. The traverses surveyed are shown in Plate 2.

Deep Well to Alice Springs. Continuous reflection profiling was carried out between Shot-point 209 of the 1961 Deep Well traverse and Shot-point 129 of the 1961 Polhill traverse and also northwards from a shot-point $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles north of Shot-point 93 of the 1961 Polhill traverse to about 6 miles south of Alice Springs. This complete line has been designated Traverse G.

Ooraminna Anticline. A reflection traverse was surveyed east from Traverse G and north to the outcrops near the culmination of the Anticline. This line, designated Traverse GY, was continued across the culmination of the Anticline to the northwest, and down the northern flank. This continuation was designated Traverse N. A short traverse connecting Traverses GY and N was designated Traverse NX.

A refraction depth probe was recorded along Traverse NW on the Arumbera Sandstone outcrops, at the crest of the Anticline, in an attempt to seek refractors below this formation.

5. RESULTS AND INTERPRETATION

Field work

Appendices A, B, and C and the seismic survey operations chart (Plate 20) summarise the statistical information on the work done in the survey. The location of traverses and shot-points are shown in Plate 2.

The Deep Well to Alice Springs traverse, Traverse G, surveyed to link the 1961 Deep Well and Polhill traverses and to extend the 1961 Polhill traverse northwards towards Alice Springs, followed the railway line. Ease of access facilitated field operations. Generally, single deep holes were shot and reflections were recorded using six geophones per station at 22-ft intervals; geophone stations were 110 feet apart. Cross-traverse GX was surveyed at Shot-point 111 on Traverse G.

An expanded-spread velocity profile, centred on Shot-point 138 on Traverse G was shot with layout as shown in Plate 6. The recording conditions were good, with uniform elevation and weathering and reflectors having little or no dip.

Traverse GY was surveyed through heavy scrub and sand dunes, which presented access and drilling problems. Traverse N was surveyed along the Ulta Creek valley. It crossed the culmination of the Ooraminna Anticline and extended across the alluvium plain to the north of the Anticline. Drilling was extremely difficult in the gravels along the Creek; problems were mainly those due to loss of circulation. Gaps were left in the traverse where drilling was very difficult.

In the plain to the north of the Anticline, the alluvium cover apparently reaches a substantial thickness; there was a 200-ft to 400-ft thick low-velocity weathered layer. Only questionable reflections were obtained using the standard technique adopted for the survey and multiple-hole and geophone patterns were used at selected locations in

attempts to improve the reflection quality. However, no detailed experimentation was done to obtain the best shooting and recording conditions because of the limited time available for completion of the survey.

General

Small-scale cross-sections of seismic results for Traverse G and GY are shown in Plate 5. Reflection cross-sections for these traverses are shown in Plates 7 and 8 respectively. On these cross-sections, only the first legs of the main reflection events are plotted from the corrected variable-area reflection cross-sections, which are presented in Plates 9, 10, 11, and 13. Corrected variable-area reflection cross-sections for Traverses GX, NX, and N are shown in Plates 12, 14, 15, and 16. Corrected variable-area reflection cross-sections for the 1961 Deep Well and Polhill work are shown in Plates 9 and 11 and the results are included, for the sake of completeness, in the hand-plotted reflection cross-section shown in Plate 7 and in the small-scale cross-section shown in Plate 5.

The velocity profile records from the expanded spread at Shot-point 138 on Traverse G are shown in Plate 17 and the results of the vertical velocity determination in Plate 6. The average velocity down to a depth of 14,400 feet (approximately) is calculated as 16,400 ft/s. Poor reflections were recorded from below this depth, but they yielded insufficient information for velocity determination. However, by extrapolating the curves, an average velocity of 17,400 ft/s to a depth of 22,000 feet was estimated. The reflection time-depth scales on the corrected variable-area sections were extrapolated beyond 22,000 feet by assuming a uniform interval velocity of 20,300 ft/s in the section below 22,000 feet.

Individual traverses

Traverse G (SP 208-SP 130). Corrected variable-area cross-sections are shown in Plates 10 and 11 and a plotted section in Plate 7. This is the link between the 1961 work at Deep Well and Polhill. Excellent reflections with good continuous correlation were recorded.

There is no seismic evidence in this cross-section of strong tectonic deformation, but a very broad and gentle anticlinal reversal, here named the 'South Ooramina Reversal' is evident with its crest at about Shot-point 196. A zone of thickening is evident between reflectors at about 1.3 to 1.4 seconds in the cross-section from Shot-points 206 to 192; pinchouts are evident at a reflection time of about 1.35 seconds below these two shot-points.

Reflectors recorded at times less than 2 seconds rise to the north from Shot-point 134 to form the southern flank of the Ooramina Anticline; reflectors at times greater than 2 seconds have little or no dip in this section.

Many poor-to-questionable reflections appear in the section below 2.5 seconds reflection time. These events are considered likely to be reflections from features to the side of the traverse, multiple reflections, or reflections from within the Archaean basement complex. No structural significance is currently attached to these events.

Traverse C (SP 86-SP 47). A corrected variable-area cross-section is shown in Plate 11 and a plotted cross-section in Plate 7. This is the link between the 1961 work at Polhill and the steep-dipping northern marginal area of the Basin.

It will be recalled that the results at Polhill, after crossing the axial line of the Ooramina Anticline and before moving clearly off the crestal area on to the northern flank (Shot-points 119 to 94), were very poor with many 'no-reflection' records. However, from Shot-point 86 for the 1962 work up to Shot-point 47, fair reflections were generally obtained and continuous correlation of most reflectors was observed over long portions of the traverse. Poor reflection areas were mainly associated with difficult near-surface conditions. Tentative correlation of reflections across the poor reflection zones have been made in plotting the cross-section in Plate 7.

Near Shot-points 86 to 80, reflections show steep north dip and are fairly conformable down to about 1.6 seconds reflection time. Deeper reflection events at about 2.0 seconds with low dip to the south are present under these steeply dipping events. A synclinal axis is evident under Shot-points 71 and 70. Probable diffractions can be seen on the variable-area cross-sections below this point, suggesting that minor faulting has occurred and affected the deeper reflectors. From Shot-point 64 northwards the reflectors show slight south dip to the Alice Springs area.

Poor reflections similar to those recorded south of the Ooramina Anticline were recorded on this traverse with reflection times greater than 2.5 seconds. As before, no structural significance is currently attached to these events.

Traverse G (SP 32 - SP 17). No corrected variable area cross-section is available for this portion of the traverse, where the seismic reflection techniques tried gave no recorded reflections. The formations under the thick alluvium cover are known, from shallow stratigraphic bores, to dip steeply to the south.

The theory of the northern margin being a major overthrust, postulated from gravity evidence, could account for the inability to follow reflections towards the steep dipping near-surface and outcropping formations.

Traverse GX (SP 111EW and SP 4 - SP 1). A corrected variable-area cross-section is shown in Plate 12. This traverse was planned to measure plunge on the Ooramina Anticline. Results were poor in the area on Traverse G near Shot-point 111 and were also poor on this cross-traverse. Reflections recorded at times of up to 1 second qualitatively indicated approximately 10 degrees of west dip at this point thus tending to confirm west plunge of the Anticline.

Traverse GY (SP 143EW and SP 1 - SP 63). A corrected variable-area cross-section is shown in Plate 13, and a plotted section in Plate 8. This traverse was planned to link Traverse G with Traverse N, which crossed the culmination of the Ooramina Anticline. Reflection quality at the western end of the traverse was fairly good but deteriorated towards the north-east. Poor quality records were obtained when shooting in sand dunes and when close to the Ooramina Anticline outcrops; both factors probably contribute to the deterioration.

The reflectors generally show west to south-west dip. From the take-off point on Traverse G, the results indicate thinning in the section towards the east to a depth of approximately 10,000 feet at Shot-point 143 EW and 8000 feet at Shot-point 18. Reflectors deeper than 10,000 feet are fairly flat over this section. From Shot-point 18 to Shot-point 38, there is north-east thinning of the entire section. The traverse swings to the north from Shot-point 38 and the reflectors generally show steeper south dip to Shot-point 51. Between Shot-points 51 and 53, the reflectors are almost flat, but no usable information was obtained north of Shot-point 53.

Traverse NX (SP 4 - SP 1). A corrected variable-area cross-section is shown in Plate 14. This cross-traverse was shot in an attempt to link the information from Traverses GY and N. However, with the techniques used, it falls within an area demonstrated by all three traverses as a 'no-reflection' area. The traverse has yielded no useful information.

Traverse N (SP 8 - SP 81). A corrected variable-area cross-section for SP 27 - SP 24 is shown in Plate 15 and for SP 34 - SP 32 in Plate 16. This traverse was planned to show the structural turn-over and the northern flank of the Ooramina Anticline. The results were universally poor and neither objective was achieved. North of the surface crest of the Anticline, the questionable reflections that were recorded indicated, somewhat qualitatively, north dip to approximately Shot-point 76.

An effort was made to record reflections at Shot-point 76 using larger patterns of holes and geophones: 9 holes, depth 54 feet, in a diamond pattern with 22 feet between holes, and 18 geophones per trace laid in three lines 22 feet apart, with 6 geophones 22 feet apart in each line. Fair to poor quality reflections were recorded. These showed (in so far as a single record may show) slight north component of dip down to 2 seconds reflection time and slight south component of dip below 2 seconds. At Shot-point 77, a single deep hole was shot at a depth of 220 feet: 6 geophones per trace, 22 feet apart in line, were used. The quality of the results was comparable to the results of the 9-hole pattern at Shot-point 76, but the reflections indicated south dip throughout the record. Uncorrected records for Shot-points 76P and 77 are shown in Plate 18. Experimental shots at Shot-points 67 to 70, using patterns of holes and geophones comparable to those used at Shot-points 76P and 77, gave no improvement. This suggested that no single technique would give consistently good results in this area.

Traverse NW refraction traverse (Plate 19). Results obtained on recording with a maximum shot-point to geophone distance of $1\frac{3}{4}$ miles indicated that the refraction velocity in the Arumbera Sandstone was approximately 17,600 ft/s. The limitations on further refraction work, owing to general access problems and also to the location of the high velocity Lower Jay Creek Limestone outcrops, rendered attempts at penetration to deeper formation impractical.

Interpretation

The following features noted on Traverse G are illustrated in Plate 5.

- A. Steeply dipping events that rise to form the northern flank of the James Ranges are observed in the cross-section at Deep Well. These events overlie a zone of thickening indicated by (3). The presence of reflections with little or no dip below this zone of thickening suggests that the uplift resulted from the movement of plastic material within the sedimentary section, and not from a deep-seated crustal movement. The Bitter Springs Formation has not been positively identified as the mobile bed, although this interpretation appears to be the most probable. Movement of plastic material in the shallower formations (resulting from compression of these formations) about an axis under Shot-point 207, during the initial upheaval at Deep Well, could account for the zones of thickening indicated by (1) and (2).
- B. The 'South Ooramina Reversal' is a very broad anticlinal feature with its crest at about Shot-point 196 on Traverse G. The reversal is evident to a depth of about 10,500 feet. A zone of thickening marked (4), evident at this depth, has probably resulted from movement of the same mobile bed that has caused the thickening marked (1).

- C. The syncline between the Ooraminna Anticline and the 'South Ooraminna Reversal' is well defined to an approximate depth of 16,000 feet.
- D. On the western plunge of the Ooraminna Anticline, where the traverse crosses the surface axis, the formations appear to be fairly conformable to a depth of 11,000 feet. The axis at depth corresponds to the position indicated on the surface. The steeply dipping events, which rise to form the southern flank of the Anticline, overlie a zone of thickening marked (5). The presence of low-dipping reflection events below this zone supports the hypothesis that the Anticline resulted from the movement of a plastic material within the sedimentary cross-section and that the basement continued relatively undisturbed below the Anticline as at Deep Well. The Bitter Springs Formation has not been positively identified as the mobile bed although this interpretation appears to be the most probable.
- E. Reflection information to the north of the surface axis was very poor where the traverse ran along the strike of the outcrops, where the outcrops strike north-south on the broad plunging 'nose' of the Anticline.
- F. The syncline north of the Ooraminna Anticline is well defined between Shot-point 86 and Shot-point 66 to a depth of approximately 20,000 feet. There appears to be general thickening on the northern flank of the syncline.

A zone of thickening marked (6) is observed under the steeply dipping events that rise to form the northern flank of the Anticline. Low-dipping reflection events are present below this zone of thickening. The situation is similar to that observed on the southern flank of the Anticline.

- G. No correlatable reflections were recorded at the northern end of this traverse where low velocity alluvium covers the area.

Also included in Plate 5 are features noted on Traverse GY:

- H. The cross-section generally indicates south to south-east dipping formations. Local thickening is observed in some shallower beds and thickening marked (7), similar to that noted on Traverse G at Deep Well and also to the north and south of the Ooraminna Anticline, is observed at the north-western end of this traverse near the Ooraminna Anticline.

6. CONCLUSIONS

The seismic reflection method gave excellent results using simple shooting and recording techniques in a large portion of the area surveyed. Poor reflection areas were found in the vicinity of structures rising above the Missionary Plain and along Traverse N in the plain north of the outcropping Cambrian formations of the Ooraminna Anticline. Alluvium and sand cover, along Traverse N, is 200 to 400 feet thick and has a seismic velocity of 2000 to 5000 ft/s. The poor reflection results on Traverse N may be largely due to high absorption of seismic energy by this cover.

The reflection survey indicated that the Amadeus Basin deepens northwards from Deep Well to the vicinity of the Ooraminna Anticline. Seismic evidence suggests that the uplift at Deep Well and the Ooraminna Anticline are the results of movement of plastic material in the sedimentary cross-section and not the result of deep-seated crustal movement. Although not positively identified by seismic methods, the Bitter Springs Formation is considered as the most likely mobile bed. The Basin deepens again to the north of the Anticline to a maximum depth of approximately 20,000 feet before getting shallower towards the MacDonnell Ranges at Alice Springs.

The relation between the reflectors in the cross-section and the outcrops of the MacDonnell Ranges was not established.

The Ooramina Anticline was defined by the seismic reflector work along Traverse G, but attempts to identify reflectors on Traverses GY and N with outcrops near the culmination of the Anticline were unsuccessful. The outcropping Arumbera Sandstone was found to have a refraction velocity of 17,600 ft/s at the crest of the Anticline, but measurement of the velocities of refractors in the underlying sediments was unsuccessful.

7. REFERENCES

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APPENDIX AStaff and equipmentStaff

Party leader	F. J. Moss
Geophysicists	K. F. Fowler (18th - 27th August 1962) G. Bow
Surveyors	T. Howard) R. Leetham) Department of Interior
Clerk	E. J. Quinn
Observers	G. L. Abbs & J. K. Grace
Shooter	C. Wood
Toolpusher	J. G. Halls
Drillers	J. Chandler K. Suehle
Mechanics	I. D. Pirie E. McIntosh
Field hands	11

Equipment

Seismic amplifiers	HTL 7000B
Seismic oscillograph	Electro Tech ER66
Magnetic recorder	Electro Tech DS7
Geophones	Electro Tech 20c/s (reflection) TIC 6c/s (refraction)
Drills	2 Carey Type H1 (Bedford) 1 Failing 750 (Bedford) Drills supplied by the Petroleum Technology Branch of the BMR.
Water tankers	3 Bedford 700 gallons 1 Bedford 1000 gallons (flat top)
Shooting truck	Bedford 700 gallons.

A workshop truck, 5 landrovers, a 30-cwt utility truck, a number of trailers, and camping equipment completed the party equipment.

APPENDIX BTable of operations

Sedimentary basin	:	Amadeus Basin, N.T.
Area	:	Alice Springs to Deep Well and Ooramina Anticline
Camp sites	:	Polhill
Survey commenced	:	6th July 1962
Survey completed	:	29th August 1962
Miles surveyed	:	68 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles
Topographic survey control	:	MSL Port Augusta railway levels
Total footage drilled	:	22,380 ft
Explosives used	:	8946 lb
No. of detonators used	:	371
Datum levels for corrections (above sea level)	:	Deep Well : 1500 ft; Polhill : 1700 ft
Source of velocity distribution	:	Velocity profile

Reflection shooting data

Shot-point intervals	:	1320 ft
Geophone group (normal)	:	6 geophones per trace at 22-ft intervals
No. of holes shot	:	247 (including six 9-hole patterns)
Miles traversed	:	57 miles
Usual recording filter	:	K18K75
Usual playback filter	:	K24K57
Common charge sizes	:	30 lbs to 40 lbs

Refraction shooting data

Geophone group	:	2 per trace
Geophone group interval	:	220 ft
No. of holes shot	:	5
Usual recording filters	:	KOK57
Weathering control	:	First breaks

NOTE : For additional information refer to Plate 20.

APPENDIX CSeismic shot-hole drilling statisticsSeismic Party No. 2, Period 5th July - 27th August 1962

Total footage drilled	22,380 ft
Total number of holes drilled	335
Average depth of holes	67 ft
Deepest hole drilled	220 ft
Travelling time and rigging up	158 $\frac{3}{4}$ hr
Time lost waiting on water	9 $\frac{3}{4}$ hr
Time lost repairs to drill	46 $\frac{1}{4}$ hr
Time lost because of rain	7 $\frac{3}{4}$ hr
Time lost repairs to rig engine	5 hr
Time lost waiting on surveyors	1 $\frac{1}{4}$ hr
Drilling time	418 $\frac{1}{2}$ hr
No. of shifts worked	76
Maintenance to drill	60 $\frac{1}{2}$ hr
Bentonite used	20 $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt
Drilling rate	53 ft/hr

<u>Driller</u>	<u>Footage</u>	<u>No. of shifts</u>	<u>Footage/shift</u>
J. Chandler	11,496 ft	36	319 ft
K. Suehle	10884 ft	40	272 ft

APPENDIX DResults of test wells, Ooraminna No. 1 and Alice No. 1

Two stratigraphic bores have been drilled in the Ooraminna area by Exoil N.L. (1962 & 1963) under a farmout agreement with Magellan Petroleum (NT) Pty Ltd since completion of the Ooraminna seismic survey.

Ooraminna No. 1. This well was drilled on the crest of the Ooraminna Anticline between Shot-points 29 and 30 on Traverse N of the Ooraminna seismic survey. Its location is : longitude $134^{\circ}09'50''\text{E}$, latitude $24^{\circ}00'00''\text{S}$.

The well, the first to be drilled in the Amadeus Basin in the search for petroleum, established the presence of hydrocarbons by a small flow of methane gas in a drill stem test in the Upper Proterozoic Areyonga Formation from a depth of about 3800 feet. The well also found salt in the Upper Proterozoic Bitter Springs Formation, in which it bottomed at 6107 feet.

Alice No. 1. This well was drilled in the basin north of the Ooraminna Anticline to test an anomaly defined by the gravity survey made by Magellan Petroleum (NT) Pty Ltd (1961). A seismic reflection survey made by Exoil N.L. postulated reef structure in the Jay Creek Limestone in the anomaly area. The well, at longitude $133^{\circ}58'00''\text{E}$, latitude $23^{\circ}54'47''\text{S}$, between Traverses G and N of the Ooraminna seismic survey was drilled to test this postulated reef.

The well encountered a small quantity of black asphaltic oil in dolomitic sand in the Upper Cambrian Goyder Formation at approximately 3500 feet. Oil bleeding cores were recovered from dolomite of the Jay Creek Limestone at about 6100 feet. The well bottomed in the Arumbera Sandstone at 7518 feet. This is the formation in which the Ooraminna No. 1 well was spudded.

APPENDIX ERecommendations for further seismic reflection work

The following problems left unanswered by the seismic survey warrant further investigation.

1. Closure has been established in the north-south direction on the 'South Ooraminna Reversal' to a depth of approximately 10,500 feet. The formations overlying the zone of thickening at this depth are probably post-Arumbera in age. Establishment of complete closure on this structure by further seismic work could provide a drilling target for testing the Palaeozoic sequence.

2. Simple recording techniques were unsuccessfully used in attempting to obtain reliable reflection information in the following areas :

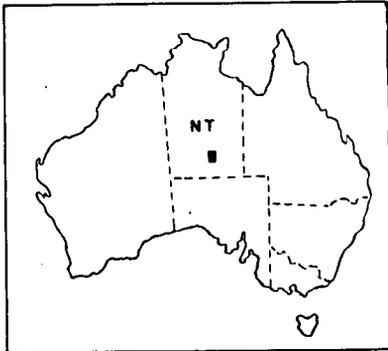
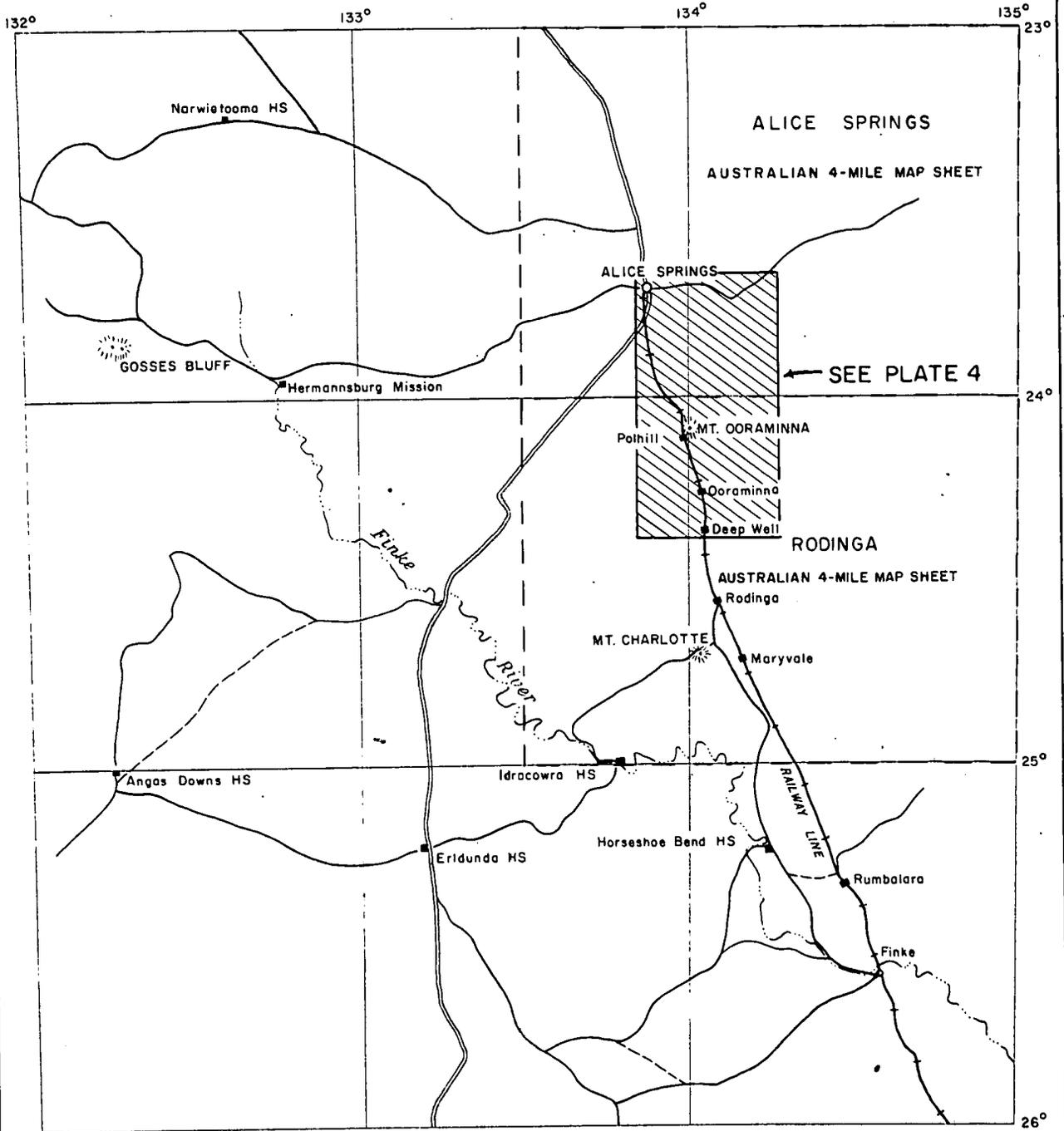
- (a) At the southern end of Traverse G near Deep Well.
- (b) North of the surface axis of the Ooraminna Anticline where Traverse G runs along the strike of the outcrops on the broad plunging nose of the Anticline.
- (c) At the northern end of Traverse G near Alice Springs.
- (d) On the crest of the Ooraminna Anticline on Traverse N.
- (e) In the Missionary Plain north of the culmination of the Ooraminna Anticline on Traverse N.

Experimental work, including the recording of noise profiles and the use of large patterns of shot-holes and geophones, in these poor reflection areas could lead to the establishing of techniques for recording fair quality reflections in these areas, where the structure of the Basin is not yet fully understood.

APPENDIX F

Stratigraphy and petroleum prospects of the Anadeus Basin

Age	Formation or Unit	Lithology	Maximum Thickness (ft)	Potential source rock	Potential reservoir rock	Potential cap rock	Aquifer	Residual Hydrocarbons	Glauconites	Evaporites abundant	Deposition
Quaternary to Upper Palaeozoic		Alluvium, evaporites, conglomerate, sandstone, siltstone.	530								
		UNCONFORMITY									
Devonian to Carboniferous	Pertnjara Formation	Conglomerate, sandstone sandy shale	20,000 ⁺ ?		X	X					CONTINENTAL
		UNCONFORMITY									
? Silurian to Ordovician	Mereenic Sandstone	Cross-bedded sandstone	3,200		X		X				
		UNCONFORMITY									
Cambrian to Ordovician	LARAFLINIA GROUP	Stokes Formation	Silty shale, limestone, sandstone; fossiliferous	2,000	X	X	X			X	MARINE
		Stairway Sandstone	Sandstone, silty quartz greywacke	1,800+		X		X			
		Horn Valley Siltstone	Siltstone, sandstone, shale, limestone; fossiliferous	1,400	X	X	X		X	X	
		Pacoota Sandstone	Sandstone, scolithid tubes	3,000		X		X		X	
Cambrian	PERTAORRITA GROUP	Goyder Formation	Sandstone, siltstone, shale, thin limestone at base	1,600		X		X		X	
		Jay Creek Limestone	Limestone, algal limestone, pelletoid limestone, shale, sandstone	3,000	X	X			X		
		Hugh River Shale	Shale, siltstone, sandstone, limestone, algal lenses	1,600	X			X			
		Arumbera Sandstone	Sandstone, conglomerate, silty quartz greywacke	2,300		X		X	X	X	
Upper Proterozoic	Pertatataka Formation	Silty shale, algal limestone, thin sandstone, dolomite	4,000	X	X	X		X			
	Arcyonga Formation	Sandstone, conglomerate, minor limestone, glacials	1,300 ⁺		X		X		X		
		UNCONFORMITY									
	Bitter Springs Formation	Limestone, algal limestone, silty shale, gypsum, dolomite salt	2,500 ⁺	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
		UNCONFORMITY									
	Heavitree Quartzite	Sandstone, silicified sandstone, silty shale	1,500		X						
Archaean	Arunta Complex	Metamorphic and igneous complex									



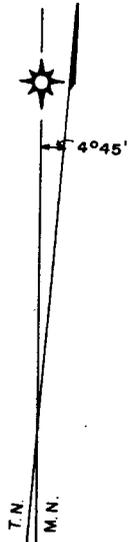
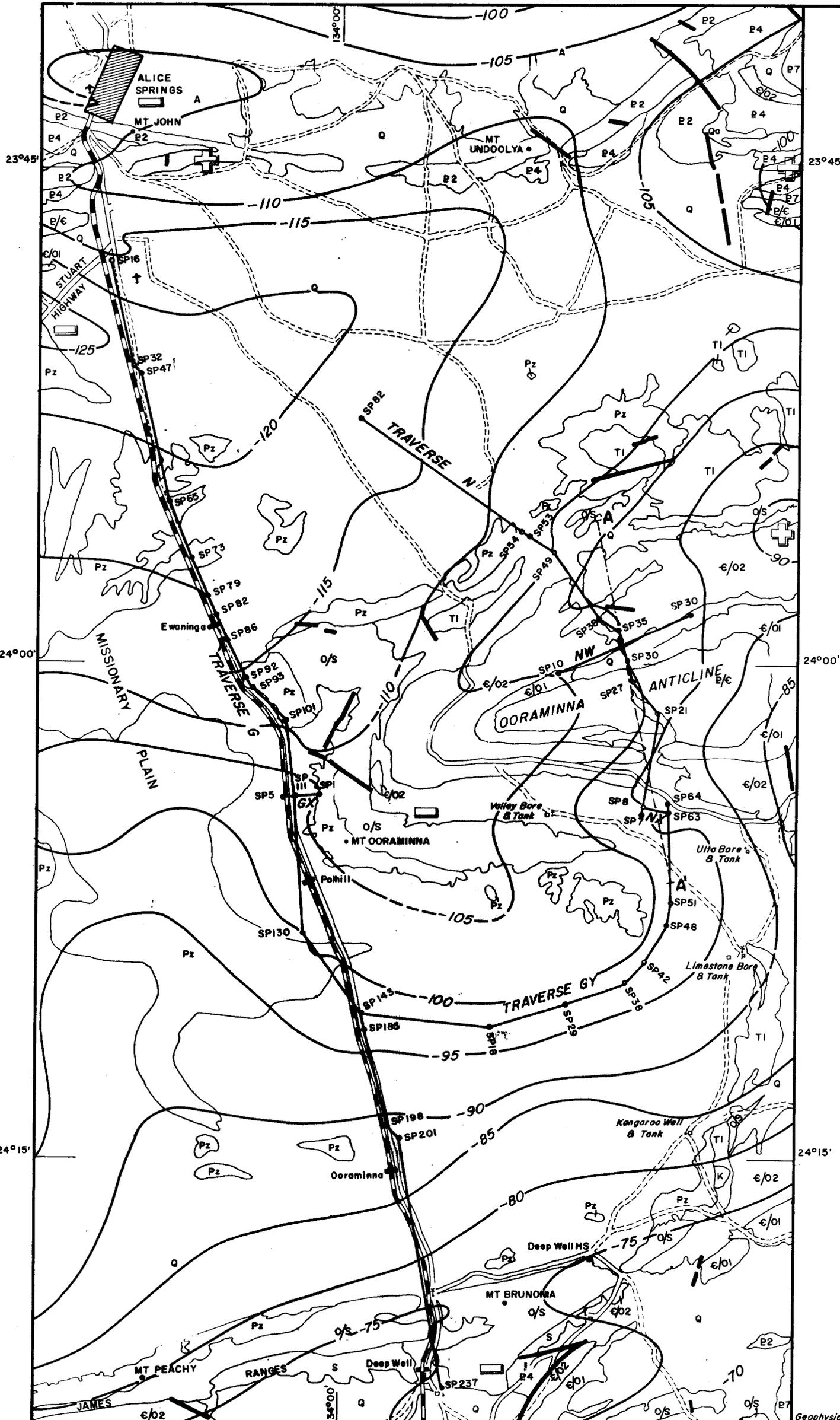
OORAMINNA AREA
SEISMIC SURVEY
AMADEUS BASIN NT 1962

LOCALITY MAP



F53/B3-64

OORAMINNA AREA NT 1962



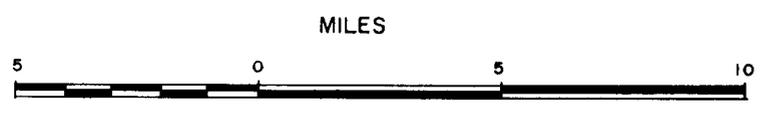
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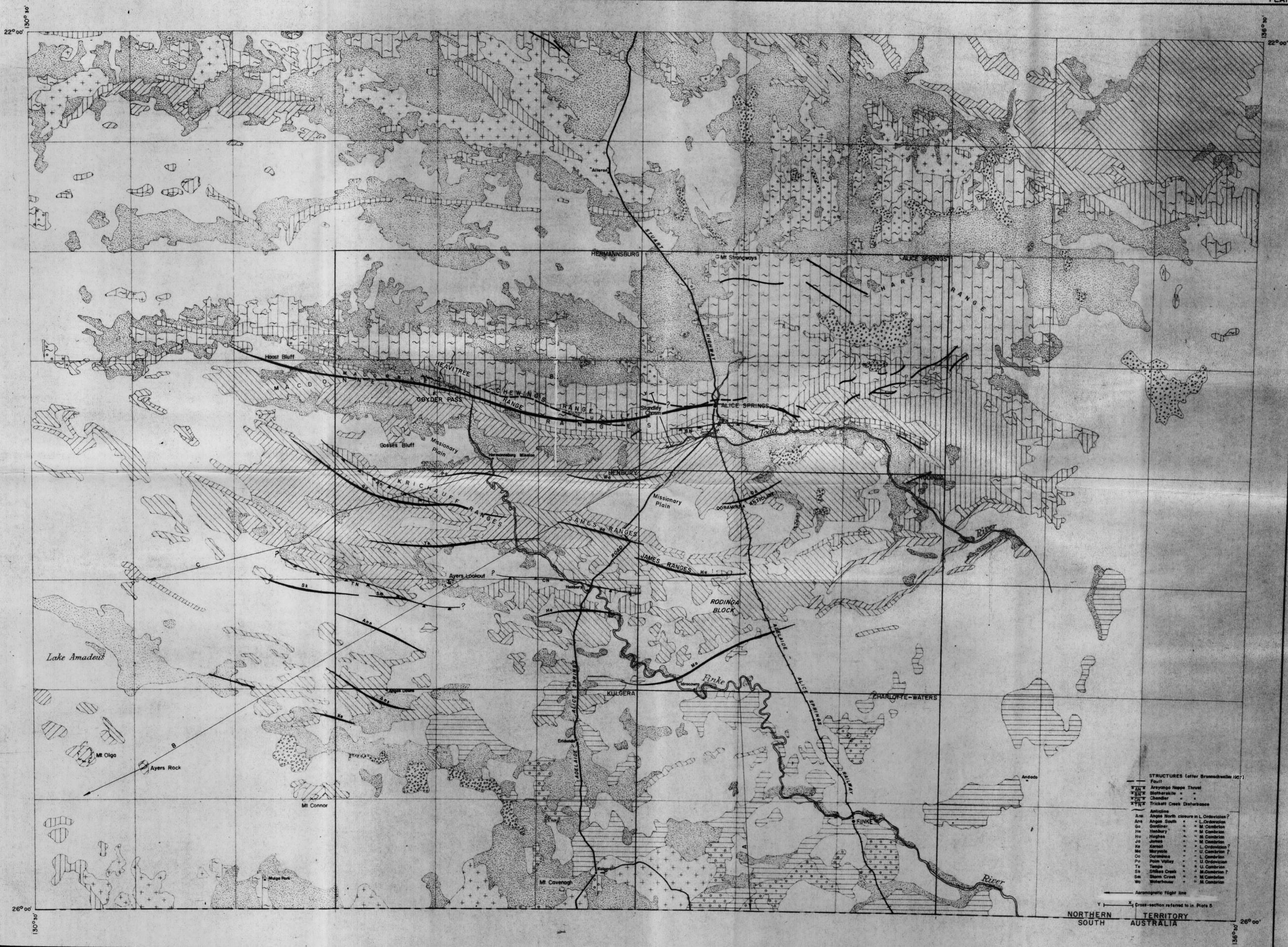
FORMATION	AGE
Qa	QUATERNARY
Q	QUATERNARY
T1	TERTIARY
K	CRETACEOUS
Pz	DEVONIAN - CARBONIFEROUS
O/S	? SILURIAN - ORDOVICIAN
E/O2	CAMBRIAN-ORDOVICIAN
E/O1	
P/E	CAMBRIAN
P7	UPPER PROTEROZOIC
P4	
P2	
A	ARCHAEAN

	Fault		Gravity Contour, based on BMR Maps G53/B2-2 and F53/B2-14
	Probable Fault		High Anomaly
	Road		Low Anomaly
	Vehicular Track		
	Railway Line		
	Traverse		
	Geological Cross-Section (See PLATE 5)		

GEOLOGY, BOUGUER ANOMALIES, AND SEISMIC TRAVERSES

Geology after Institute Francais du Petrole (Scanvic, 1961)

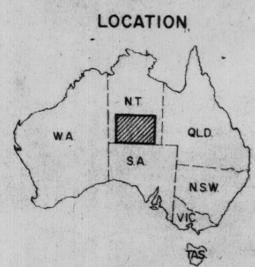




STRUCTURES (after Bradshaw, 1957)

—	Fault
—	Arnyanga Nappe Thrust
—	Blithersville
—	Chandler
—	Trickett Creek Disturbance
—	Anticline
Ans	Angus North closure in L. Ordovician?
Ans	Angus South " " L. Ordovician?
Go	Gardiner " " M. Cambrian
He	Hartley " " M. Cambrian
Hu	Hughes " " M. Cambrian
Jo	James " " M. Cambrian
Ke	Kermad " " L. Ordovician?
Ma	Marysville " " U. Cambrian?
Co	Coromandel " " U. Cambrian
Pa	Point Valley " " U. Cambrian
Te	Tempe " " U. Cambrian
St	Stirling Creek " " M. Cambrian?
St	Stuart Creek " " M. Cambrian
Wa	Waterhouse " " M. Cambrian

NORTHERN TERRITORY SOUTH AUSTRALIA



MAP DATA

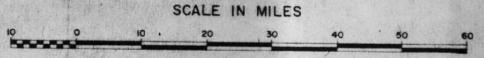
PROJECTION: LAMBERT CONFORMAL CONIC STANDARD PARALLELS 24°40' AND 27°20'

CONTROL: ASTRONOMICAL FIXATIONS BY THE DIVISION OF NATIONAL MAPPING

DETAIL: BASE MAP FROM 1:100,000 I.C.A.G. AERONAUTICAL CHARTS, (3231) LAKE MACKAY, (3232) ALICE SPRINGS, (3343) OODNADATTA (2ND EDITION) AND (3344) PETERMANN RANGES. GEOLOGY FROM DRAFT COPY BY BMR GEOLOGICAL BRANCH AT 12 MILES TO 1 INCH APPROXIMATE SCALE. PLANIMETRY FROM 1:1,000,000 I.C.A.G. CHARTS.

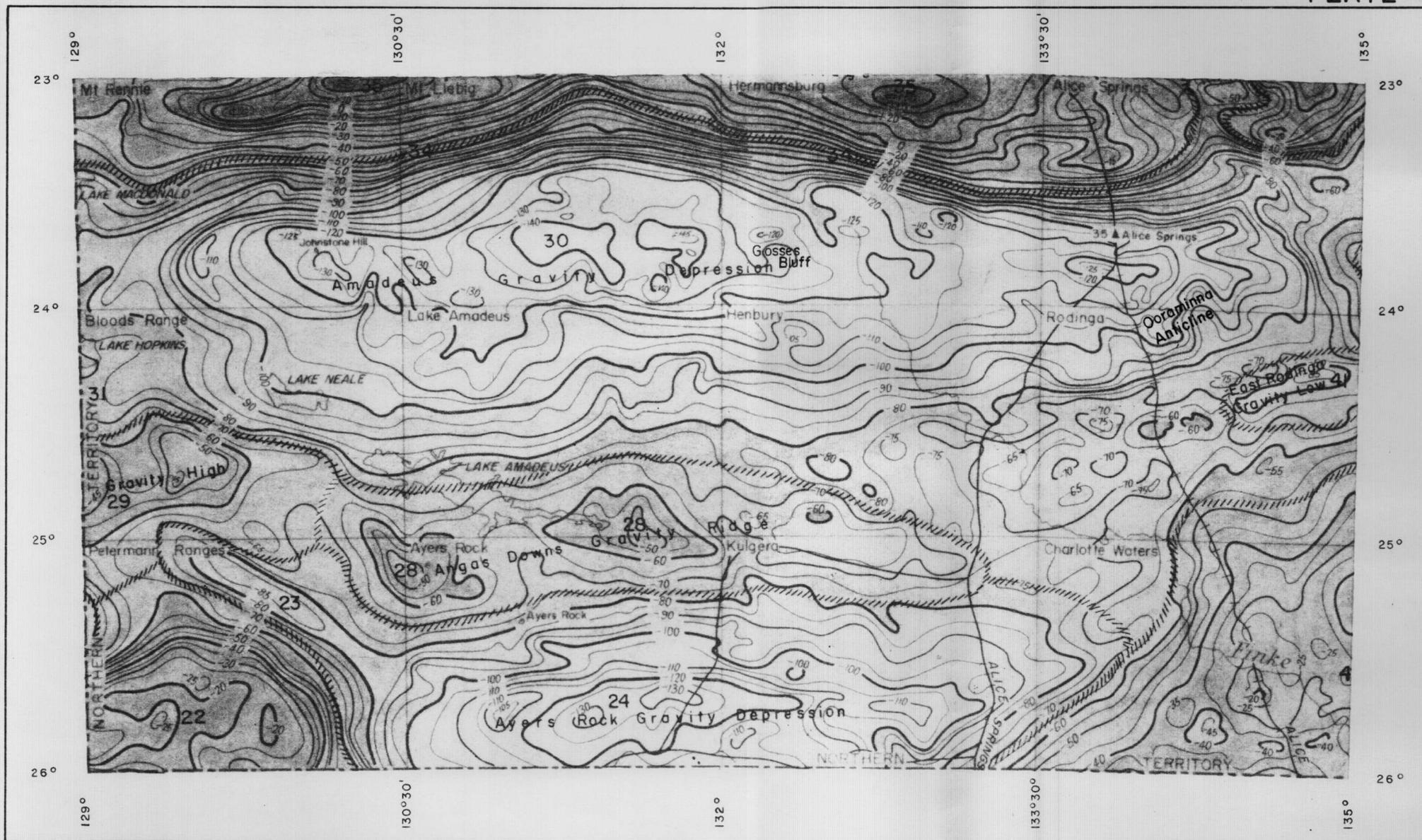
RELIABILITY: PLANIMETRIC - SKETCH
GEOLOGICAL - REGIONAL GEOLOGY

AMADEUS BASIN, NT.
REGIONAL GEOLOGY
Geology after Quinlan (1962)



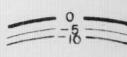
LEGEND

<p>RECENT AND PLEISTOCENE</p> <p>TERTIARY</p> <p>MESOZOIC AND PERMIAN</p>	<p>Deep weathering profile (laterite) Superimposed on formations concerned.</p> <p>Aeolian sands.</p> <p>Alluvium, wash, red earth soil, concrete evaporites, clays, terrace gravels.</p> <p>Chalcedony, calcareous silt, gypsaceous clays.</p> <p>Undifferentiated sandstones, siltstones, claystones, also silty sandstones, boulder bed, arkose and conglomerate of Finke Series.</p>	<p>UPPER PALAEOZOIC</p> <p>ORDOVICIAN AND CAMBRIAN</p> <p>PROTEROZOIC</p> <p>UNDIFFERENTIATED PRECAMBRIAN</p>	<p>Sandstones, conglomerates, shales, Permian Series, Marysville and Dulcie Sandstones.</p> <p>Sandstone, limestone, dolomite, shale, quartz, greywacke, includes members of Puritana and Laysan (G1022 and the Sandstone Beds).</p> <p>Sandstone, quartzite, shale, limestone, conglomerate, boulder beds.</p> <p>Gneiss, schist, amphibolite, granite, granodiorite, basic intrusives, pegmatites, dolerite, Arunta Complex.</p> <p>Granite.</p>
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BASED ON G69-475-2

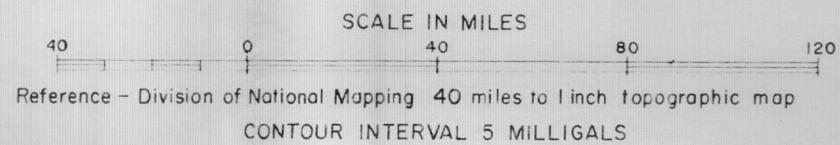
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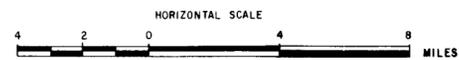
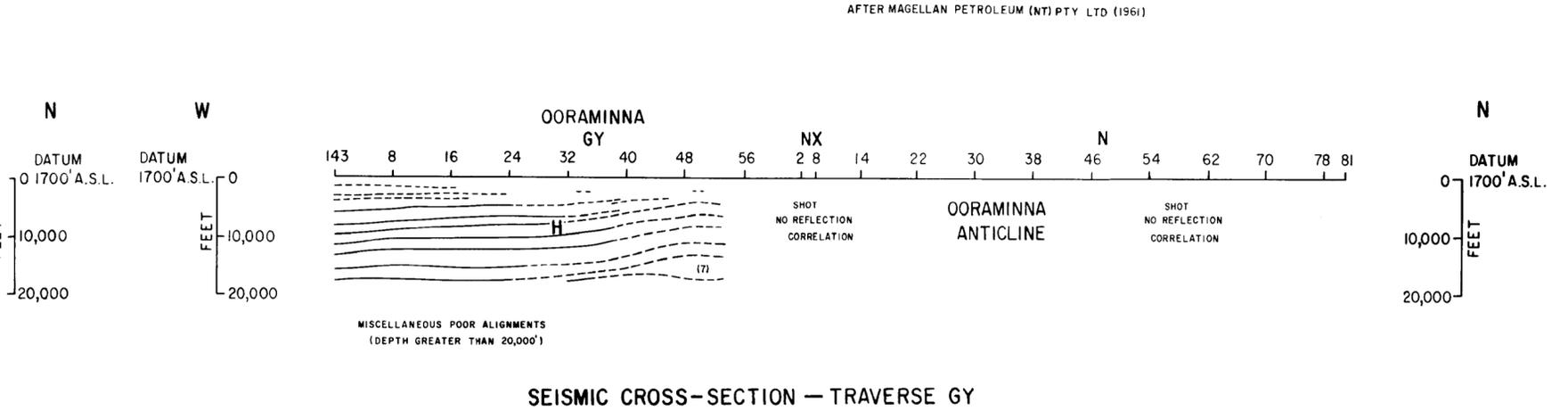
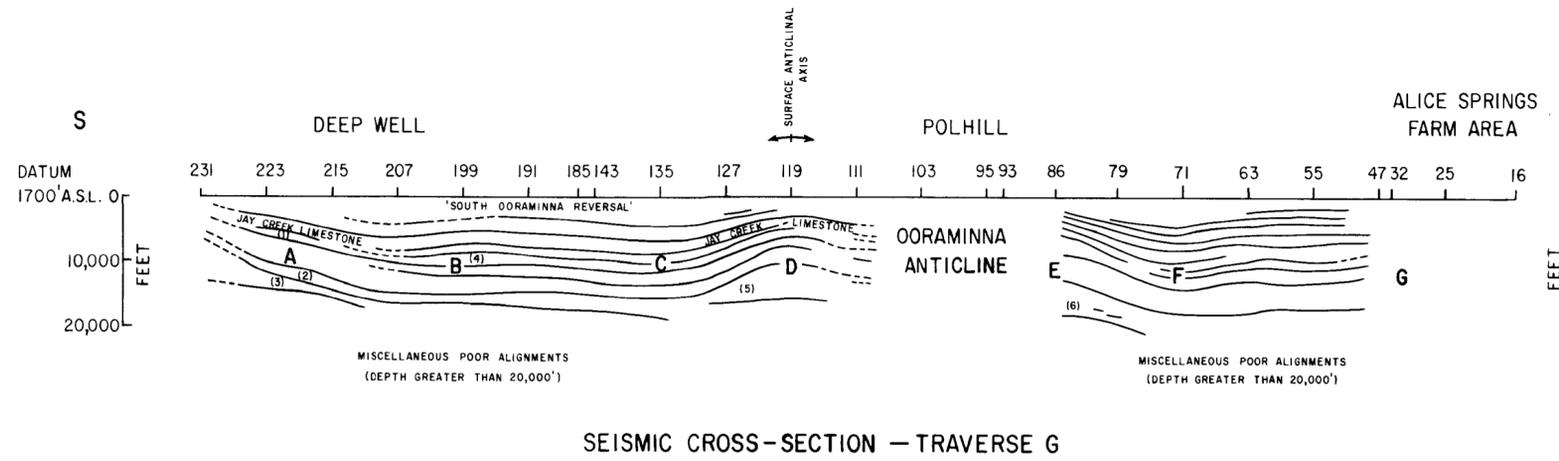
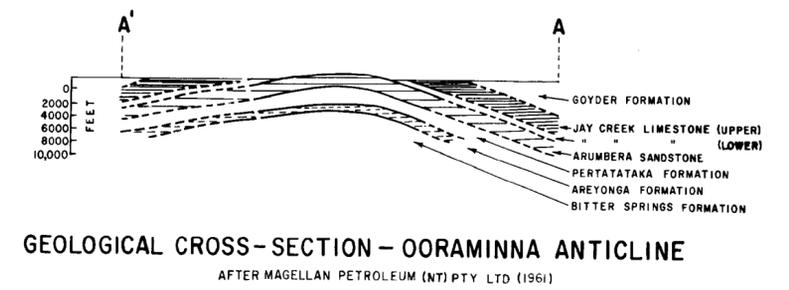
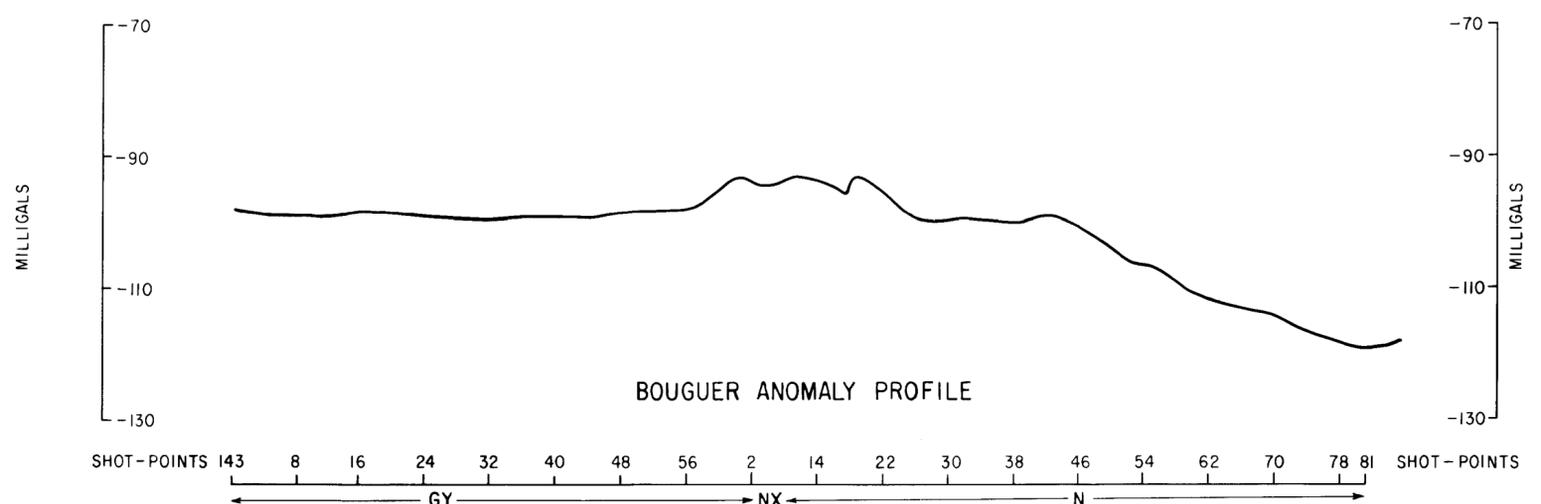
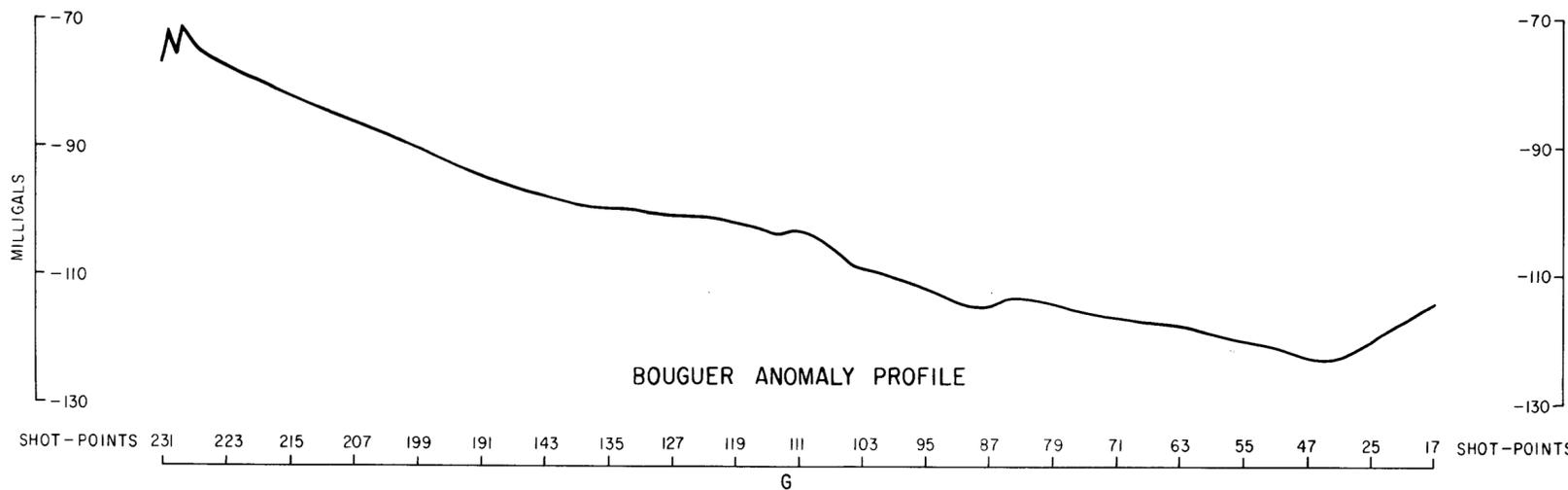
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-  35 BMR gravity pendulum station
-  BMR gravity reading at aerodrome
-  Ryan BMR 1:250,000 gravity map area
-  Gravity 'High'
-  Gravity 'Low'
-  12 Anomaly number
-  Feature boundary

Source of gravity information
 Reconnaissance Gravity Survey (1961-62)
 Lonsdale and Flavelle, 1963

AMADEUS BASIN N.T.

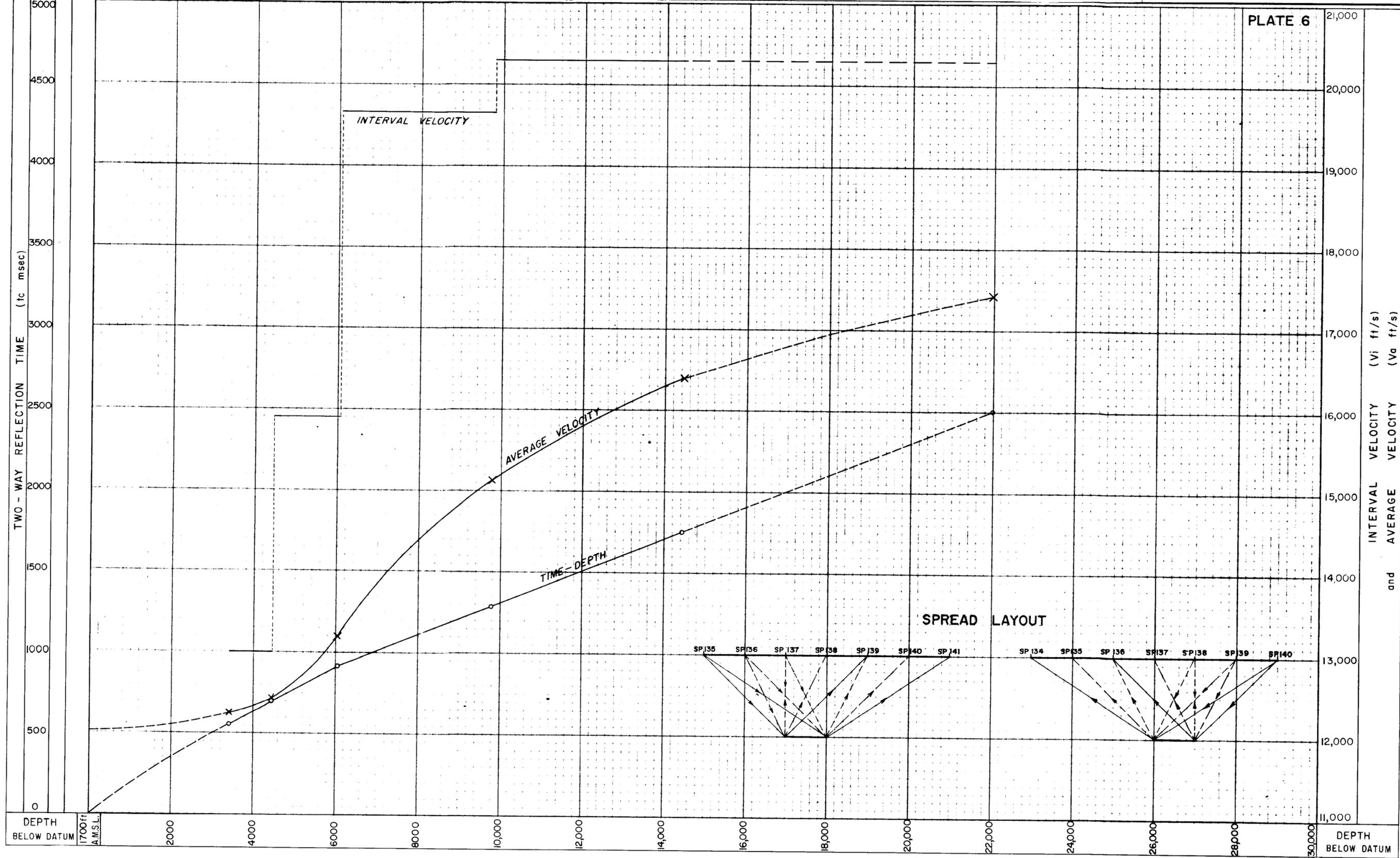
BOUGUER ANOMALIES



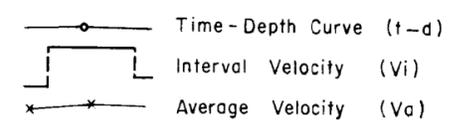


GEOLOGICAL, GRAVITY, AND SEISMIC CROSS-SECTIONS

OORAMINNA AREA, NT, 1962



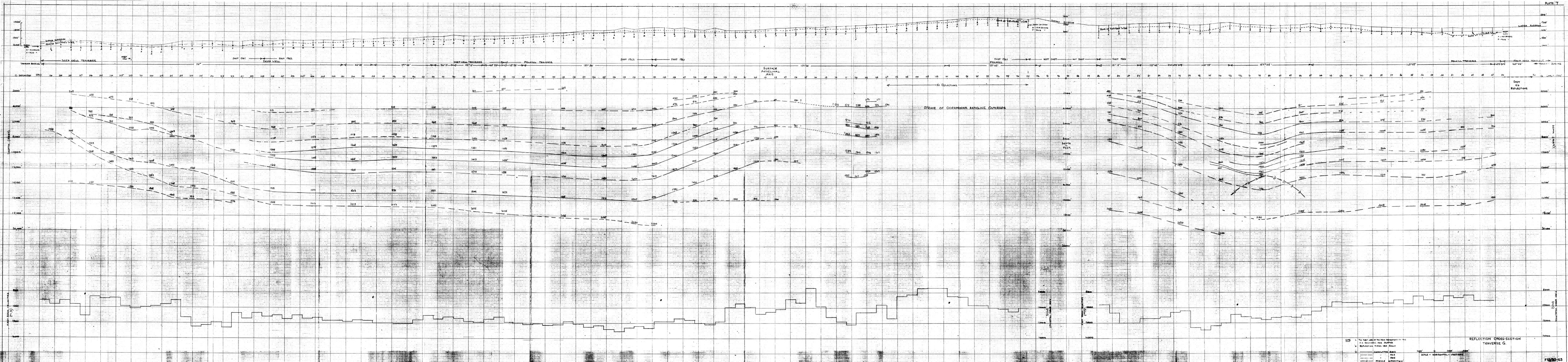
(Based on G 85/3-18)



VELOCITY AND TIME VERSUS DEPTH

AREA OORAMINNA NT
 Basis t^2 Versus x^2

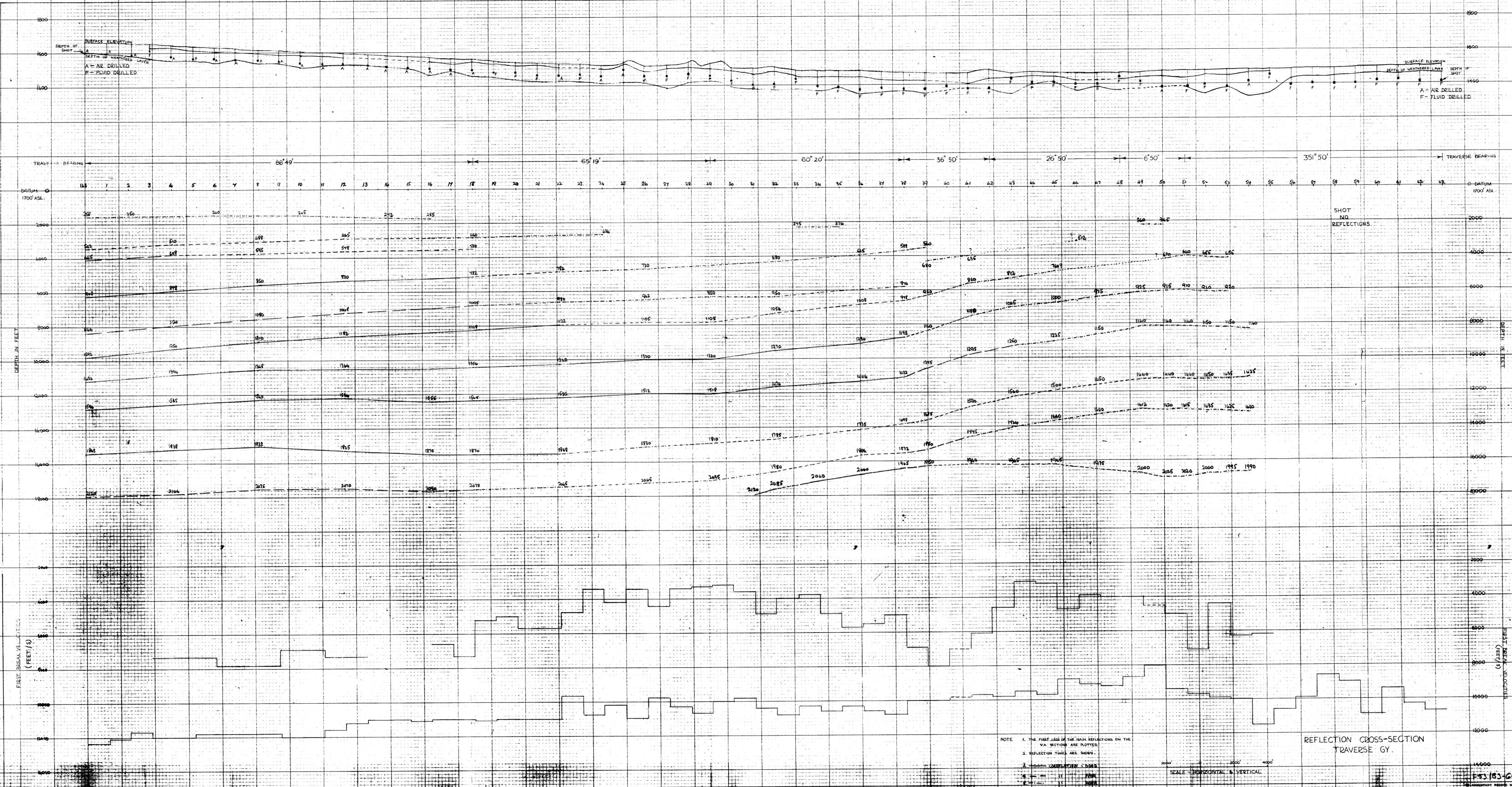
+ OORAMINNA Seismic Survey 1962

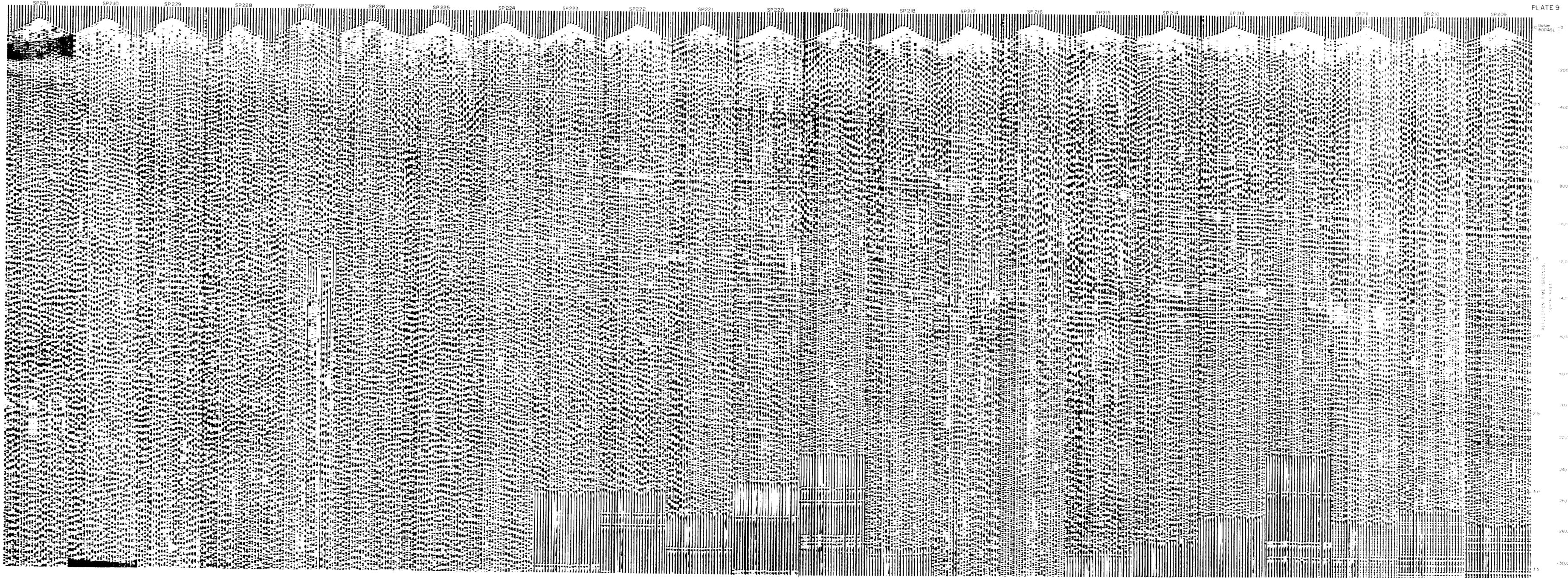


REFLECTION CROSS-SECTION
TRAVERSE G.

SCALE - HORIZONTAL - FEET/INCH

LEGEND:
 REFLECTION TIME
 DEPTH
 MIDDLE

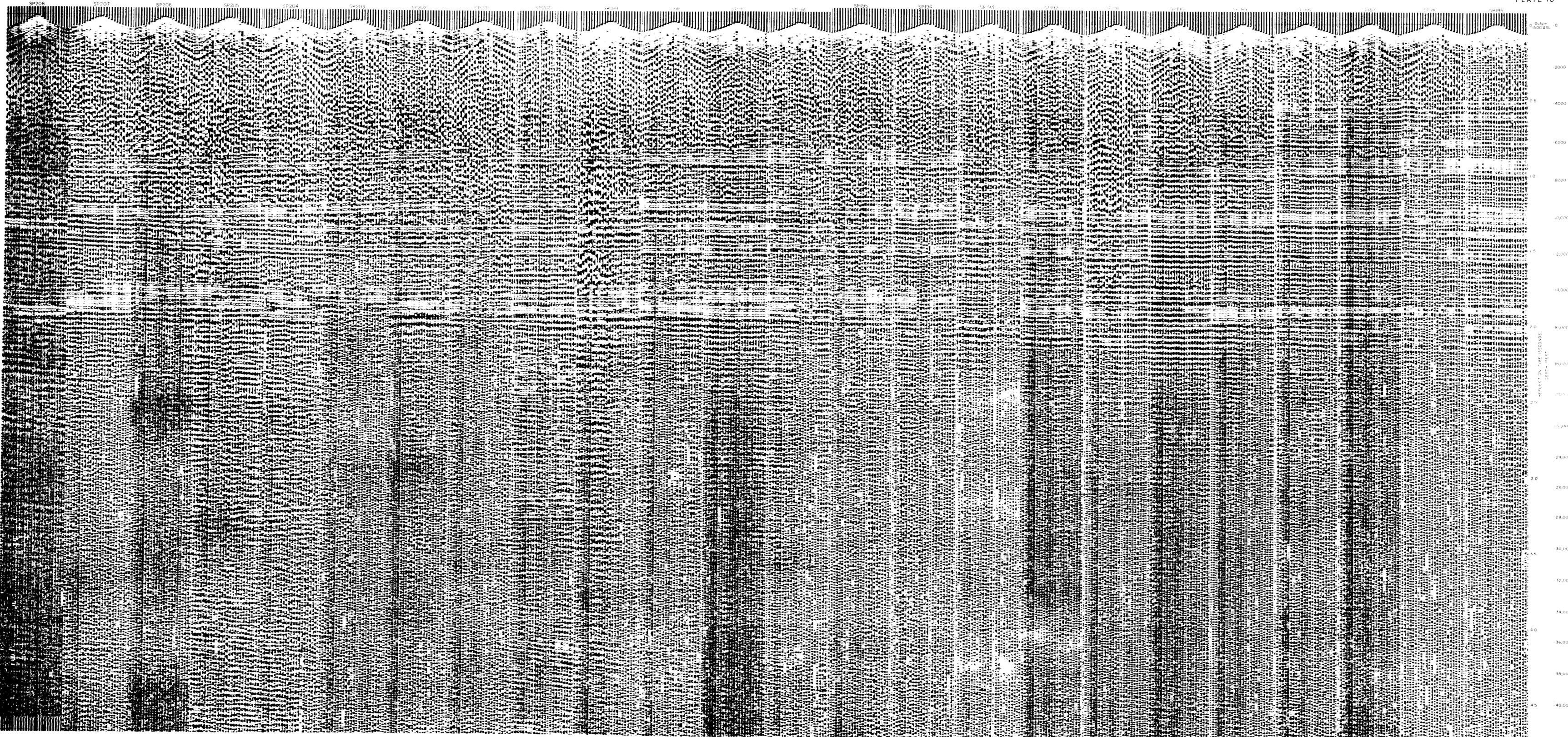




VARIABLE - AREA REFLECTION CROSS - SECTION

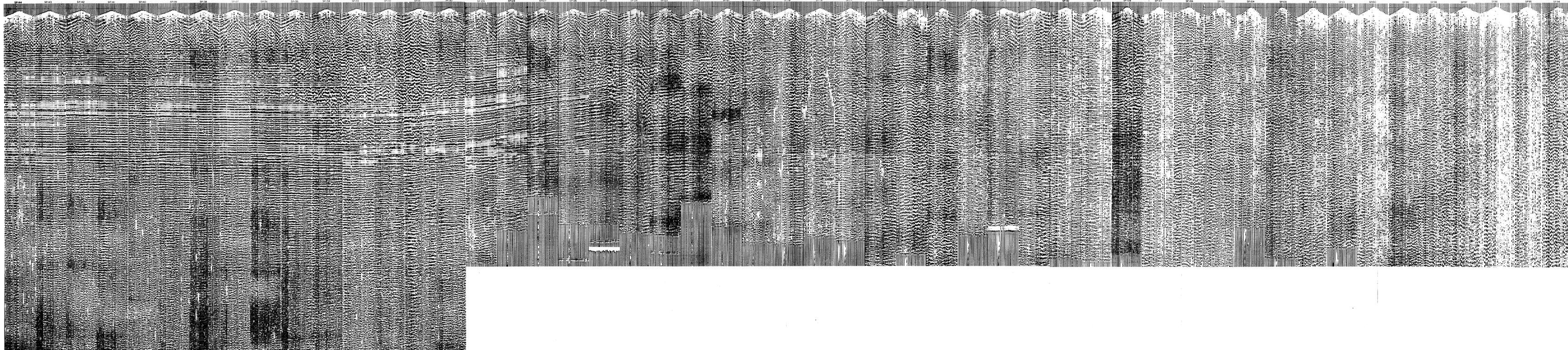
TRAVERSE G

SP 209 - 231 (1961)

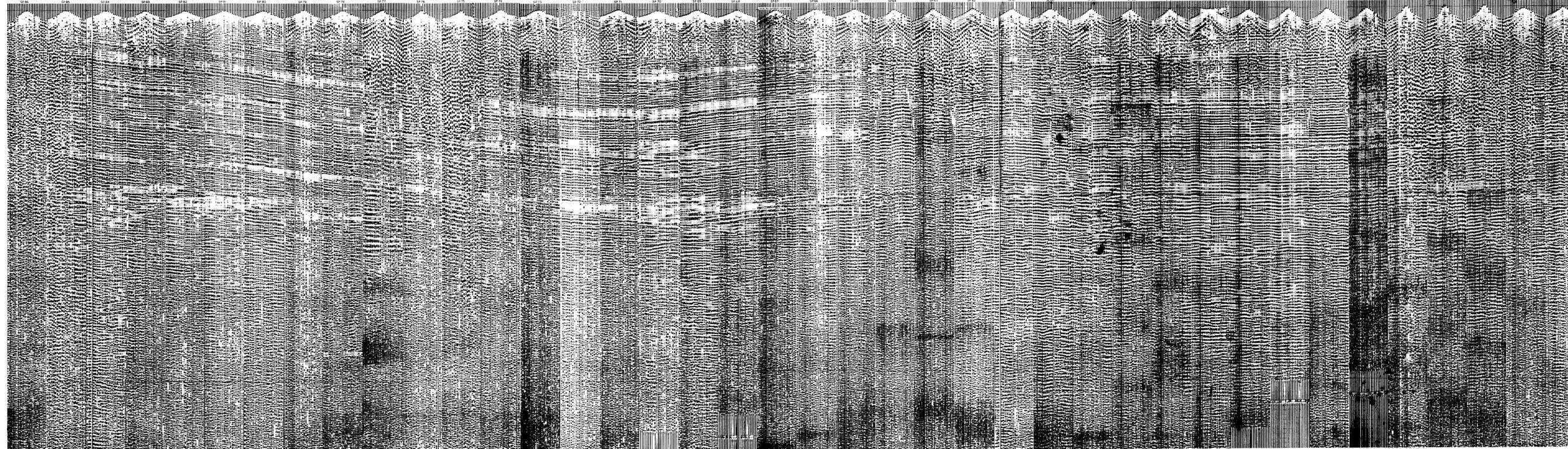


VARIABLE - AREA REFLECTION CROSS-SECTION

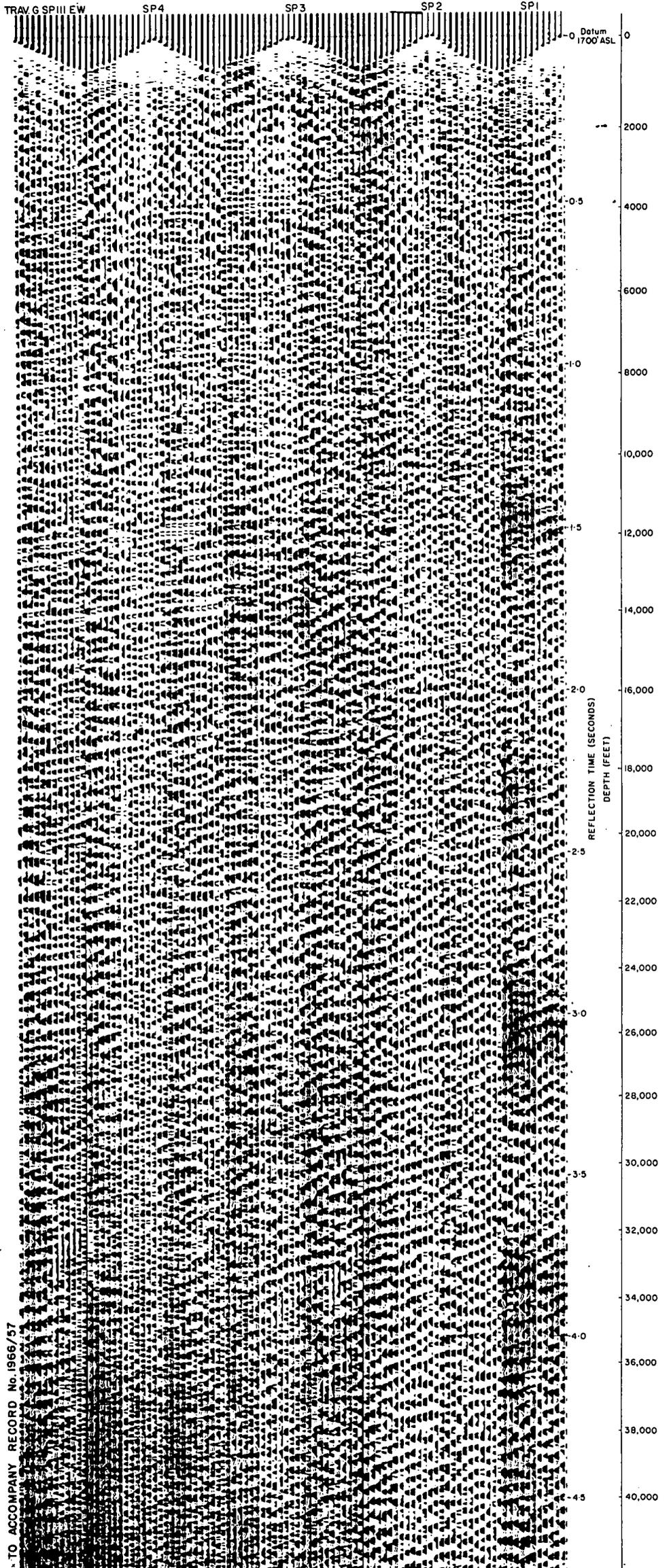
TRAVERSE G
SP185 - 208



SP 93-87 NOT SHOT



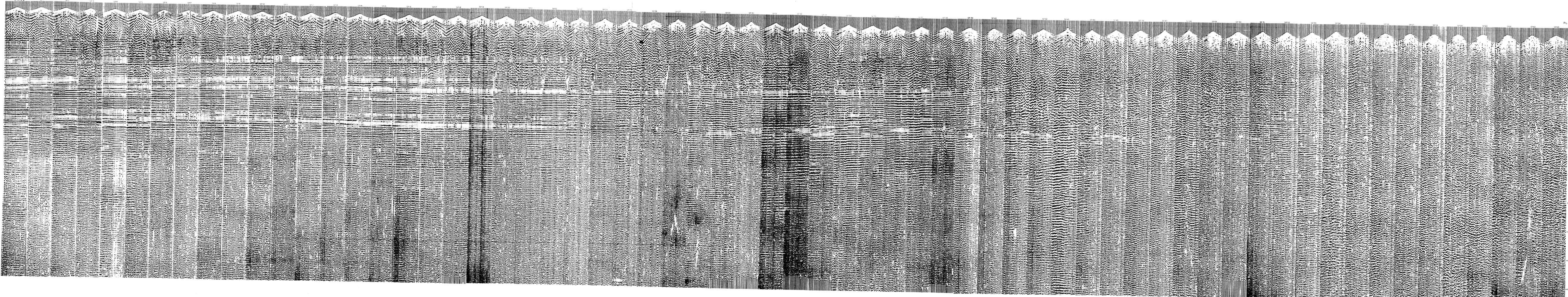
VARIABLE-AREA REFLECTION CROSS-SECTION
 TRAVERSE G
 SP 87-144
 (SP 87-123 RECORDED IN 1963)
 GEOPHYSICAL BRANCH, BUREAU OF MINERAL RESOURCES, DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
 TO ACCOMPANY RECORDING No 1962/57



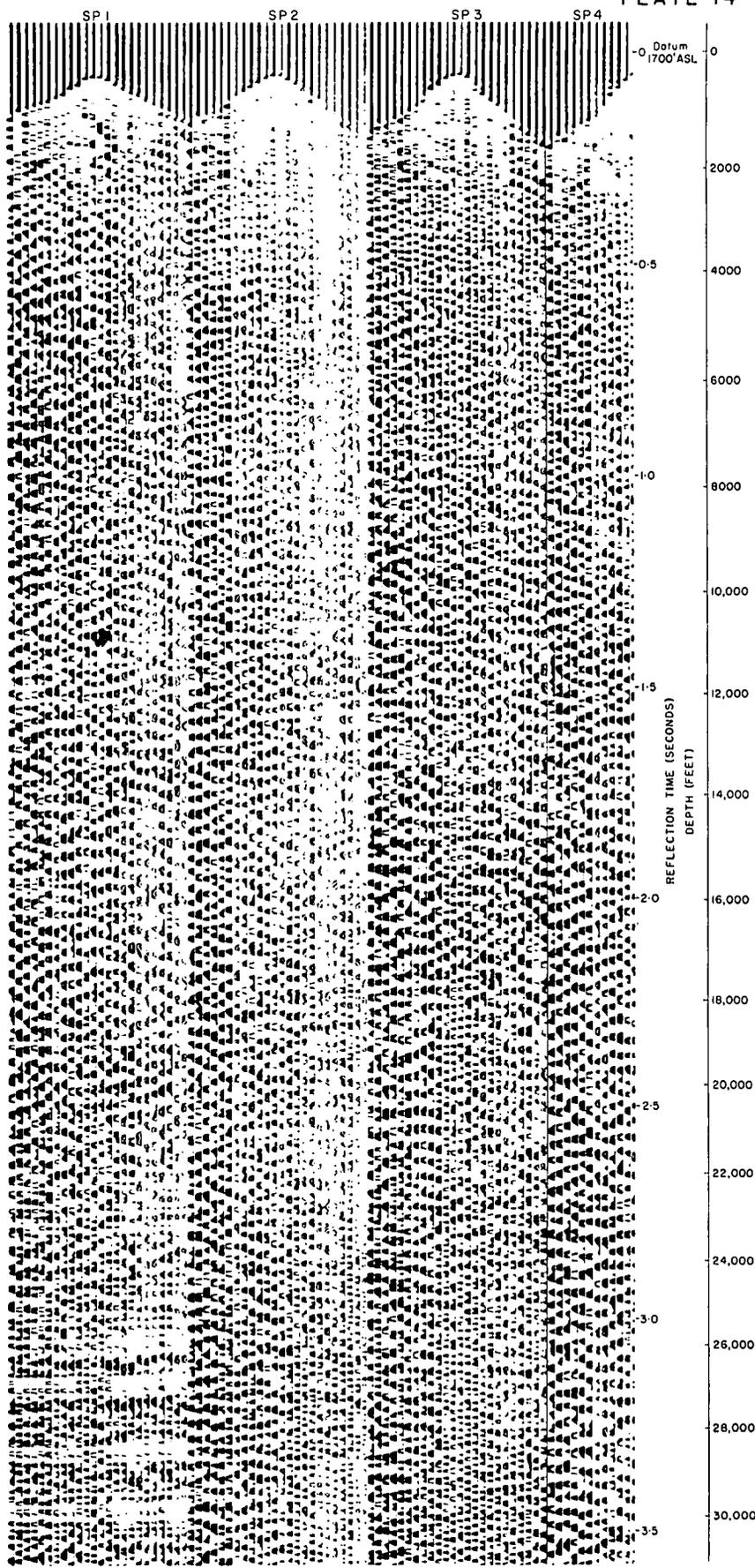
TO ACCOMPANY RECORD No. 1966/57

VARIABLE-AREA REFLECTION CROSS-SECTION TRAVERSE GX

SP G III EW, 4-1



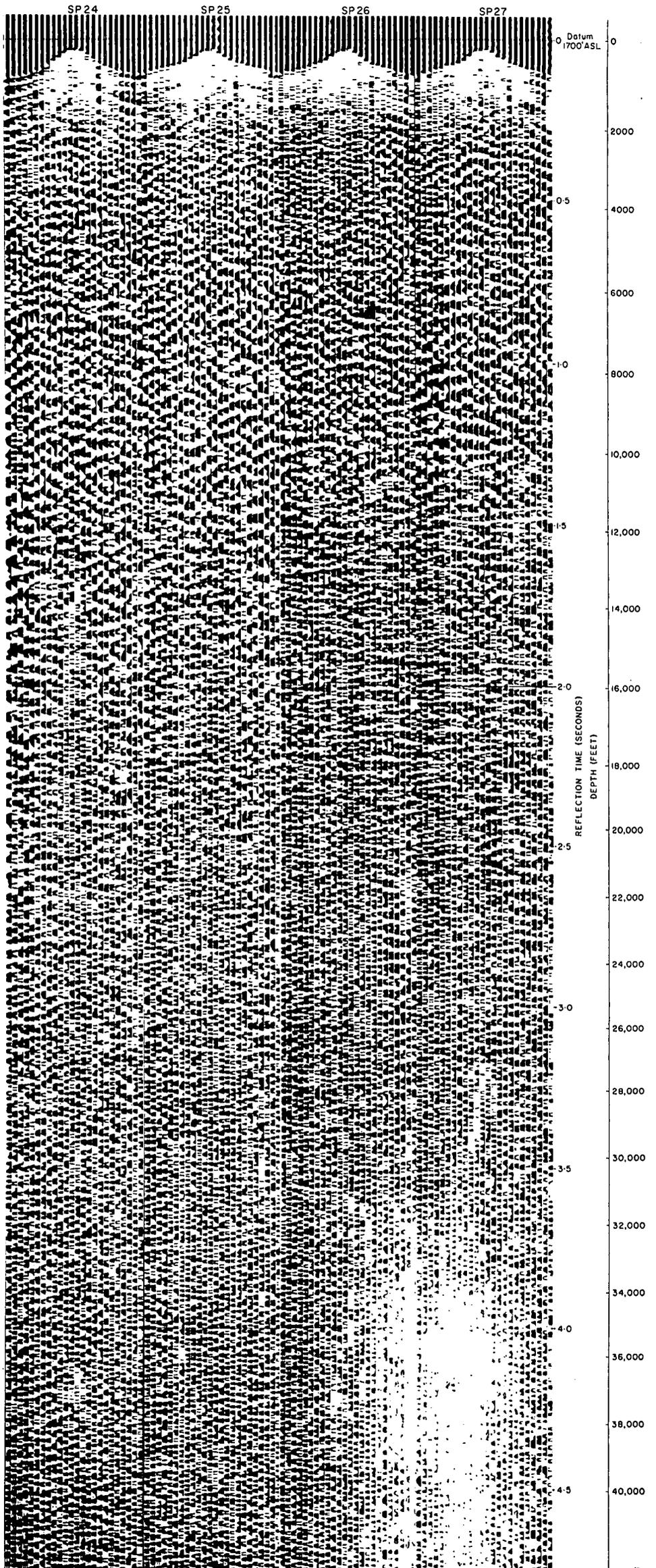
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 TRAVERSE GY



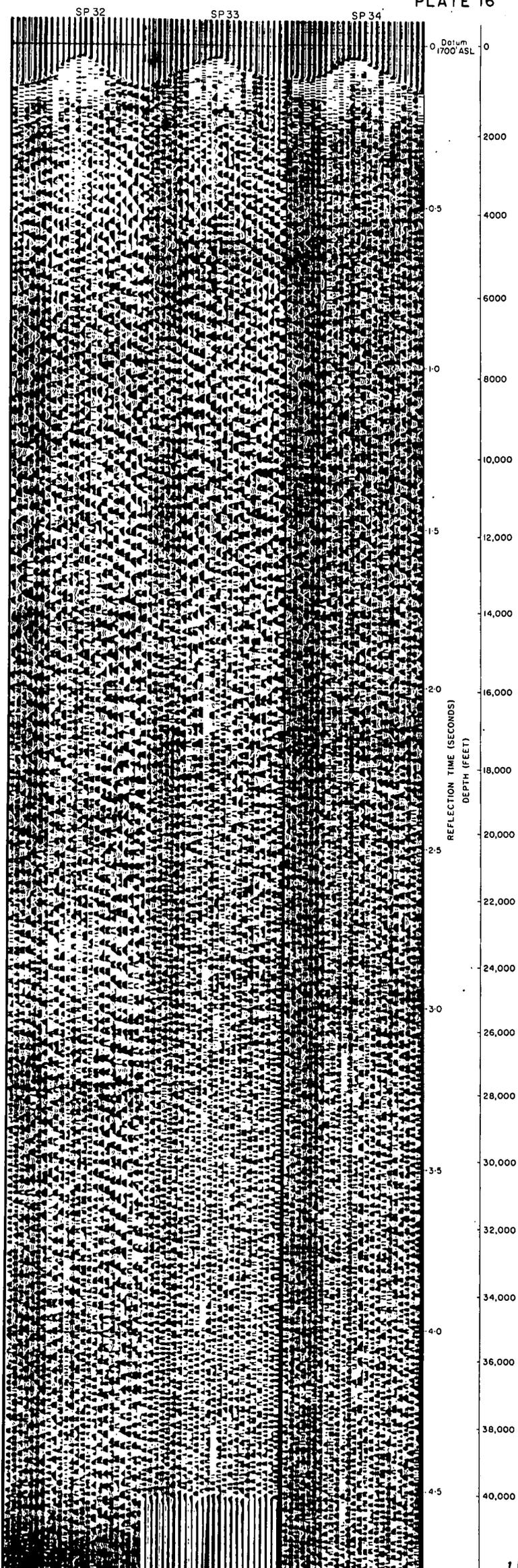
TRAVERSE NX
SP 4-1

GEOPHYSICAL BRANCH, BUREAU OF MINERAL RESOURCES, GEOLOGY AND GEOPHYSICS
TO ACCOMPANY RECORD No. 1966/57

F53/B3-84

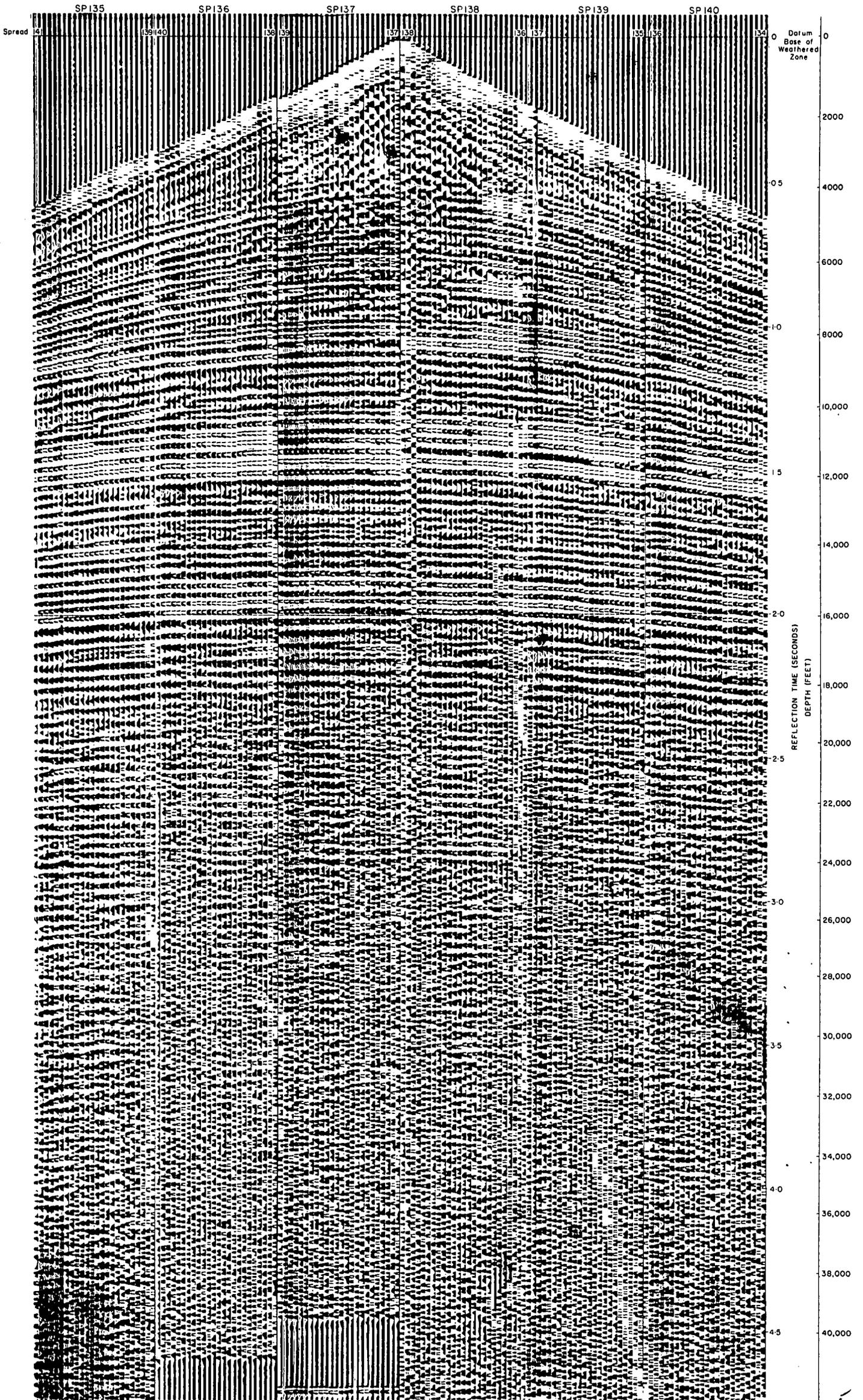


TRaverse N
SP 27-24



TRAVERSE N
SP 34-32

4

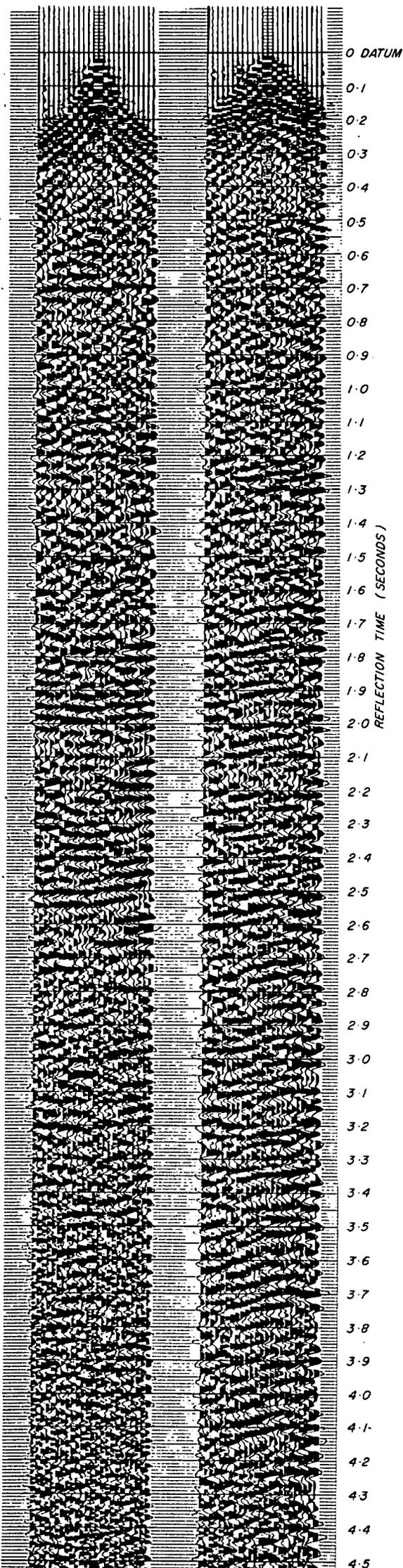


TRAVERSE G VELOCITY PROFILE
SP 140-135

76P

77

SHOT-POINTS



UNCORRECTED RECORDS

RECORDING INFORMATION

Magnetic Recorder : DS7-700

Amplifiers : 7000 B

Filters : K18-K75

A.G.C. : W.B.

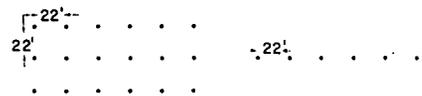
Gain Initial : -10

Final : -10

Geophones : T.I.C. - 20 c/s

Geophone pattern :

SP76P SP77



Shot-hole pattern :

SP 76 P SP 77

22' Depth 54' Single, Depth 220'

22' Charge 9x3 1/3 Charge 30lb

PLAYBACK INFORMATION

Filters : K20-K78

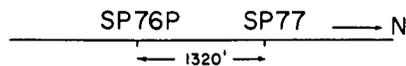
A.G.C. : S.S.

Gain Initial : -50

Final : -20

Trip delay : 2 sec

Compositing : Nil



Variable-area reflection records

TRAVERSE N

SP 76 P - 77

RECORDED BY: Seismic Party No. 2

SECTION BY: Bureau of Mineral Resources
Playback Centre SIE MS 42

F54/B3-106

YEAR 1962

SEISMIC PARTY NO 2

MONTH	JULY " " " AUG " " " "
WEEK ENDING	6 13 20 27 3 10 17 24 31
SHOOTING LOCATION	OORAMINNA " " " " " " " "
PETROL I DIV=10 DRUMS — STOCK --- CONSUMPTION	
DETONATORS I DIV=50 DETS - - - LONG LEADS (100') ····· SHORT LEADS (5',8',30')	2600 2500 2400 2300 2200 4 TH 5 TH JULY TO OORAMINNA
EXPLOSIVES USED I DIV= 500 lb	TO OORAMINNA
REFRACTION HOLES SHOT I DIV= 1 HOLE	FROM GOSSSES BLUFF
LINE PEGGED AND LEVELLED I DIV= 10 MILES	CAMP MOVE FROM GOSSSES BLUFF
REFLECTION HOLES SHOT I DIV= 20 HOLES	CAMP MOVE FROM GOSSSES BLUFF
HOLES DRILLED I DIV= 40 HOLES — SINGLE HOLES - - - HOLES ON PATTERNS	CAMP MOVE FROM GOSSSES BLUFF
FOOTAGE I DIV=1000 ft	CAMP MOVE FROM GOSSSES BLUFF
REMARKS	30 TH JULY - 31 ST AUGUST FLY CAMP - ULTA CREEK END OF SURVEY 29 TH AUGUST SEISMIC SURVEY OPERATIONS CHART 27 F53/B3-62