

Unit II:

The interval of Unit II is considered to be the more important portion of the section. The sediments, totalling 4,500 feet, are marine and the greater part of the prospective features fall within the unit.

Unit II is separated from Unit I by an overlapping relationship and in turn is overlapped by Unit III. (Cross sections B-15, B-2-24 and B-1-23 and Figs. 21, 22).

The depositional basin of Unit II shown by the thickness map, Fig. 16, preserves the same general form set out by Unit I, but is considerably broader and the thickness contours along the flanks are much gentler due to the overlapping condition. Much of this change, however, takes place within the upper half of Unit II. The pinchout of the very basal beds coincides approximately with the total pinchout of Unit I (Fig. 12, Structure Base Unit II), but the upper half overlaps considerably the lower portion, showing that it was being deposited while the basin was subsiding actively along well defined hinge zones.

The uppermost part of Unit II contains a limestone bed 500 to 1,300 feet thick, called the Limestone Bank, from which reefal build-ups developed. (Fig. 13, Structure Top Unit II, and Fig. 25). On the northeast and southwest sides of the basin are features called shelf reefs. (Figs. 23, 24). These are believed to have grown from the base of the unit and in places occupy the thickness of the unit. The reef front presents an abrupt change in facies to deeper marine conditions where basinward mostly marls, shales and sands would be expected.