

II INTRODUCTION

Clam-1 was drilled to test a thick sedimentary section deposited in an 800 square mile area comprising the King Island Sub-basin (see figure 1). The thickness of the sediments exceeds 10,000 feet which is adequate to source large quantities of hydrocarbons. Cretaceous beds were observed to pinch out updip onto high basement, while substantial drape is evident on the flanks. Later structural movement resulted in closure at the base of the Tertiary sequence (see structure maps, Clam-1 Subsidy Request).

The location for Clam-1 was chosen on a seismic shot point where the maximum sedimentary section could be tested while remaining well within the basal Tertiary closure and at the same time providing the greatest possibility of penetrating a Cretaceous pinchout trap.

The original prognosis for Clam-1 was based on good seismic data but acknowledged difficult seismic-geological correlations because of the distance and partial separation by high basement of the King Island Sub-basin from the main Otway Basin. In spite of this, the original prognosis and the actual results of drilling are in very close agreement (see figure 1). The only major lithologic discrepancy was the appearance of non-porous "red beds" of questionable age consisting of red conglomerate and massive red siltstone instead of the anticipated siltstone and grey-wackes of the Lower Cretaceous.