

GEOLOGIC MAP OF THE SCOTT CITY 7.5-MINUTE QUADRANGLE, SCOTT AND CAPE GIRARDEAU COUNTIES, MISSOURI

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DISCUSSION

GEOMORPHOLOGY AND SURFICIAL GEOLOGY

The Scott City quadrangle is located at the northern end of the Mississippi embayment (fig. 1). The quadrangle contains parts of three physiographic features: the abandoned channel of the ancestral Mississippi River, the Benton Hills, and the flood plain of the ancestral Ohio River and modern Mississippi River. These features are largely the manifestation of the Quaternary evolution of the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers, the chronology and analysis of which has been discussed by Fisk (1944), Saucier (1968, 1974, 1994), Guccione and others (1990), Madole and others (1991), Autin and others (1991), Porter and Guccione (1994), and Blum and others (1995a,b).

The relatively flat area in the northern part of the quadrangle is part of the abandoned Mississippi River channel that was active prior to the river's diversion through Thebes Gap in the adjacent Thebes 7.5-min quadrangle at approximately 10.6 ka (Porter and Guccione, 1994). This area periodically is inundated by Mississippi River floods, except for the land protected by a manmade levy (af) maintained by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Within the abandoned channel, alluvial-fan deposits (Qaf) derived from the surrounding uplands have prograded over alluvial fill (Qma). The bedrock outcrops at Lost Hill and an adjacent hill in sec. 4, T. 29 N., R. 13 E., were former islands in the ancestral Mississippi River.

The uplands area that makes up most of the quadrangle is part of the Benton Hills, the northernmost extension of Crowley's Ridge (fig. 1). Geometrically, the Benton Hills resemble a tilted block dipping to the north-northwest. The highest topography in the Benton Hills occurs at the extreme southeastern margin along a drainage divide between the modern Mississippi River flood plain to the southeast and the severely underfit Ramsey and Caney Creeks. Stream-gradient profiles along Ramsey and Caney Creeks indicate that their original headwaters were removed by either erosional or tectonic processes (Palmer and Hoffman, 1993). These two creeks, as well as Sals Creek, provide surface drainage to the north and west for this part of the Benton Hills; all contain extensive Pleistocene terrace deposits (Qt) that are mantled by loess (dominantly Peoria) producing a subdued topographic expression. The towns of Scott City and Illmo are partly situated on a paleo-channel of the ancestral Mississippi River, which also contains loess-mantled terrace deposits on grade with those in Ramsey Creek.

In the extreme southeastern corner of the quadrangle, the small

part of the modern Mississippi River flood plain is present as the Sandy Woods terrace (Qto), which was deposited by the ancestral Ohio River prior to the diversion of the Mississippi River through Thebes Gap. Alluvial-fan deposits (Qaf) derived from the Benton Hills have prograded over this terrace.

GENERAL STRUCTURAL GEOLOGY

Cretaceous and Tertiary coastal plain sediments pinchout in an approximately east-west direction across the Scott City quadrangle. This pinchout is an irregular, erosional line from which the coastal plain sediments thicken towards the south and lie with angular unconformity upon a lower Paleozoic platform sequence of carbonate and lesser siliciclastic rocks that regionally dip and thicken into the Illinois basin to the northeast. Thus, the oldest exposed Paleozoic unit, the Everton Formation, crops out in the southwestern corner of the quadrangle, and the youngest Paleozoic unit, the Plattin Group, crops out in the northeastern part of the quadrangle.

The Scott City quadrangle is approximately 15 to 20 mi north of the New Madrid seismic zone (fig. 1) and has experienced moderate recent seismic activity (Stover and Brewer, 1991; Chiu, 1991; Herrmann, 1993). Recorded epicenters of earthquakes since 1989 are shown on the geologic map as solid triangles. A body-wave-magnitude 4.5 event occurred on September 26, 1990 (900926) in sec. 23, T. 29 N., R. 13 E., and is the largest event recorded in the midcontinent during the 1990's.

A prominent geophysical lineament in the Precambrian magnetic basement, the Commerce geophysical lineament (fig. 1), first was identified by Hildenbrand and Hendricks (1995). It lies directly beneath the English Hill area in the extreme southeastern corner of the quadrangle. This feature extends to both northeast and southwest for several hundreds of miles and is possibly related to recent earthquakes (Harrison and Schultz, 1994; Langenheim and Hildenbrand, 1997).

A system of northeast-trending faults is thought to exist throughout most of the quadrangle. However because of the extensive cover of windblown Quaternary loess, the only direct indication of these faults at the surface is in the southeastern part of the quadrangle, particularly the English Hill area (see fig. 4 and following section). Evidence for the widespread existence of these faults comes from (1) geologic mapping of the adjacent Thebes 7.5-min quadrangle where many of the faults are exposed (Harrison, 1999); (2) exposed faults in the adjacent Morley quadrangle to the south (R.W. Harrison, unpub. mapping, 1996); (3) seismic-reflection profiles acquired in the southeastern quarter of the quadrangle (Palmer and others, 1997a,b); (4) recorded seismic activity attributed to the area (Herrmann, 1993); and (5) drill-hole data that indicate significant offsets of stratigraphic horizons (see cross section A-A). Overall motion on the northeast-striking fault system is assumed to

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be dominantly right-lateral strike slip, as that is the dominant motion interpreted for faulting in the adjacent Thebes quadrangle (Harrison, 1999; Harrison and Schultz, 1994; Harrison and others, 1999) and for faults revealed by fault-exploration trenches in the English Hill area.

Although the overall fault system strikes northeasterly, fault-exploration trenches and some natural exposures at English Hill and elsewhere in the Benton Hills show that deformation was complex and the fault zones contain many subsidiary structures that have extensional, contractional, and strike-slip components (Harrison and others, 1997; Harrison and others, 1999). In addition, multiple episodes of deformation occurred throughout most of the Phanerozoic, including the Quaternary (Harrison and Schultz, 1994; Harrison and others, 1999).

Buried faults shown on the geologic map are located approximately and are very simplified. Alignment of some drainages may reflect the location of some buried faults, particularly segments of the Grays Point Quarry, Mile 46, and Rose Creek faults. Possible surface expression of an unnamed northeast-striking fault in secs. 15, 16, and 21, T. 29 N., R. 13 E. occurs as the alignment of topographic saddles. Apparent offsets of McNairy Sand and Mounds Gravel also suggest the existence of this fault.

At Lost Hill in sec. 4, T. 29 N., R. 13 E., an intense zone of cataclastic shears occurs in the St. Peter Sandstone. Development of cataclastic shears, or deformation bands, is the preferred deformational mechanism in porous granular materials (Aydin, 1978; Aydin and Johnson, 1978; Jamison and Stearns, 1982; Antonellini and others, 1994; and Davis, 1999) such as the St. Peter Sandstone. Formation of cataclastic shears is marked by granulation and cataclasis, which results in reduction of porosity and imparts a visual resemblance to veins. Typically, these shears are not expressed as discrete fracture surfaces. Orientations of cataclastic shears at Lost Hill are highly variable, however, a dominant northwesterly trend exists (fig. 2); many occur along bedding planes. Cataclastic shears have been cut by open fractures that strike from N. 45°–55° E., dip steeply both to the southeast and northwest, and offset bedding and cataclastic shears in both normal and thrust motions. At one location, centered on an intense zone of near-vertical, N. 30° W.-trending cataclastic shears, is a near-vertical, N. 30° W.-trending fault that has horizontal mullions and slickenside striations. Riedel and conjugate riedel shears indicate left-lateral motion.

About 1 mi southeast of Lost Hill, along the northern margin of the Benton Hills just east of Sals Creek, there is a possible graben that has dropped Joachim Dolomite and overlying McNairy Sand down between St. Peter Sandstone to the west and Dutchtown Formation to the east. Boundary faults are not exposed and are assigned a very tentative northwest strike.

ENGLISH HILL AREA

Prompted by reports of possible Quaternary faults in the English Hill area (Stewart, 1942; Stewart and McManamy, 1944), the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources/ Division of Geology and Land Survey, now known as Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Geological Survey and Resource Assessment Division (MDNR/GSRAD) began a fault-exploration research project supported by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the USGS National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program, the USGS National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program, and the MDNR/GSRAD. Auger drilling by MDNR/GSRAD, acquisition of seismic-reflection profiles (Palmer and others, 1997a,b), and mapping and core drilling (Harrison and

others, 1996) preceded fault-exploration trenching. Location of trenches and a generalized geologic map of the English Hill area are shown in figures 3 and 4. Detailed descriptions of core holes BH-1 and BH-2 are found in Harrison and others (1996).

Trench Descriptions

Following are descriptions of trenches excavated in the English Hill area during 1995 and 1996. Emphasis is placed on orientations and interpreted kinematics of structural features exposed in the trenches. The term “episodes” is used to group structures into sets that had a similar timing and style of deformation. The term does not correspond to individual fault events or earthquakes. Timing was determined by crosscutting relations or by the youngest unit affected. Style of deformation was interpreted from kinematic analysis of fault-slip data, similar to methods used by Marrett and Allmendinger (1990), and the application of Anderson’s (1951) model relating fault geometry and kinematics to controlling stresses. Fault-slip components were measured in the field and include characteristics such as the orientation of fault surfaces, orientation of slip direction determined from slickenside striations, and sense of slip. Assumptions were made that the sampling was representative and that there has been no reorientation of fault-slip components.

Some form of surface or near-surface deformation, mainly faulting, of the unconsolidated Cretaceous and Cenozoic section could be seen in virtually all of the trenches. The rupture characteristics of this unconsolidated material varied greatly, depending on the dominant grain-size fraction of the strata. Faults that cut the more cohesive silts and clays are typically very sharp and well defined. Faults that cut gravels and sands are more diffuse. Many fault surfaces contain gravel and sand grains that have been transported during shearing.

Bollinger Trench

Figures 5 and 6 are diagrammatic logs of the Bollinger trench, which was excavated on a ridge crest in the southwestern part of the English Hill area (fig. 3). This trench exposed two complex fault systems (a “deeper” and an “upper”), both of which contain high-angle and subhorizontal surfaces. Although crosscutting relations were not observed, kinematic interpretations and relations of the faults to the modern soil profile suggest that the two systems formed under different stress regimes at different times.

The deeper system consists of a high-angle fault (A) and several subhorizontal faults that steepen and merge into a single high-angle fault (B) to the southeast. Fault A strikes N. 15° E., dips 45°–80° SE., and cuts the unnamed Eocene unit (Tu) and McNairy Sand (Km). Neither slickenside striations nor mullions were observed on fault A, but deformed fragments of bedded McNairy Sand caught up in the fault indicate oblique, reverse motion. The upward extent of fault A could not be traced into the modern B soil horizon.

The subhorizontal faults are sharp, well-defined structures that have northeasterly strikes and northwest-southeast-trending striations. Fault A shows intertwined relations with the subhorizontal faults; in places it merges with them, in other places it is truncated by them, and at one location, fault A truncates a subhorizontal structure. These relations are interpreted to indicate a common origin for fault A and the subhorizontal faults.

A consistent 8- to 12-in-thick, subhorizontal-fault-bounded interval of strongly deformed McNairy strata occurs below the unnamed Eocene unit and above relatively undeformed McNairy strata. Asymmetrical folds (not shown on fig. 5 and 6) within this deformed interval indicate that the hanging wall of fault A moved

toward S. 20° W. to S. 50° W. This suggests an oblique, reverse motion on fault A and is consistent with the kinematics under a northeast-oriented maximum horizontal stress (fig. 7A).

To the southeast, the subhorizontal structures merge and steepen into fault B that strikes N. 60° W. and dips approximately 52° NE., and is marked by 15°–20° NW.-raking slickenside striations and mullions. Kinematic indicators along fault B are consistent with the movement indicated on the subhorizontal faults. Antithetic shears to fault B strike N. 65° E. and dip 42° SE.; slickenside striations rake 0°–19° NE. This deeper fault system may represent a roll-over, or flower structure, along a northwest-trending, left-lateral, strike-slip fault zone. The age of faulting is constrained only as post-Eocene.

The upper fault system consists of strike-slip fault C that strikes N. 13°–30° E. and dips 80°–84° SE.; slickenside striations rake 0°. This fault flattens and rotates at depth, striking N. 42° W. and dipping 35° NE.; slickenside striations rake 80° NW. Both Wilcox Group (Tw) and Quaternary colluvial material (Qc2) have been dragged along the fault surface. Slip directions suggest a north-northeast extensional motion (fig. 7B).

The upper fault system juxtaposes Wilcox Group sands and clays, and Quaternary colluvial material against the unnamed Eocene unit. Much of the Wilcox is brecciated and contorted (Twb unit). The Quaternary colluvium (Qc2) consists dominantly of silt (reworked loess) and lesser sand and gravel concentrated at the base. Quaternary material (Qc2) exposed in the hanging wall of the upper fault system bears no resemblance to Quaternary deposits in the footwall, which consist of Sangamon Geosol (Qsg) developed on silty colluvium (reworked loess) and alluvial sand overlain by gravel- and sand-rich colluvium (Qc1) (fig. 5). These footwall Quaternary deposits were laid down in a paleochannel (trending S. 50° W., plunging 10° SW.). The absence of Wilcox Group in the footwall attests to erosion prior to Sangamon time. Because fault C offsets the modern B soil horizon and fault A cannot be traced into the B soil horizon, the upper fault system is interpreted to be younger than the deeper fault system.

Old Quarry Trench

The Old Quarry trench (fig. 8) was excavated approximately 800 ft north-northeast of the Bollinger trench along the eastern margin of an abandoned quarry immediately south of the English Hill Road (Scott County Road 329) at approximately mid-hill elevation (fig. 3). Several high-angle normal faults were revealed in the trench. The faults cut Mounds Gravel and a well-defined Quaternary sequence of Sangamon Geosol (developed on Loveland Loess), Roxana Silt, and Peoria Loess. Thermoluminescence ages (table 1) confirm the field identification of Peoria Loess and Roxana Silt, and establish a maximum age of faulting in this trench of 21.9 ± 3.3 ka. Colluvial material caps the stratigraphic sequence and truncates all faults. A horizon at the base of the colluvium contained several fragments of leaves, twigs, and nuts, four of which yielded modern (<150 yr) ¹⁴C ages (Harrison and others, 1997).

The major fault exposed in the trench is called the English Hill fault because it is believed to be the same structure described and named by Stewart (1942). This fault juxtaposes Peoria Loess in the hanging wall against Mounds Gravel in the footwall and consists of several braided strands that strike N. 35° E. and dip 88° SE. Slickenside striations rake 90°. Fault-bounded slivers of Roxana Silt; gouge-like, sandy clay material; and many clasts derived from the Mounds Gravel occur along fault surfaces. Shallow holes dug in the floor of the trench in the hanging wall of the English Hill fault

encountered Roxana Silt just below trench-floor level, indicating approximately 15 ft of throw on the structure.

To the northwest in the footwall of the English Hill fault, three antithetic faults and one synthetic fault form a horst-and-graben sequence. Away from the master fault, attitudes and rakes determined from slickenside striations on these faults are (1) strike N. 15° E., dip 78° NW.; rake 69° NE.; (2) strike N. 35° E., dip 71° NW.; rake 90°; (3) strike E.-W., dip 74° S.; and (4) strike N. 43° E., dip 65° NW. Stratigraphic separation on the first three of these faults ranges from 1 to 4 ft; because of lack of sufficient trench depth, no offset contacts were seen on the northwesternmost fault. A small N. 35° E.-trending fold was observed near the center of the graben.

Kinematic indicators provided by slickenside striation data on these larger faults exposed in the Old Quarry trench (fig. 9) suggest overall northwest-southeast extension. A seismic-reflection profile acquired along the trench (Palmer and others, 1997b) shows that the English Hill fault is nearly vertical to depths of at least 200 ft and the contact between Cretaceous and Paleozoic rocks is offset across the fault.

Several minor fractures, having small normal displacements of a few inches to fractions of an inch, occur in the Mounds Gravel in the footwall of the English Hill fault. Attitudes vary in both strike and dip (fig. 10). There are several minor fractures in the Sangamon Geosol (fig. 11) that cannot be traced into overlying or underlying units. With one exception, the fractures do not indicate discernible displacement. That exception had striations indicating left-lateral, normal oblique slip on a N. 63° W.-striking fracture that is consistent with overall northwest-southeast extension.

Many vertical or near-vertical fractures having no discernible displacement were observed in the Peoria Loess, particularly in the hanging wall of the English Hill fault. Although fractures in unfaulted loess are common, the density of fractures in the hanging wall of the English Hill fault is at least three times that observed in the footwall, suggesting a tectonic origin. A comparison between hanging-wall versus footwall fractures in the Peoria Loess (fig. 12) indicates an overall polygonal pattern, but the hanging wall contains a much greater concentration of northwest-southeast-trending fractures. All hanging-wall fractures are truncated by the English Hill fault.

A notable difference in soil profile thickness was observed across the English Hill fault. In the footwall, modern soil developed on the Peoria Loess has been welded to the buried Farmdale soil, which developed on Roxana Silt. The resulting soil profile extends from the surface down to the Sangamon Geosol. In the hanging wall, however, modern soil development is restricted to the uppermost 1 to 3 ft. The footwall soil profile is anomalously thick for the area, probably indicating development in a depression or graben that had experienced relatively high rates of water influx. This condition suggests the possibility of two episodes of faulting. The graben structure in the footwall formed first and then was followed by deformation along the English Hill fault, which downdropped the hanging wall.

Uncle John Trench

The Uncle John trench (fig. 13) was excavated across a north-east-trending valley in the northwestern part of the English Hill area (fig. 3). This valley was chosen for fault exploration because it is relatively steep sided and deep, and yet has very little surface drainage area. Furthermore, this valley and another similar-trending valley to the southwest form a conspicuous N. 55° E. photo-linear feature,

parallel to one of the dominant structural trends in the Benton Hills.

The trench exposed the Uncle John fault that strikes N. 25° W. and dips 50° NE. near the center of the valley. In addition, the trench exposed a series of N. 70° W.-striking, NE.-dipping listric faults in the footwall of the Uncle John fault, and several N. 70° W., steeply NE.-dipping slip surfaces in the hanging wall. Many slickenside striations and scallop-shaped structures on the listric faults indicate that their hanging walls moved towards N. 30° W. (fig. 14A). Subhorizontal striations and mullions on the Uncle John fault indicate a strong component of shear along its strike, consistent with movement on the listric faults (fig. 14A). Slip surfaces in the hanging wall contain many mullions and striations that rake 90°, suggesting another episode of faulting that had a northeast-southwest extensional direction (fig. 14B).

Stratigraphic and crosscutting relations further indicate two episodes of movement on faults exposed in the Uncle John trench: (1) Normal or transtensional displacement occurred on the Uncle John fault which placed Wilcox Group adjacent to Porters Creek Clay. Both of these units have soils interpreted to be the Sangamon Geosol, suggesting that the oldest faulting is pre-Sangamon. Displacement was probably on the order of tens of feet. (2) Listric faults exposed in the footwall of the Uncle John fault indicate a few feet of down-to-the-northwest extension that reactivated the Uncle John fault as a transtensional strike-slip structure. This youngest faulting offset the base of the Peoria Loess; but because of extensive soil development throughout the Peoria, it was impossible to determine if its entire thickness was faulted. Also offset by this youngest faulting is the thin unnamed Quaternary gravel (Qg3) deposit that consists of reworked Mounds Gravel and a Quaternary colluvial-alluvial deposit that consists of gravel (less than 2 in. in diameter) supported by a matrix of sand and silt. It is uncertain as to whether this latter unit is an old channel fill or a fault-related colluvial wedge, which would indicate another event of faulting.

The Uncle John trench is within a valley blanketed by a consistent thickness of Peoria Loess. The loess does not thicken along the valley axis suggesting that it sagged or was downwarped after Peoria Loess deposition. This evidence is further supported by the thin Quaternary gravel (Qg3), which also is not thickened or incised along the valley axis. The valley is interpreted to be a synform created by northeast-trending en echelon transtensional structures. A Mini-Sosie seismic-reflection profile traversed an extension of this valley approximately 1,800 ft to the northeast, and a well-defined graben structure that cuts the contact between Paleozoic and Cretaceous rocks was imaged (Palmer and others, 1997a). A synform that warped the contact between Paleozoic and Cretaceous rocks was imaged (Palmer and others, 1997b) by a shotgun seismic-reflection profile that crossed the valley approximately 500 ft to the northeast of the Uncle John trench.

Powerline Trench

The Powerline trench was excavated approximately 300 ft east of the Uncle John trench and 200 ft north of the Old Quarry trench (fig. 3). The trench was dug in a N. 70° W.-trending direction and encountered a northeast-striking normal fault at an acute angle; therefore a short perpendicular cutout was dug to better expose the structure (fig. 15).

This oblique-slip, normal fault strikes N. 78° E. and dips 64° SE. It juxtaposed Peoria Loess in the hanging wall against Mounds Gravel in the footwall. Stratigraphic separation is a minimum of 8 ft. Bedding in the Mounds Gravel strikes N. 55° W., oblique to the

fault, dips 5°–15° SW., and steepens adjacent to the fault with a sense of normal drag. The fault zone has a well-defined surface that is marked by mullions and slickenside striations that rake 75°–80° NE. A 3- to 4-in-wide zone of shearing in the footwall contains pebbles aligned parallel to the fault. Isolated pebbles extend 1 to 2 in. into the hanging-wall loess. A pinkish discoloration in the loess adjacent to the fault could be a sliver of Roxana Silt or could have resulted from oxidation by ground-water flow.

Loess in the hanging wall in proximity to the fault contains many northwest-dipping fractures that rapidly diminish beyond 2.5 ft. The orientation of the fractures and the rake direction of striations on the fault indicate northwest-southeast extension (fig. 16). The northwest-dipping fractures immediately adjacent to the fault are interpreted as riedel shears.

Many N. 60°–70° W.-striking, near-vertical fractures containing silt and iron-manganese-oxide encrustations were found in the southeastern half of the Powerline trench (fig. 15). These occur in proximity to where a traceable bed of Roxana is terminated abruptly (fig. 15). However, no definable fault surface or any other features could be discerned.

Hillcrest Trench

The Hillcrest trench was dug approximately 200 ft east of the Powerline trench (fig. 3). The trench exposed one normal fault that offset Peoria Loess (probably reworked and in part colluvial), unnamed Quaternary gravel 3, and Wilcox Group (fig. 17). High on the southwestern wall of the trench, the fault has an E-W strike, a 57° S. dip, and a rake of 60° E.; low on the wall, it changes to a N. 85° W. strike, 84° SW. dip, and rakes 75° SE. In the floor of the trench, the fault strike doglegs sharply to N. 45° E., and its dip flattens to 60° SE.; slickenside striations rake 90° (fig. 18).

Stratigraphic offset of the Quaternary gravel-Peoria Loess contact is approximately 3 ft, and stratigraphic offset on the Wilcox-Quaternary gravel contact is approximately 8 ft. This increase in stratigraphic offset suggests two episodes of faulting: an older episode that occurred after deposition of the unnamed Quaternary gravel 3 and prior to or during deposition of Peoria Loess, and a younger post-Peoria episode. It is important to note the differences between the stratigraphic section exposed in the Hillcrest trench and that exposed in the Powerline trench only 200 ft away. Mounds Gravel, Sangamon Geosol, and Roxana Silt are absent from the Hillcrest trench section, and their position is occupied by the Quaternary gravel deposit, which consists of reworked Mounds clasts in a silty and sandy matrix. This omission of strata is interpreted to represent local uplift, erosion, and redeposition in post-Roxana-pre-Peoria time or during early Peoria deposition.

Upper Rainbow Trench

The Upper Rainbow trench was excavated along the flank of a northerly trending ridge approximately 150 ft east of the Hillcrest trench (fig. 3). Some of the most complex structures encountered in the English Hill area were observed in this trench (fig. 19). This trench also revealed the most complete record of deformation at English Hill. From crosscutting faults and stratigraphic relations, several episodes of faulting were recognized that include normal, strike-slip, and thrust faults. Reactivation of some faults is strongly suggested. A seismic-reflection profile acquired parallel to the Upper Rainbow trench (Palmer and others, 1997b) shows several high-angle faults, both normal and reverse, in the subsurface that

have offset the contact between Cretaceous and Paleozoic strata.

For clarity of description, deformation effects that are similar in timing and style are considered to be an episode and numbered sequentially from oldest to youngest. As discussed below, episodes 6 and 7 probably form a continuum, or are correlative.

Episode 1 (UR-1).—The oldest faults observed in the Upper Rainbow trench are Cretaceous in age. They consist of conjugate sets of normal faults found only in the McNairy Sand. Most strike east-west and have offsets of a few in. or less. Because they are too small to show at this scale, these faults are not depicted on figure 19. Similar microfaults in Cretaceous beds have been observed at many other locations in the Benton Hills and in southern Illinois (Harrison and others, 1996; Nelson and Harrison, 1993).

Episode 2 (UR-2).—An early Tertiary (Paleocene or Eocene) unconformity, expressed as Wilcox Group resting directly upon Cretaceous McNairy Sand at various locations in this trench, indicates local uplift and erosion. Porters Creek Clay, which should occur between these two units, is 36.7 ft thick in drill hole BH-1 (see fig. 3 for location) approximately 400 ft to the west. The localization of this unconformity is further demonstrated by exposures in the hanging wall and footwall of fault *P* where Wilcox Group rests unconformably upon McNairy Sand. The unconformity is marked by an iron-cemented bed of gravel and sand. In the footwall of fault *P*, approximately 4 ft of Clayton Formation rests upon McNairy Sand (determined from augering, as the contact is below the trench floor in fig. 19). Clayton Formation is absent in the hanging wall. Another expression of this unconformity occurs between faults *D* and *E*, where beds of the McNairy Sand strike N. 20° E. and dip 49° SE., and are overlain by subhorizontal beds of the Wilcox Group.

Episode 3 (UR-3).—Normal faulting of post-Mounds and pre-unnamed Quaternary gravel 3 age is indicated by faults *D* and *E*. Fault *D* strikes N. 50° W. and dips 70° NE., cuts only beds of the McNairy Sand and Wilcox Group, and is truncated by the Quaternary gravel. The clay-sand contact within the Wilcox Group is offset less than 1 ft, yet the contact in the footwall dips steeply (~60°) towards fault *D*. Fault *E* strikes N. 50° E., dips 78° SE., and shows stratigraphic separation on the Wilcox-Quaternary gravel 3 contact of approximately 4 ft. The Wilcox Group increases in thickness from approximately 4 ft in the footwall to approximately 22 ft in the hanging wall, indicating post-Wilcox faulting and erosion prior to Quaternary gravel 3 deposition. The fact that Quaternary gravel 3 was preserved on the erosional surface rather than Mounds Gravel indicates that the fault is most likely post-Mounds in age.

No kinematic indicators were found on either faults *D* or *E*, so they are assumed to be normal faults. If so, they can be interpreted as a conjugate set that formed under east-west extension (fig. 21). Other faults, exposed down trench to the southeast such as *J*, *K*, *Q*, *Z*, *AA*, *AB*, *AC*, *AD*, and *AE*, also could have been active during this period of faulting, but this is uncertain.

Episode 4 (UR-4).—Faulting contemporaneous with deposition of the unnamed Quaternary gravel 3 deposit is indicated by fault *F* that offsets the lower contact of this gravel with the Wilcox Group, but not the upper contact of the gravel with Peoria Loess. Fault *F* strikes N. 50° E. and dips 78° NW. In the floor of the trench, fault *F* is truncated by fault *G*. No kinematic indicators were found on fault *F*. Fault *Q* also might have been active during deposition of the Quaternary gravel 3, because this gravel is approximately 8 ft thick in the hanging wall, and at most 2 ft thick in the footwall.

Episode 5 (UR-5).—Faults *H*, *I*(?), *N*, *O*, *S*, *T*, *V*, and *X* are thrusts. All of these structures dip at low angles, except for *S* which

dips at 55°; and, except for fault *I*, all have placed older units over younger. The youngest unit displaced by thrust faults in this trench is the Wilcox Group; however as discussed later, Sangamon Geosol is involved in thrusting in the Lower Fence Line trench, the unnamed Quaternary gravel 1 is involved in the Seismic Line trench, and Roxana Silt is cut by strike-slip faults believed to be part of this episode in the Tuesday trench. At some places in the Upper Rainbow trench, normal faults of episodes 3 and 4 have been truncated by thrusts.

In the footwall of fault *O*, S-folds in the McNairy Sand and drag on the unconformity between the McNairy Sand and Wilcox Group indicate top-towards-S. 35° E. movement, which is consistent with slickenside striations observed on the thrust faults (fig. 22).

Episode 6 (UR-6).—Deformation along faults *E*, *G*, and *Q* define a sixth episode of normal faulting that involves Peoria Loess. The field identification of Peoria Loess is confirmed by a thermoluminescence age of 17.0±2.7 ka (table 1) of a sample from near the base of this unit in the hanging wall of fault *Q* (sample 5 on fig. 19). This age is also a conservative maximum age constraint for this faulting episode. Near the northwestern, uphill end of the Upper Rainbow trench, faults *E* and *G* bound a nearly symmetrical graben that has dropped the Peoria Loess approximately 4 ft. Near the center of the trench, fault *Q* is the master fault for an asymmetrical half graben which has dropped Peoria Loess approximately 50 to 60 ft. Fault *Q* can be traced to the present-day land surface where a 2.5- to 3-ft-high scarp, or break in slope, occurs. Kinematic indicators provided by slickenside striations and sense of displacement indicate that this episode of faulting was the result of northwest-southeast extension (fig. 23).

Faults *AE* and *AF* at the southeastern end of the trench also are thought to have formed during episode 6. Fault *AE* zigzags along strike from N. 80° E. to N. 80° W., dips to the south from 29° to 60°, and is marked by slickenside striations that indicate a 90° rake. Quaternary colluvium (*Qc*) drapes over this fault forming a small 1-ft-high scarp on the present-day land surface. A 2- to 4-in-thick zone of fine- to medium-grained quartz sand, rimmed by clay film, and mica occurs along the fault surface. Fault *AF* strikes N. 75° W., dips 57° NE., and is antithetic to and truncated by fault *AE*.

Along the trench profile these two faults form a V-shaped graben that contains unsorted colluvial material (micaceous silt, loess-like silt, fine- to medium-grained quartz and glauconitic sand, pebbles, and cobbles as much as 2 in. in diameter) derived from the other Cretaceous and Cenozoic units exposed in the trench. The colluvial material is approximately 6 to 7 ft thick. There is a gross stratigraphy in the colluvial material defined by abundant glauconite in the lowermost 2 ft that is virtually absent in the upper 4 to 5 ft. In addition, gravel clasts are sparse in the lowermost 2 to 3 ft and become more abundant upward. Slickensided fracture surfaces are very abundant throughout the colluvial material.

Additional trenching approximately 17 ft into the hillside provided additional exposures of the colluvial-wedge deposit. This deposit was laid down against a scarp along fault *AE*. Adjacent to the fault, the deposit consists of about 8 ft of dominantly gravel, sand, and minor silt. It fines outward, away from the fault, to sand and silt. Fault *AF* on figure 19 juxtaposes the coarse-grained, proximal material against the fine-grained, distal material.

Charcoal is commonly found throughout the colluvial material. Radiometric ¹⁴C age dates of eight pieces of this charcoal are strongly bimodal: 4,980 ± 60 yr, 4,920 ± 60 yr, 4,780 ± 50 yr, and 4,740 ± 50 yr; 1,310 ± 60 yr, 1,240 ± 50 yr, 1,220 ± 50 yr, and 1,210 ± 50 yr. Within the graben, these two groups are segre-

gated by an obscure, near-vertical boundary, such that the older (4,980–4,740) charcoal pieces are found downhill from the younger (1,310–1,210) pieces. A thermoluminescence age of 18.4 ± 2.2 ka was obtained from the lower third of the colluvial material (sample 6 on fig. 19, see table 1). This age indicates that most of the silt in the colluvial material was derived from Peoria Loess and was rapidly deposited, such that it was not re-exposed to sunlight long enough to reset the luminescence signal.

Episode 7 (UR-7).—The seventh episode of faulting is defined by strike-slip motion on faults *L*, *M*, and *U*. Faults *L* and *M* have northeasterly strikes, steep dips, and merge upward (figs. 19 and 20). Mullions and striations on both faults indicate subhorizontal movement. Fault *U* is a vertical structure that strikes N. 35° E. and branches upward into a network of dipping faults, forming a flower structure typical of strike-slip deformation. Mullions and striations on the vertical segment and the branches indicate subhorizontal movement.

Crosscutting relations between strike-slip fault *M* and thrust faults *N* and *O*, and strike-slip fault *U* and thrust fault *T* in this trench indicate that strike-slip faults are younger than the thrust faults (episode 5). In the Seismic Line and Tuesday trenches, Peoria Loess is cut by strike-slip faults thought to also be part of episode 7 deformation, indicating a probable Holocene age. The relative ages of episodes 6 and 7 are not straightforward and they could have formed concurrently as discussed below.

Scallop-shaped structures on fault surfaces and the vergence direction of subsidiary shears indicate right-lateral displacement in a northeast-southwest-oriented maximum horizontal stress direction (fig. 24). Piercing points are lacking; therefore, the precise amount of displacement is unknown. However, the mismatch of stratigraphy across fault *U* suggests at least several tens of feet of displacement.

Discussion and interpretation of episodes 6 and 7.—It is interpreted that the normal faulting of episode 6 and the strike-slip faulting of episode 7 are probably contemporaneous. The basis for this interpretation is twofold. (1) They had similar stress orientations (figs. 23 and 24) indicating that the styles and orientations of faulting are compatible. (2) Structural features related to faults *Q* and *U* are best explained if the faults are considered to be coeval. Tertiary and Quaternary beds in the hanging wall of fault *Q* have been rotated to dips of about 30°, but only as far as fault *U*, where they abruptly flatten to subhorizontal. The contact between Cretaceous and Tertiary rocks immediately southeast of fault *U* on figure 20 has not been rotated as much as the contacts between faults *Q* and *U*. Furthermore, the contacts between units in the hanging wall of fault *Q* strike N. 60°–70° E., at an acute angle to the N. 42° E.-striking fault *Q*. This is inconsistent with what one would expect in the hanging wall of a listric normal fault, where bedding attitudes should be parallel to fault strike. The implied clockwise rotation is consistent with right-lateral, strike-slip motion on fault *U*.

A proposed model for linking coeval strike-slip movement on faults *L*, *M*, and *U* to normal movement on fault *Q* is illustrated in figure 20. In this model, fault *Q* is interpreted to be a transtensional structure that developed in an area of extension between strike-slip faults *L*–*M* and *U*. In addition, it is impossible to balance the cross section in figure 20 without allowing for strike-slip motion.

The presence of colluvial material in the graben bound by faults *AE* and *AF* is highly significant. This is the only material in all of the English Hill trench sites that has the potential to date individual surface-rupturing events. The ages of charcoal contained within this deposit provide maximum constraints on two recent fault events:

one that occurred just after 4,980–4,740 ¹⁴C years BP (2σ calibrated calendar ages of BC 3,747 to 3,369) and one just after 1,310–1,210 ¹⁴C years BP (2σ calibrated calendar ages of AD 968 to 639).

Episode 8 (UR-8).—The fact that the colluvial wedge deposit containing charcoal is itself faulted indicates the occurrence of yet another fault episode, the most recent identified at the English Hill site. Movement along fault *AF* is interpreted to have occurred during this episode. No kinematic indicators were found on fault *AF*, so it is assumed that this N. 75° W., 57° NE.-dipping structure formed during north-northeast to south-southwest extension. Similarly oriented faults exposed in the Bollinger, Old Quarry, and Uncle John trenches possibly formed during this episode.

Lower Fence Line Trench

The Lower Fence Line trench was excavated approximately 150 ft east of the upper end of the Upper Rainbow trench (fig. 3). The trench exposed a single thrust fault striking N. 35° E., dipping 10°–40° NW. (fig. 25), and on strike with thrust faults *N*, *O*, and *T* in the Upper Rainbow trench. The fault surface is poorly defined, and no striations or mullions were observed. Beds of the Porters Creek Clay, striking N. 25° W. and dipping 20° NE., were thrust over the unnamed Quaternary gravel 1 deposit (Qg1), which consists of colluvial silt, sand, and gravel deposits in a red clay matrix that has been modified by the Sangamon Geosol. Recent surface colluvial material is unfaulted.

The occurrence of Porters Creek Clay is significant because it helps define limits to the area where this unit is absent, presumably from pre-Wilcox, Eocene uplift and erosion. Figure 26 shows the known area where Porters Creek is absent. This area could have extended farther to the southwest.

Upper Fence Line Trench

The Upper Fence Line trench was excavated about 13 ft uphill from the Lower Fence Line trench (fig. 3). No faults were found in this trench (fig. 27); however, closely spaced N. 55°–60° E.-striking fractures have cut Roxana Silt and Peoria Loess.

Several stratigraphic relations and the attitudes of contacts in this trench imply structural deformation: (1) The absence of Mounds Gravel helps delineate the area of its erosion (fig. 28). This absence is interpreted to have resulted from localized uplift prior to deposition of Roxana Silt. (2) Comparison of the stratigraphic position of the unnamed Quaternary gravel 2 (Qg2) exposed in this trench with that of the unnamed Quaternary gravel 1 (Qg1) deposit exposed in the nearby Lower Fence Line trench suggests that they are different units. The unnamed Quaternary gravel 2 unit is interpreted as thus because it underlies Roxana Silt. Uplift and erosion during post-Sangamon and pre-Quaternary gravel 2 time is indicated. This was possibly the same erosional event that removed the Mounds Gravel. (3) The Sangamon Geosol is absent in this trench, but is well developed only 10 ft away in shallow excavation pits. From the trench profiles presented in this report, unpublished auger data accumulated by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Geological Survey and Resource Assessment Division, and surface mapping, the extent of Sangamon Geosol removal can be fairly accurately determined (fig. 29). (4) The contact between the unnamed Quaternary gravel 2 and Roxana Silt and Peoria Loess strikes N. 40° W. and dips 25° NE. This dip suggests structural rotation during post-Peoria time.

Seismic Line Trench

The Seismic Line trench was excavated approximately 350 ft southeast of the Fence Line trenches (fig. 3). An illustration of the northwestern wall of this trench is shown in figure 30. As in the Upper Rainbow trench, several episodes of complex faulting were found.

The oldest faults are thrusts that strike northeast and dip to the southeast. These faults cut the McNairy Sand in the southwestern part of the trench. Asymmetrical folds and slickenside striations indicate dip-slip motion towards the southeast (fig. 31). Because of similar orientations and proximity, these thrust faults in the Seismic Line trench are interpreted as correlative to episode 5 faults in the Upper Rainbow trench.

Several faults were recognized in the Seismic Line trench that are younger than the thrust faults. These younger faults have complex relations. They include normal faults; a northeast-striking, right-lateral, strike-slip fault; and riedel shears (R), conjugate riedel shears (R'), and antithetic P shears related to the right-lateral, strike-slip fault.

Faults AL (actually two faults), AO, AP, and AQ are normal faults. Kinematic indicators provided by fault-surface striations indicate northwest-southeast extension (fig. 32). Normal fault AQ displaces the Roxana-Peoria contact and at several places the normal faults have been truncated by strike-slip faults. It is therefore interpreted, on the basis of similar timing and strain, that the normal faults in this trench are correlative with episode 7 faults observed in the Upper Rainbow trench.

Fault AM is the principal strike-slip fault in this trench. It can best be described as a roll-over structure, in that it is concave downward and steepens with depth, although this is not readily apparent from figure 30 because of the acute angle between the trench and the fault. In the floor of the trench, fault AM strikes N. 55° E. and dips 85° SE.; in the wall, the dip flattens to as little as 10° to the SE. Slickenside striations and steps along fault AM indicate right-lateral motion. Fault AM truncates normal faults AO and AP, and offsets units as young as Sangamon Geosol.

Several structures observed in the Seismic Line trench are interpreted to be antithetic conjugate riedel (R') shears, synthetic riedel (R) shears, and antithetic P shears that formed in conjunction with right-lateral slip along fault AM. Northwest-striking faults AR and AS, both of which are marked by horizontal or subhorizontal slickenside surfaces and cut Sangamon Geosol (in floor of trench), Roxana Silt, and Peoria Loess, are interpreted as left-lateral R' shears. There has been approximately 2 ft and 1.5 ft of left-lateral displacement of mottled, polygonal patterns in the Sangamon Geosol by faults AR and AS, respectively. The northwest-striking fractures mapped in the eastern part of the trench (fig. 30) are also probably R' shears, although no striations or offsets were observed.

The west-northwest-striking fault AG (fig. 30) is interpreted as a synthetic R shear to fault AM. Fault AG has subhorizontal slickenside striations, displays a concave downward or roll-over characteristic, and truncates older normal faults. The northerly striking fault AN is interpreted to be an antithetic P shear to fault AM. Fault AN has slickenside striations that rake 10° SW. and side-wall rip outs indicating a left-lateral motion.

Figure 34 diagrammatically illustrates the strike-slip fault data described above. A riedel model of right simple shear for these data indicates a west-northwest-east-southeast maximum-horizontal-stress direction for this faulting (fig. 34). The relatively high $\phi/2$

angle (angle between R and the principal zone of displacement) is attributed to the unconsolidated nature of the faulted sediments and a resulting low coefficient of friction.

Although complicated by the complex faulting exposed in this trench, it is noteworthy that neither Porters Creek Clay nor Mounds Gravel is present. Their absence suggests that the Eocene and post-Mounds erosional unconformities described earlier extended into this area.

Tuesday Trench

The Tuesday trench was excavated from the eastern end of the Seismic Line trench at approximately 90 degrees (fig. 3). It revealed the most complex faulting found in the English Hill area (fig. 35). An assortment of strike-slip, normal, and thrust faults was observed. Reactivation of many structures was indicated. Most faults strike north to northeast, although several strike to the northwest (fig. 36). The evaluation of fault episodes in this trench is not straightforward; therefore, interpretation is presented after the description of the better documented major structures.

Fault AY strikes N-S to N. 5° E. and has a steep western limb that dips from 45°–50° W., rolling over to subhorizontal to the east. A subhorizontal rake of about 4° to the north on the steep limb is indicated by slickenside striations and mullions. Carrot-shaped scours along the fault surface of the steep limb indicate a left-lateral, strike-slip motion. This is supported by a sinistral vergence direction between the fault and riedel (R) and conjugate riedel (R') shears. Along strike to the south, in the wall opposite to that shown in figure 35, fault AY cuts Peoria Loess. There are many subhorizontal shear surfaces in the Roxana Silt adjacent to this fault. One thermoluminescence age date of 28.0 ± 2.6 ka from the uppermost Roxana Silt (table 1, see fig. 35 for location) verifies the field identification of this unit.

Fault AZ, a left-lateral, strike-slip fault, strikes N. 5° E. (parallel to fault AY), dips 67° SE., and has a rake of 34° NE. determined from slickenside striations. This fault separates entirely different Quaternary stratigraphic sequences. Immediately to the south of fault AZ, Mounds Gravel is overlain by sandy, gravelly, and silty colluvial deposits (Qc2 and Qc1). Farther to the south, Mounds Gravel is absent and is replaced in the stratigraphic section by the unnamed Quaternary gravel 3 (Qg3) and coarse-grained silty sand (Qs) beneath reworked Peoria Loess and colluvial deposits (Qc1). Sangamon Geosol, Roxana Silt, and most of Peoria Loess are absent. To the north of fault AZ, there is a relatively thick Quaternary loess sequence of Sangamon Geosol (developed on Loveland Loess), Roxana Silt, and Peoria Loess. These stratigraphic relations across fault AZ indicate significant localized post-Roxana uplift, followed by erosion.

Fault BM strikes N. 35° E. and dips approximately 40° NW. A rake of 8° to the southwest is indicated from slickenside striations and mullions. This fault consists of many braided surfaces that juxtapose McNairy Sand in the hanging wall against the Clayton Formation in the footwall. Fault-bound slivers of both McNairy and Clayton occur along the fault, and in places faulted slivers of Clayton overlie slivers of McNairy. In the hanging wall, McNairy Sand has been cut by a complicated array of branching and curving faults that have both steep and subhorizontal attitudes. The steep faults are generally northwest striking, oblique to fault BM. Slickenside striations on the subhorizontal surfaces indicate either northeast or southwest motion, parallel to fault BM. Bedding has been strongly rotated and, despite the complexity of faulting and

horizontal motion, is always parallel to fault *BM* (fig. 37).

The upper tip of fault *BM* has placed McNairy Sand over the Quaternary gravel 3 deposit (fig. 35), but the fault apparently does not cut any higher in the section. This gravel is poorly sorted and consists of chert cobbles derived from the Mounds Gravel, polished black chert and quartz pebbles derived from the Wilcox Group, and iron-cemented conglomerate clasts in a sandy, silty matrix. Many prominent pebble imbrications indicate flow towards the northeast. Multiple movements along fault *BM* are indicated by the existence of Quaternary gravel 3 directly over McNairy Sand in the hanging wall and directly over Clayton Formation in the footwall. No datable materials were found in any of the Quaternary units overlying fault *BM*.

Discussion and interpretation.—Because of the fault complexity and scarcity of crosscutting relations, it is difficult to decipher different episodes of faulting in the Tuesday trench. From kinematic indicators observed along the faults in this trench and analyses of faults in the other trenches in the English Hill area, at least three episodes of faulting can be interpreted here.

The first episode of faulting is thought to be the result of north-west-southeast compression. Northeast-striking thrust faults (faults *BM* and *BO*) formed and left-lateral, strike-slip motion occurred along faults *AX*, *AY*, and *AZ* (fig. 38). Localized uplift and subsequent erosion removed the Quaternary loess section (Roxana Silt and Peoria Loess) south of fault *AZ* as discussed above.

The second interpreted fault episode resulted in east-northeast strike-southwest extension along faults *AZ*, *BB*, *BC*, *BD*, *BF*, *BG*, and *BH*. At some locations, the earlier formed subhorizontal faults are thought to have been reactivated, producing the observed northeast-southwest slickenside striations. At other places, the subhorizontal faults have been offset by this episode of faulting. The graben between faults *AZ* and *BF* probably formed during this episode, and the Qc2 deposit may, in part, represent graben fill. Figure 39 is an equal-area stereographic projection of fault data for this interpreted episode.

The final episode of faulting at the Tuesday trench is interpreted as strike-slip motion along fault *BM*. Other faults may have been reactivated, particularly fault *BO*. The principal evidence for this episode is juxtaposition of McNairy Sand above the unnamed Quaternary gravel 3 deposit on fault *BM* and the fault-bound slivers of Clayton Formation structurally above McNairy Sand along fault *BM*. Slickenside striations on fault *BM* rake 8° to the southwest and mark the last motion along the fault. In order to move the hanging wall upward and produce these striations, right-lateral, strike-slip motion is required. The fault-bound slivers of Clayton are interpreted as rip-out structures produced by this strike-slip faulting.

The only other faults exposed in the Tuesday trench that can be readily interpreted as having formed during late strike-slip deformation are faults *AT* and *AU* at the extreme northern end of the trench. These faults have the proper orientation to be conjugate riedel (*R'*) shears, accompanying northeast-trending, right-lateral, strike-slip faulting. These faults are located where an on-strike projection of fault *AS* exposed in the Seismic Line trench (fig. 30) should cut the Tuesday trench. Figure 40 is an equal-area stereographic projection of fault data for this last interpreted episode of faulting.

Weber Trench

The Weber trench was excavated approximately 500 ft southwest of the southern end of the Tuesday Trench (fig. 3). It is the southeasternmost and topographically lowest trench dug in the English Hill area. A series of horsts and grabens was exposed in the trench (fig. 41). The bounding faults are marked by light-colored silt infilling; no slickenside surfaces were observed.

Stratigraphic relations across the faults suggest two, and possibly three, episodes of faulting. Fault *BT* juxtaposes Wilcox Group sand and Sangamon Geosol, and both are directly overlain by Peoria Loess. This implies a post-Sangamon and pre-Peoria episode. Roxana Silt is in the hanging wall of fault *BP*, but is absent elsewhere in the trench. This suggests a post-Roxana uplift and subsequent erosion. It is not known if these episodes occurred at the same time or not. The final episode involved Peoria Loess. All faults except *BT* cut Peoria Loess.

Lacking any kinematic indicators, it is not possible to accurately evaluate stress orientations. However given the fault orientations (fig. 42) and the normal sense of stratigraphic separation across the faults, northwest-southeast extension is suggested.

Correlation of Fault Episodes and Geology of English Hill

Exposures in the Upper Rainbow trench provide the most complete tectonic record found in the English Hill area and can be used to interpret faulting found in the other trenches (table 2). The oldest episode (UR-1) is expressed by microfaults and normal faults of small displacement confined to the McNairy Sand. Some of the faults in the McNairy Sand exposed in the Tuesday trench (fig. 35) are probably of Cretaceous age, but the complexity of subsequent faulting precludes positive verification. Cretaceous faulting has been documented elsewhere in the Benton Hills (Harrison and Schultz, 1994).

Deformation during the Eocene (UR-2) is suggested by localized, and rather dramatic, unconformities in the Upper Rainbow and Seismic Line trenches (figs. 19, 20, and 30) and in the unique existence of the greater than 20-ft-thick unnamed Eocene unit exposed in the Bollinger trench (figs. 5 and 6). Corehole BH-1 (see fig. 3 for location and Harrison and others (1996) for description) encountered 36.7 ft of Porters Creek Clay, which is absent in the Upper Rainbow trench only 400 ft away. It is interpreted that these phenomena represent localized fault-related uplift and erosion of horst blocks and deposition in a graben.

Although poorly understood, Upper Rainbow episodes 3 and 4 (UR-3 and UR-4) document early Quaternary faulting, possibly the result of east-west and northwest-southeast extension, respectively. These episodes probably are correlative to post-Wilcox Group–pre-Sangamon Geosol faulting observed in the Uncle John trench, post-Sangamon Geosol–pre-Roxana Silt inferred faulting in the Upper Fence Line trench, and post-Sangamon Geosol–pre-Peoria Loess faulting in the Weber trench.

Upper Rainbow episode 5 (UR-5) thrust faulting provides a distinctive northwest-southeast compressional stress signature. Such a stress orientation was not observed in any of the other episodes. Similar deformation was found in the Lower Fence Line, Seismic Line, and Tuesday trenches. Constraints provided in the Lower Fence Line trench indicate that this episode was post-Sangamon Geosol, and in the Tuesday trench is constrained as being post-

Roxana Silt. Deformation similar in style and timing was observed at other locations in the Thebes Gap area to the east of the Scott City quadrangle (Harrison and others, 1999).

The results of episodes 6 and 7 (UR-6 and UR-7) are the best exposed and most widely expressed deformational features at English Hill. It is probable that these episodes are correlative or form a continuum, such that UR-6 is a transtensional expression of the same stress field responsible for UR-7 strike-slip faulting. These episodes are post-Peoria Loess and therefore Holocene in age.

The most recent episode (UR-8) is suggested by middle to late Holocene faults that cut the colluvial-wedge deposit at the southeastern end of the Upper Rainbow trench. However, because the relation between this faulting episode and episodes 6 and 7 is unknown, they could all constitute a single episode. Additional evidence for the UR-8 episode can be found in the northeast-southwest extensional faults that cut the modern B soil horizon in the Bollinger trench and in similar extensional faults in the Old Quarry and Uncle John trenches. Although more problematic because of the lack of age constraints, the youngest faulting observed in the Seismic Line and Tuesday trenches could also be part of UR-8.

The geologic map of the English Hill area (fig. 4) produced from trench data described in this report, previous trench and auger hole data accumulated by the MDNR/GSRAD, shallow excavations, and surface mapping shows that complex faults formed along dominantly northeast and east-northeast trends that define rhomb-shaped grabens and horsts. It is interpreted that these faults are the surface expression of basement-controlled strike-slip faults and that step-overs in displacement along the basement faults have at different times produced transtension (pull-apart or rhomb grabens) or transpression (thrust faults) in the overlying Cretaceous-Cenozoic section.

Tectonic Versus Landslide Origin

There has been much unpublished debate over a landslide versus tectonic origin for structures at English Hill since Stewart's (1942) report that indicated Quaternary faulting existed there. A large part of our evaluation was, therefore, directed toward this controversy. Our preferred interpretation is a tectonic origin. The following is a tabulation of data and arguments supporting or disfavoring each of the possible origins.

Data that possibly support a landslide origin.—

(1) The area is near the New Madrid seismic zone where great historical and prehistorical earthquakes are known to have occurred; earthquakes probably strong enough to have generated large landslides on the scale of observed deformation at English Hill. Small prehistoric landslides have been observed in the Benton Hills (Harrison, 1999).

(2) Most of the observed faults do occur on the southeast-facing slope and crest of English Hill; a site where landslides or slumping could be expected.

(3) Cretaceous and Cenozoic deposits down to a depth of approximately 200 ft are unconsolidated; and therefore, remain susceptible to slumping or landsliding.

(4) The kinematic indicators interpreted for several of the faults exposed in trenches do indicate extension has occurred at English Hill.

Data in support of a tectonic origin.—

(1) Many faults that cut the lithified Paleozoic section, as well as the Cretaceous and Cenozoic sections, have been recognized in the region around English Hill (Harrison and Schultz, 1994; Johnson, 1985; Harrison, 1999). These regional faults have the same trend as structures observed at English Hill and have had a long-lived, episodic history of activity throughout much of the Phanerozoic (Harrison and Schultz, 1994).

(2) Seismic-reflection profiles acquired at English Hill indicate the presence of deep-seated faults in the Paleozoic section beneath the observed surface deformation (Palmer and others, 1997a,b).

(3) Faulting at English Hill has been episodic, occurring in the Late Cretaceous and throughout the Cenozoic. This is not a characteristic of landslides, which become relatively stable after initial movement. Otherwise, the same landslides must have been re-activated throughout the Cenozoic. In addition, the scarp along the southeastern margin of the Benton Hills did not exist until late Tertiary or early Quaternary time, prior to which the site would not have been favorable for landsliding.

(4) Faulting has occurred as much as 1,200 ft back from the slope crest in the Uncle John trench; anomalous for landslides, which typically have break-away scarps along the crest (Varnes, 1978; Jibson and Keefer, 1993).

(5) In the Uncle John trench, extensional motion was towards the northwest, away from the slope. This is consistent with bidirectional tectonic extension, but is in contrast with the unidirectional extension that would have been produced by landsliding to the southeast. Fault motions "into the hill" also were observed at other trench sites, most notably the Bollinger and the Tuesday trenches.

(6) The occurrence of similarly striking normal, thrust, and strike-slip faults in close proximity, and at some places crosscutting each other, is more characteristic of tectonic deformation than landsliding. Whereas all three styles of faulting can occur in landslides, they are segregated with normal faults at the head and sometimes in the body of the slide, thrusts at the toe, and strike-slip faults along the margins; furthermore, the strikes of landslide-derived strike-slip faults should be nearly orthogonal to those of the normal and thrust faults. The complex relations between the three types of faults observed in several of the trenches is more reminiscent of tectonic deformation, particularly deformation occurring in strike-slip regimes (see examples of faulting in the Mecca Hills shown in Sylvester (1988) and Sylvester and Smith (1976)).

(7) The rotation of bedding observed at English Hill is multidirectional, and Cretaceous beds have been rotated more than Cenozoic beds (fig. 43). Rotation during landsliding should be more unidirectional, and both young and old deposits should be rotated equally. On the other hand, tectonic deformation can produce varying bedding attitudes and older deposits that are rotated more than younger deposits if faulting is time-transgressive.

(8) The concave-downward, or roll-over, faults observed in the Seismic Line and Tuesday trenches are characteristic of strike-slip deformation and inconsistent with landslide deformation. Such features have been reported in many strike-slip systems (Naylor and others, 1986; Sylvester and Smith, 1976; Steel and others, 1985; Ramsay and Huber, 1987). In contrast, all faults produced by landsliding are concave upward, flattening out with depth.

(9) The ubiquitous occurrence at English Hill of microstructures on fault surfaces that cannot be gravity driven.

CONCLUSIONS

(1) Faults at English Hill are predominantly of a tectonic origin, although some minor slumping cannot be totally ruled out.

(2) Faulting is the surface expression of basement-controlled strike-slip faults imaged on the seismic-reflection profiles.

(3) Faulting has been episodic throughout the Cenozoic and as many as four episodes have occurred during the late Quaternary. Major fault episodes (UR-3 and UR-4) probably occurred in late- to post-Sangamon, pre- to early Roxana time (~60–50 ka) and again (UR-5) in syn- or post-Roxana, pre-Peoria time (~35–25 ka). This latter episode is unique and enigmatic in that it appears to be the result of northwest-southeast horizontal compression, at nearly right angles to all other interpreted neotectonic stresses and the present-day regional stress field of east-northeast, subhorizontal compression determined by Zoback and Zoback (1980, 1989) and Zoback (1992). At least two episodes of Holocene deformation are apparent; the possibility of others is not straightforward. Radiometric ¹⁴C ages of charcoal from the faulted colluvial-wedge deposit in the Upper Rainbow trench suggest fault events occurred around or just after 4,980–4,740 and 1,310–1,210 radiocarbon years BP (2σ calibrated calendar ages of BC 3,747 to 3,369 and AD 968 to 639, respectively).

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