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Additional geologic applications of the computerized
Stratigraphic Analysis Techniques System (STRATS)

by

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This report is preliminary and has not been reviewed for conformity with U.S. Geological Survey editorial standards and stratigraphic nomenclature. Any use of trade names is for descriptive purposes only and does not imply endorsement by the USGS.

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Introduction

The Stratigraphic Analysis Techniques System (STRATS) software (Boger, 1986) is part of the National Coal Resources Data System (NCRDS) of the U.S. Geological Survey. STRATS, which runs on a Prime minicomputer, produces essentially camera-ready computer graphics in a correlation-diagram format. STRATS is used to graphically display stratigraphic data from measured sections and from drill holes. These data are stored in PACER, the database managing system for the NCRDS. It is assumed that the reader has a working knowledge of PACER, STRATTHK, LSTRATUS, STRATS, and STRATFE software; and ED, the line-oriented text editor on the Prime.

Three variations of STRATS usage and procedures are described in this report. These variations expand the versatility of the program, and add detail to the graphics generated. The procedures explained in this report apply to the versions of STRATFE and STRATS installed on the U. S. Geological Survey Prime 9650 minicomputer in Lakewood, Colorado, in April, 1987.

The first variation gives the capability to display formation names adjacent to the stratigraphic column. The second procedure allows for more variety in the lithologic symbols used in the stratigraphic column. The third variation allows partial drill holes or measured sections to be displayed. All of these capabilities are generated by using ED, the line-oriented Prime editor, to edit the input file to STRATS. The third variation also requires use of the update procedures within PACER.

The ability to display formation names and additional lithologic symbols may be formally incorporated into the STRATS software in the future, as the capabilities of STRATS are constantly being expanded. The ability to display partial stratigraphic sections using STRATS exclusively is presently in testing. Currently, a user can employ the three procedures detailed in this report to get the desired results.

Data from Mississippian-Pennsylvanian siliciclastic rocks of Oklahoma (Keighin and Flores, 1987) are used in this report to illustrate the display of formation names and additional lithologic symbols. Data from Roberts (1987), which represent Upper Cretaceous sedimentary rocks in New Mexico, are used to illustrate the display of partial stratigraphic sections from drill holes and outcrop.

I. TO ADD FORMATION NAMES

The program STRATFE generates an input file to STRATS. We call this file the ANYNAME file; it is also known as the data set or database file (Boger, 1986, p. 2). An unedited ANYNAME file is shown in figure 1. This ANYNAME file contains the information for three drill holes: data points 1-16, 1-12, and 2-8. Note that there are presently no entries in the BEDNAME position (the NDENDE on each of the unit records). Because no bednames are included, we cannot use a datum other than elevation for the STRATS plot. Figures 2 and 3 show part of the STRATS plot

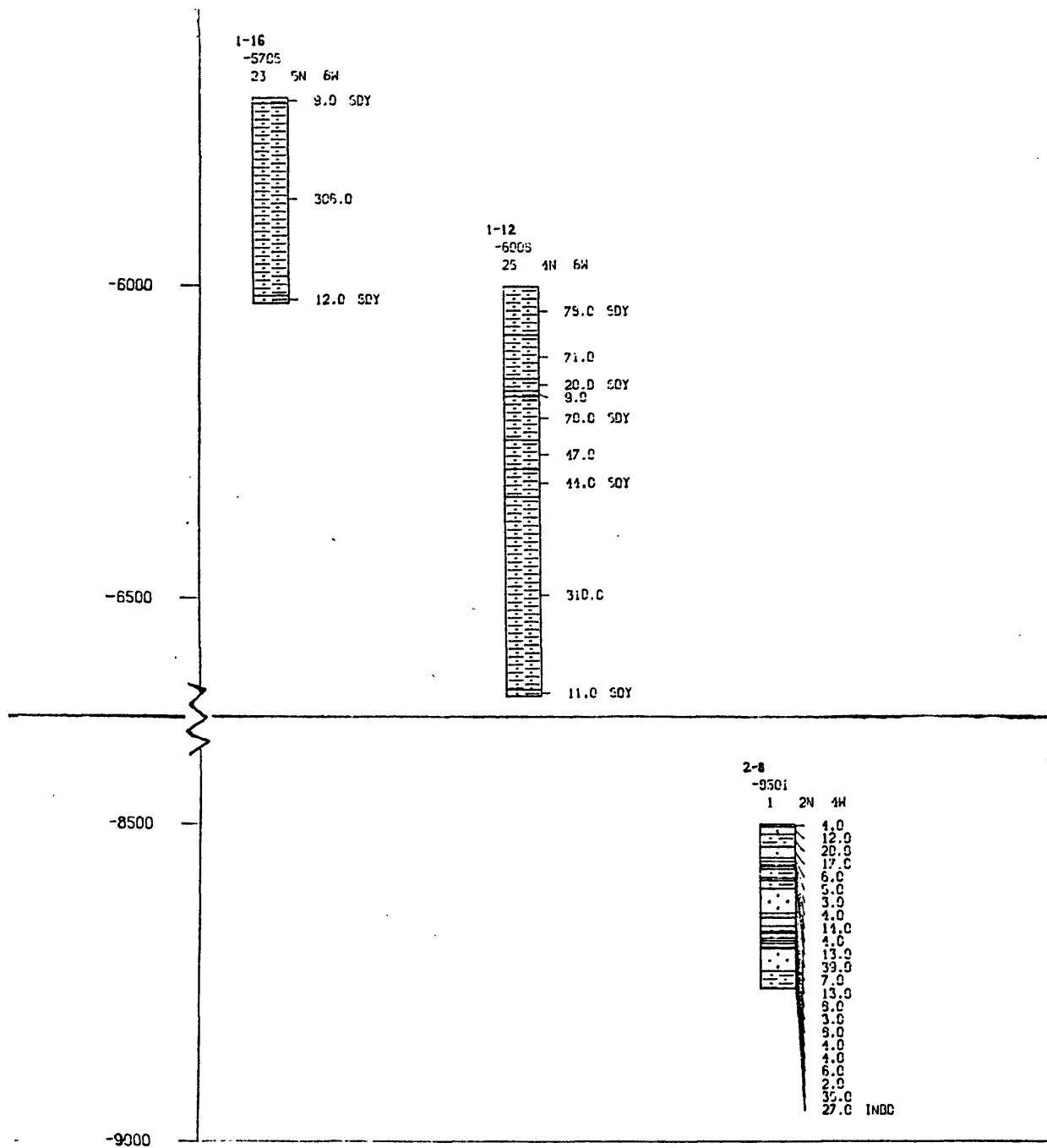




Figure 2.-- Part of the STRATS plot generated from the ANYNAME file. Datum is elevation in feet below sea level. Note gap in elevation in mid-plot. Lithologic symbols are explained in Set A of figure 3.

SET A

Sandstone 

Siltstone 

Units ~~too~~ thin
to plot 

SET B

Sandstone 

Sandy Siltstone/
intrbd. siltstone 

Siltstone 


Units ~~too~~ thin
to plot 

Figure 3.-- Author-drafted and annotated explanation to accompany STRATS plots. Note increase in number of symbols in Set B, and added ability to distinguish sandy or interbedded siltstone from [plain] siltstone. Set A is the explanation for figures 2 and 5; Set B is the explanation for figure 7.

generated from this unedited version of the ANYNAME file.

To add formation names, first copy the ANYNAME file; we'll call the copy FM-NAME. Then edit this FM-NAME file, as illustrated below, to introduce formation names where the bednames would have appeared. (Consult a listing of the PACER data file, or an LSTRATUS printout of the PACER data file, to determine which formations are encountered in these drill holes). We can edit the FM-NAME file so that each stratigraphic unit carries a formation name, or we can enter formation names at only selected stratigraphic units of each formation. We chose to enter formation names at only the first stratigraphic unit of each formation, to create a less cluttered plot. The edited file is shown in figure 4; it was used to produce the plot in figure 5.

For example, the first stratigraphic unit in drill hole 1-12 is displayed in the unedited FM-NAME file [which is the same as the ANYNAME file, (fig. 1)] as follows:

```
5.                0.00    78.00SLNDENDE                SDY
```

From our PACER data file we know that this unit is the first unit in the Morrow Formation. Using the Prime line editor, we edit the first unit as follows [the carat (^) symbol represents blank spaces]:

```
CHANGE/NDENDE^^^/MORMORROW/
```

The edited line becomes:

```
5.                0.00    78.00SLMORMORROW                SDY
```

The format of the formation name (see fig. 4) in the FM-NAME file is the same as that of the bedname: the first three characters of the name followed by a maximum of eight characters, to more fully represent the name.

We know also from the PACER file that the last unit of drill hole 1-12 is the top unit of the Springer Formation. Again, we edit as follows:

```
45.               649.00  660.00SLNDENDE                SDY
```

```
CHANGE/NDENDE^^^^^/SPRSPRINGER/
```

resulting in:

```
45.               649.00  660.00SLSPRSPRINGER                SDY
```

Now, when this edited version of the FM-NAME file is used as input to STRATS and the bedname option is chosen, the first unit of drill hole 1-12 will have MORROW printed in the center of the unit to the right of the thickness, and the last unit will

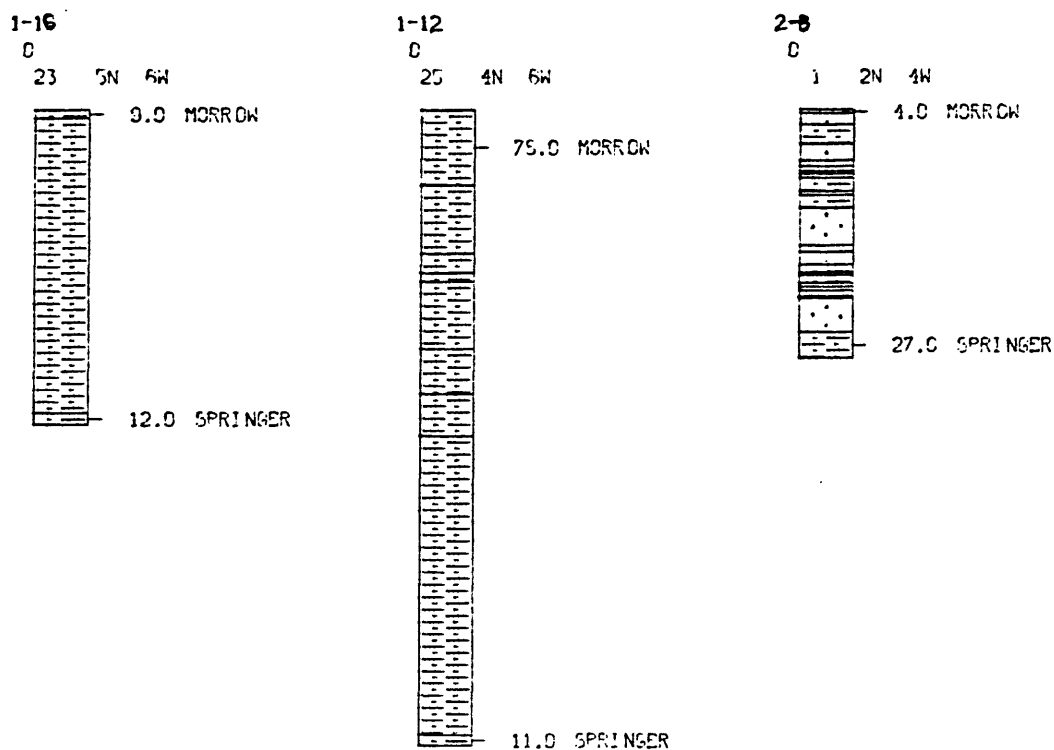


Figure 5. -- Part of the STRATS plot generated from edited FM-NAME file. Datum is top of the Morrow Formation. Lithologic symbols are explained in Set A of figure 3.

have SPRINGER printed in a corresponding position (see fig. 5). [Thicknesses are automatically displayed in the STRATS option that displays the bedname field.] If all the drill holes selected for a plot contain a Morrow unit, then the Morrow Formation can be used as the datum for the plot. In the example shown in figure 5, the top of the Morrow Formation was used as the datum.

When you edit the FM-NAME file, it is important to adjust blank spaces so that data fields remain in their correct positions. For example, if the three blank spaces after NDENDE had not been included in the CHANGE statement for the first unit, the SDY lithology modifier would have been shifted three spaces to the right.

II. TO INCREASE THE VARIETY OF LITHOLOGIC SYMBOLS

A close examination of drill holes 1-16 and 1-12 in figure 5 shows that only one lithologic symbol, the siltstone symbol, is used in each drill hole. Figure 2 and the ANYNAME or FM-NAME files show that there are differences between the units, however. Some are [plain] siltstone and some are sandy siltstone; that is, the primary lithology "siltstone" with the lithology modifier "sandy" (SDY). STRATS displays the primary lithology in graphic symbols within the stratigraphic column and provides an option in which the lithology modifier is written to the right of the unit (see fig. 2). This option was not chosen in figure 5, however, because we chose the option to display the bedname [actually, formation name] to the right of the unit, and we cannot then also display the lithology modifier.

So how can we distinguish graphically between units with identical primary lithologies but varying lithology modifiers?

One way to do this is to represent a primary lithology and modifier with a symbol that is not otherwise used within that data set-- thus, to redefine one of the other lithologic symbols (Boger, 1986, table 1, p. 8) available in STRATS. For instance, the claystone symbol is not used in this data set of three logs. Therefore we can redefine the claystone symbol to represent one of the two siltstone types -- for instance, [plain] siltstone -- and we can leave the sandy siltstone units (and the one interbedded siltstone unit) represented by the default siltstone pattern. [We just as easily could have used the claystone symbol to represent the sandy or interbedded siltstone units and left the default pattern to represent the [plain] siltstone units.]

There are several steps to this process:

1. Make a copy of the FM-NAME file. We will call it SYMNAME, to represent the new symbols that we will use.
2. Look through the file and list the various combinations of lithology, formation, and lithology modifier.

In our file we have the following seven combinations:

SLMORMORROW	
SLMORMORROW	SDY
SLNDENDE	
SLNDENDE	SDY
SLSPRSPRINGER	SDY
SLSPRSPRINGER	INBD
SSNDENDE	

3. Decide which lithologies to change based upon the sequence of stratigraphic units and the number of unused symbols.

In this case, because there is just one sandstone type, we do not have any confusion with the use of that symbol. However, there are three siltstone types--sandy siltstone, interbedded siltstone, and [plain] siltstone. Because plain and sandy siltstone units alternate within this data set, it would be useful to distinguish between them graphically. We chose to use the clay symbol to represent plain siltstone. Sandy or interbedded siltstone will still be represented by the default siltstone pattern.

4. Make global changes in the SYMNAME file by using the CHANGE command (abbreviated as "C") in ED, the Prime text editor.

In this case, the changes that we need are:

```
C/SLNDENDE^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^/CLNDENDE/G99
C/SLMORMORROW^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^/CLMORMORROW/G99
```

These two changes produce a file (figure 6) in which all the siltstones with no lithology modifier are changed to claystone units, and thus are represented by the claystone symbol.

The blank spaces (^) are very important in the CHANGE statement. If we simply change all SLNDENDE to CLNDENDE, we are not creating a graphical difference among the three types of siltstone. So, only certain siltstone units should be changed to the claystone symbol-- in this example, the plain siltstone. Thus we see the 22 blank spaces after the SLNDENDE in the CHANGE statement; these spaces represent the absence of a lithology modifier.

5. Run STRATS with the edited **SYMNAME** file as the input database. Figure 7 shows part of the resulting STRATS plot. In the plot explanation (see fig. 3), indicate that the default siltstone symbol represents sandy or interbedded siltstone, and the claystone symbol represents [plain] siltstone.

There are two conditions under which this method will not work. One is when there are no unused lithologic symbols. The other is when the change of lithologic symbol will be too confusing to the users of the STRATS plot. This occurs when a lithologic symbol which typically represents a specific rock type, such as the limestone symbol, would be used to represent a rock type with little association with limestone, such as silty sandstone. Even though the limestone symbol would be clearly redefined by the author in the plot explanation, it still may be unrealistic to expect readers to disassociate the limestone symbol from its usual meaning. In our substitution above, we felt that use of the claystone symbol to represent siltstone would not be confusing, if such a usage was clearly shown in the plot explanation.

In those instances when symbols cannot be substituted, color can be used to distinguish between similar lithologic types. For instance, [plain] siltstone units can be left uncolored, while sandy siltstone units can be colored beige. The color would be applied by hand, after the STRATS plot is generated, and the colored symbol(s) should be added to the plot explanation.

III. TO DISPLAY PARTIAL STRATIGRAPHIC SEQUENCES

A) PARTIAL DRILL HOLES

When data from drill holes are entered into the computer, we often include all or most of the length of the hole. However, only parts of the hole may contain data of immediate interest. It is an advantage to be able to isolate a particular formation within the hole and display its units in more detail. The STRATFE¹ program, at this time, cannot run on a PACER file unless the first unit of the file has a FROM depth value of 0.00. Therefore, the PACER file must be edited so that the first unit of interest is at the top of the file.

Preparing the PACER file - The data for this exercise are stored in the NCRDS in three drill holes. Each hole consists of about 5000 feet of stratigraphic section contained in eight geologic formations. We want to display only about 500 feet of section in

¹A new version of STRATFE will allow the first FROM value to be greater than 0.0 and will allow the first unit number to be greater than 1. This version is currently being tested.

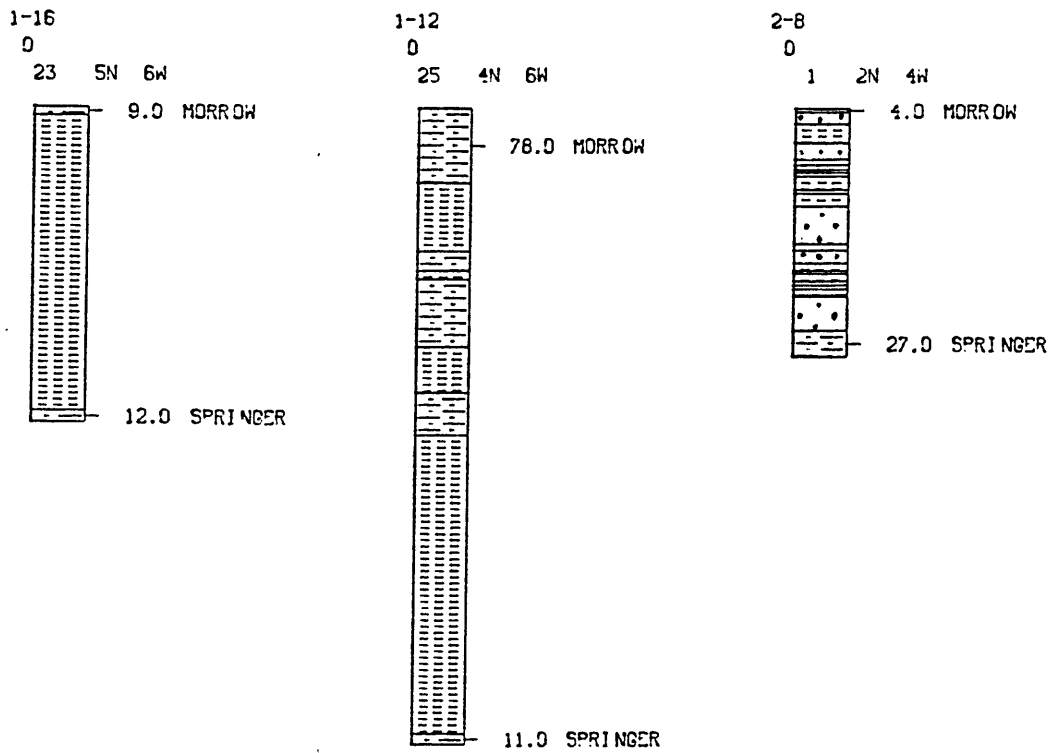


Figure 7.-- Part of the STRATS plot generated from the edited SYMNAME file. Datum is top of the Morrow Formation. Lithologic symbols are explained in Set B of figure 3.

two formations. Figure 8 shows the original drill hole data as stored in the database and that portion of the original drill hole that we want to graphically display using STRATS. Following is a sequence of steps to extract this subset of data:

1. Search the original PACER file for all the formations **above and including** the formations of interest. In this case we will search using the conditions:

- A. FORMATN EQ KIRTLAND
- B. FORMATN EQ FRUITLAND
- C. FORMATN EQ PICTURED CLIFFS

The logic for this search is A .or. B .or. C. We will name the output file from this search TOPFORMS.

2. Search TOPFORMS for the formations **above** the two formations you wish to display. In this case the condition of the search is

- A. FORMATN EQ KIRTLAND

We will call the output file for this search ABOVEFM.

3. Use PACER's update procedure 4 (batch update) to change all thickness values in the ABOVEFM file to 0.01 feet. Post the ABOVEFM file back to the TOPFORMS file. [For details on the PACER update procedures, see Biewick and others, (1986)]. The reason for this step is to reduce to zero the thickness of all the units above the units you wish to display. Thickness data in the NCRDS are stored in inches, so as a result of the update procedure, 0.01 ft is converted to 0.0008 in. In the STRATFE program, inches are converted back to feet, but because STRATFE does not read beyond the second number after the decimal, the 0.0008 in. is read as 0.00 in. and is converted to 0.00 ft.
4. Exit PACER. Run the STRATTHK program on the TOPFORMS file. This is a crucial step! By running STRATTHK, the FROM and TO values in TOPFORMS will be changed to agree with the thickness values that you just entered during PACER's update procedure.
5. Run STRATFE using the TOPFORMS file. We'll call the output from STRATFE ANYNAME. STRATFE reads FROM and TO values within the PACER file when creating the ANYNAME file for input into STRATS.

Preparing the ANYNAME file - Figure 9 shows the contents of the ANYNAME file. Notice that several of the units at and near the top of each data point have both a FROM and TO value of 0.00. After making a backup copy of ANYNAME file, use the Prime editor to delete each line in the ANYNAME file where the unit has both FROM and TO values of 0.00. The unit with the first TO value

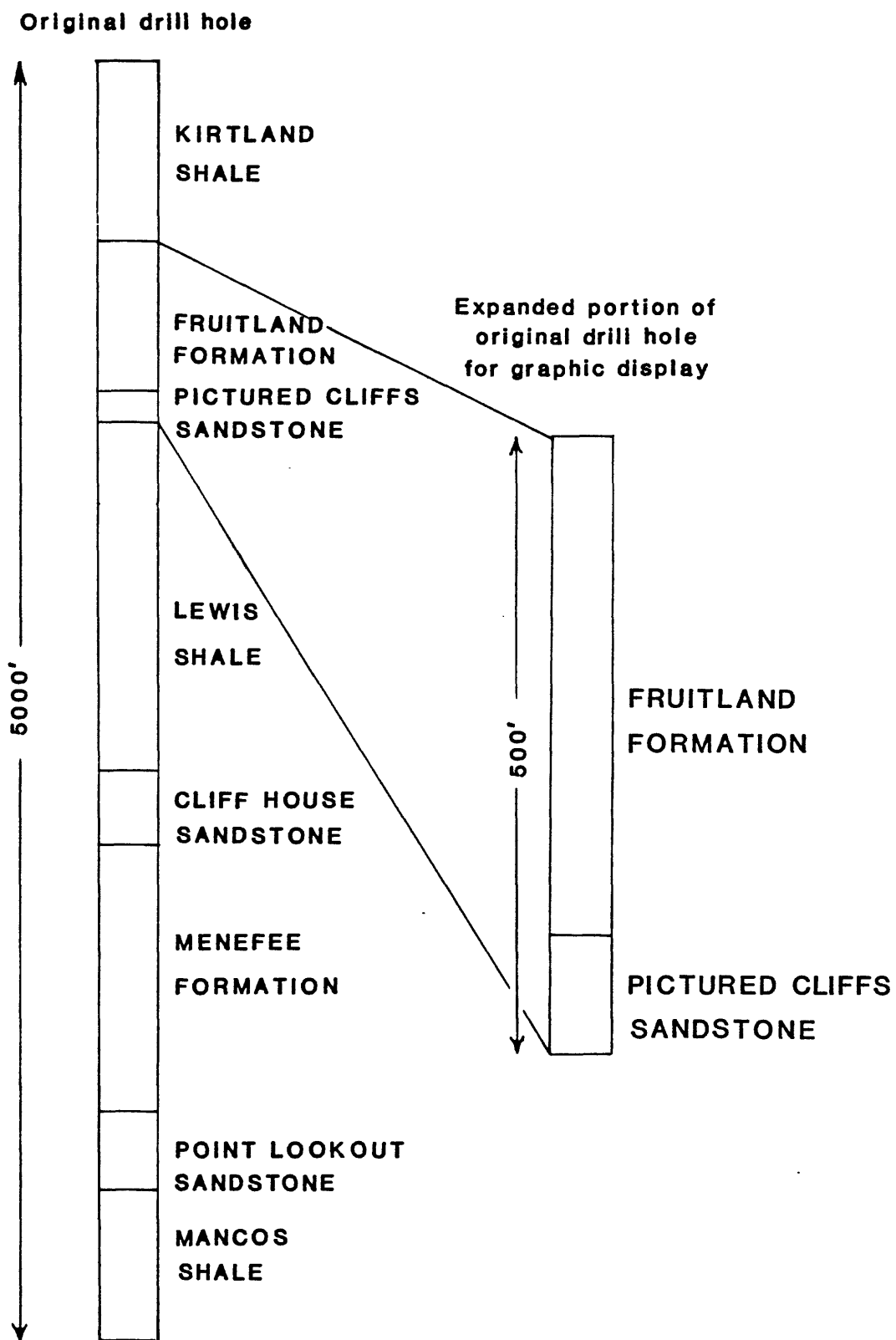


Figure 8.-- Schematic diagram showing the stratigraphic sequence of rock units as originally entered into the database (left) and that portion of the original sequence that we want to display (right). Not drawn to scale.

greater than zero is your new unit 1.

The first line in the ANYNAME file consists of numbers separated by spaces. The fourth number in this line represents the number of units that the STRATS program expects to encounter in a particular drill hole (fig. 9). Use the Prime editor to change this number to agree with the number of units remaining after deletions. The STRATS program cannot run successfully if the number of units shown in the first line of the header for each drill hole does not match the actual number of units listed. When you change the number of units in the header, remember to adjust blank spaces so that the number remains in the correct position on the line. Figure 10 is the contents of the ANYNAME file after editing.

Run the STRATS program using this edited ANYNAME file as the input file. Figure 11 shows the graphic output from STRATS under the option to display no annotation. Note that this version of the ANYNAME file does not contain formation names: they can be added to the file using the procedure described in the first part of this report.

B) MEASURED COAL SECTIONS

Data entered into the computer from stratigraphic sections measured on the outcrop may include several coal beds, correlated and named, in a stratigraphic interval of several hundred feet. It is often desirable to display only that part of the measured section that consists of the roof rock, a particular coal bed with its parting(s), and the floor rock. The output that we want from STRATS is a graphic display of a correlated coal bed from several different measured sections, aligned at the top of either the coal bed or the roof rock.

Update the PACER file (we'll call this file MEASEC) as in the previous example so that units above the units you wish to display have a 0.01 ft thickness. You may want to display only part of the roof and floor rock (by decreasing the thickness value through update procedure 3 in PACER) so that the diagram appears balanced. Do not be concerned with units below those you want to show, as they can easily be deleted from the STRATFE output file (ANYNAME file).

Use the update procedure 4 in PACER to change the surface elevations of the coal sections in the MEASEC file to 0.0. Exit PACER and run the STRATTHK program so the FROM and TO values for each unit will agree with the updates you made to the thicknesses of each unit. Run STRATFE using MEASEC as the input file and ANYNAME2 as the output file. As described in the previous exercise for partial drill holes, edit the ANYNAME2 file by deleting units that have both FROM and TO values equal to 0.00. At this point you can also delete any unwanted units below the units you wish to display. Once again, be sure to make the number of units (the fourth number in the first line of each data point) match the actual number of units listed.

Run STRATS using ANYNAME2 as the input file. Choose the option to plot the sections using elevation as the datum, so the tops of the measured coal sections will be aligned. Figure 12 is the graphic output from this exercise.

1	1	0	(15)	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5.21992				31N 14W 24	5705.0	36.8833770	10P.2535095		
5.				USGD-RCBINS	OPURGATORY CANDE		760409NEW MEXICO	SAN JUAN	
30.				0.CO	48.00SLNDENDE				
35.				4P.CO	87.00SHNDENDE				
40.				87.CO	92.00CCLOCLOCAL1				
45.				92.CO	140.00SHNDENDE				
50.				140.CO	142.00CONDENDE				
55.				142.CO	225.00SLNDENDE				
60.				225.CO	237.00SHNDENDE				
65.				237.CO	239.00COUTEUTE	CANYON			
70.				239.CO	242.00SHNDENDE				
75.				242.CO	249.00COUTEUTE	CANYON			
80.				249.CO	286.00SSNDENDE				
85.				286.CO	318.00SHNCENDE				
90.				318.CO	322.00COMAIMAIN				
95.				322.CO	335.00SHNCENDE				
100.				335.CO	351.00SSKPKCKPC				
1	1	0	(10)	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5.21993				31N 14W 25	5688.0	36.8746109	10P.2539368		
5.				USGD-RCBINS	OYOUNGS LAKE NOE		760425NEW MEXICO	SAN JUAN	
15.				0.CO	59.00SLNCENDE				
20.				59.CO	64.00CCLOCLOCAL1				
25.				64.CO	91.00SSNDENDE				
30.				91.CO	245.00SLNDENDE				
35.				245.CO	249.00COUTEUTE	CANYON			
40.				249.CO	250.00SHNCENDE				
45.				250.CO	255.00COUTEUTE	CANYON			
50.				255.CO	342.00SLNDENDE				
55.				342.CO	347.00COMAIMAIN				
60.				347.CO	363.00SSKPKCKPC				
1	1	0	(24)	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5.21999				31N 14W 13	5681.0	36.8959121	10P.2518158		
5.				USGD-RCBINS	OPURGATORY CANDE		760319NEW MEXICO	SAN JUAN	
25.				0.CO	30.00SSNDENDE				
30.				30.CO	37.00SHNDENDE				
35.				37.CO	54.00SSNDENDE				
40.				54.CO	62.00SHNDENDE				
45.				62.CO	64.00CONDENDE				
50.				64.CO	82.00SHNDENDE				
55.				82.CO	100.00SSNDENDE				
60.				100.CO	145.00SHNDENDE				
65.				145.CO	146.00CCLOCLOCAL1				
70.				146.CO	150.00SHNCENDE				
75.				150.CO	155.00CCLOCLOCAL1				
80.				155.CO	259.00SHNDENDE				
85.				259.CO	280.00SSNDENDE				
90.				280.CO	286.00SHNDENDE				
95.				286.CO	290.00COUTEUTE	CANYON			
100.				290.CO	293.00SHNDENDE				
105.				293.CO	302.00COUTEUTE	CANYON			
110.				302.CO	318.00SHNDENDE				
115.				318.CO	350.00SSNDENDE				
120.				350.CO	361.00SHNDENDE				
125.				361.CO	365.00SLNDENDE				
130.				365.CO	374.00COMAIMAIN				
135.				374.CO	380.00SHNDENDE				
140.				380.CO	396.00SSKPKCKPC				

Figure 10.-- The ANYNAME file after editing, showing new number of units for each data point (circled). This number must agree with the actual number of units listed.

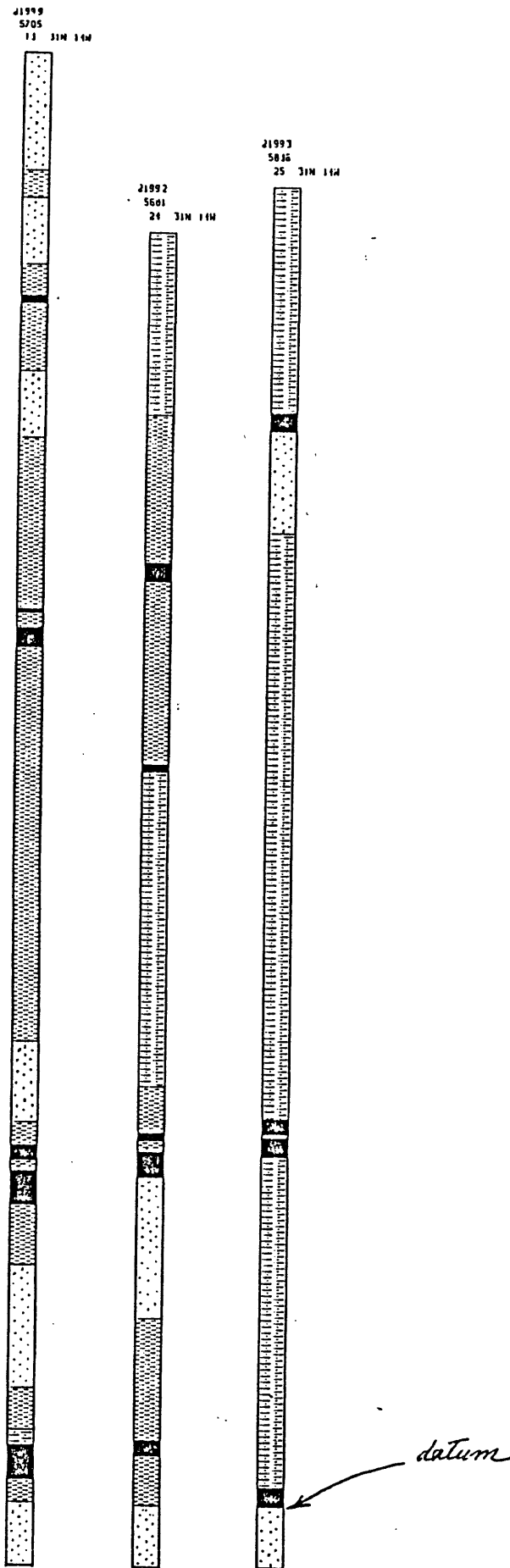


Figure 11.-- STRATS plot displaying partial drill holes (generated from edited ANYNAME file). Datum is top of Pictured Cliffs Sandstone.

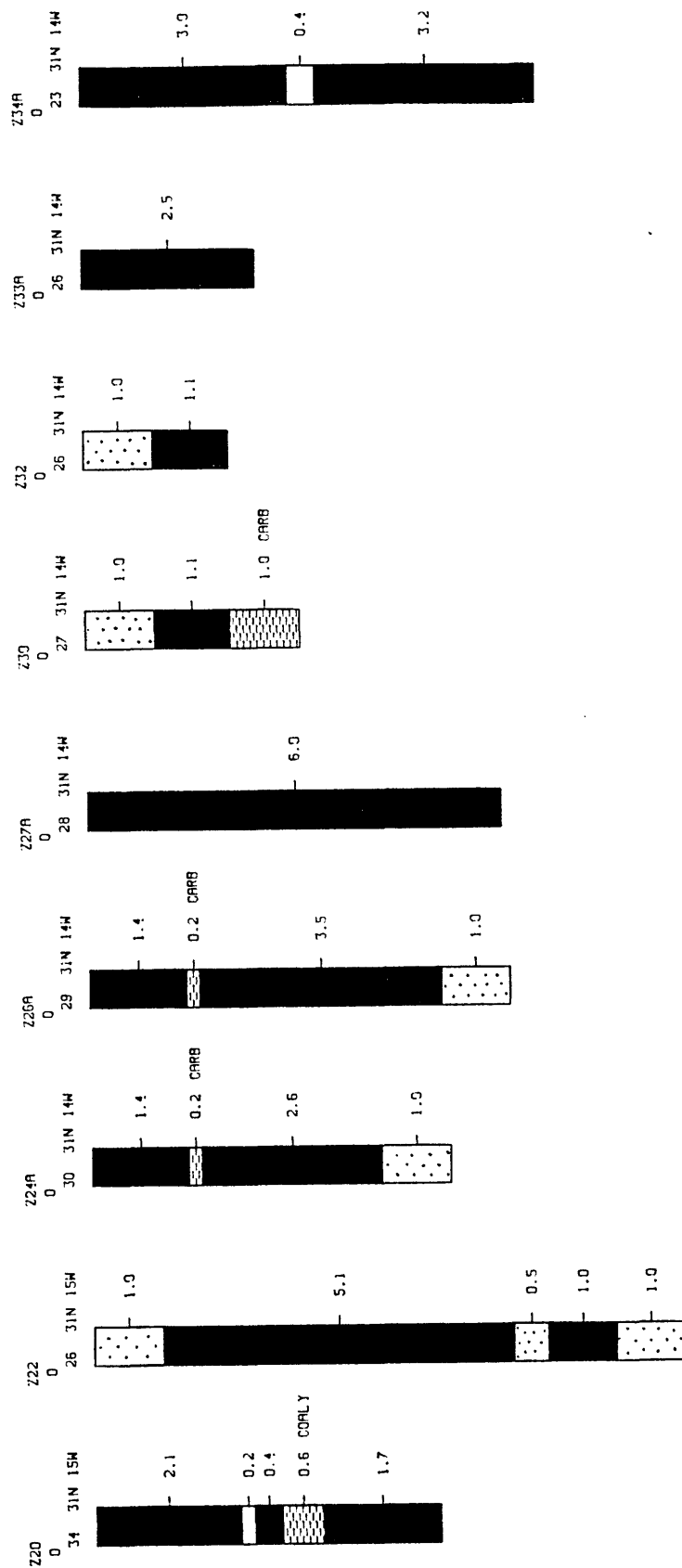


Figure 12.-- STRATS plot of correlated coal beds showing portion of roof and floor rock and partings, plotted according to elevation.

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