

Reports

1978

Biological description of Old Plantation Flats Deep Trough, a proposed dredged material disposal site: Interim report

W. A. Van Engle

J. V. Merriner

F. J. Wojcik

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Virginia Institute of Marine Science

Gloucester Point, Virginia 23062

WILLIAM J. HARGIS, JR.
DIRECTOR

Phone: (804) 642-2111

October 3, 1978

Dr. Robert L. Lippson
Research Coordinator
Environmental and Technical
Services Division
Environmental Assessment
Branch
National Marine Fisheries
Service
Oxford, MD 21654

Dear Dr. Lippson:

Enclosed is an Interim Report on the Old Plantation Flats Deep Trough survey, conducted during August and September 1978. Details reported here are those agreed to in our telephone conversation of August 2 and stated in your letter of August 3, 1978.

I trust that you will forward copies of this information, or extracts of it, to interested and concerned individuals in the National Marine Fisheries Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Sincerely,

W. A. Van Engel
Senior Marine Scientist

WAVE/bjt

Enclosure

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Interim Report

to

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District

Biological Description

of

Old Plantation Flats Deep Trough:

A Proposed Dredged Material Disposal Site.

by

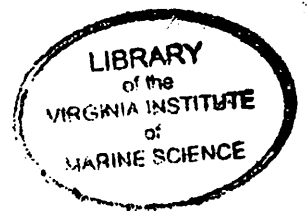
Virginia Institute of Marine Science

and

School of Marine Science, College of
William and Mary
Gloucester Point, Virginia 23062

Prepared by: W. A. Van Engel, Senior Marine Scientist
J. V. Merriner, Senior Marine Scientist
F. J. Wojcik, Assistant Marine Scientist

October 3, 1978



The Old Plantation Deep Trough sampling area in the Virginia portion of the Chesapeake Bay began at the latitudes of the southwestern end of the Cherrystone Inlet channel near Old Plantation Flats (approximately 37°13.5'N) and extended north to the latitude of Church Neck at Hungars Creek (approximately 37°25.5'N) (see attached Figure 1: Disposal Area 2 and area to the north). Twenty-one stations, one-quarter mile square grid, were occupied on August 29 and 30, 1978 (Table 1 and accompanying Charts). Seven stations were sampled with a lined, 30-foot semi-balloon otter trawl, seven sampled with a 48-inch wide crab dredge, and seven were sampled with both gears (Table 1).

Hydrographic data were taken at every station except 1069 and 1052 (tows 13 and 21). Surface and bottom water samples were collected, temperature measured and the samples returned to VIMS for analysis of salinity (induction salinometer RS-5A) and dissolved oxygen (modified Winkler). Meteorological data are reported in codes established by the U.S. Naval Oceanographic office. Bottom profiles were recorded for six transects and for the entire axis of the sampling area. Sites were located by Loran C and by fathometer depth recordings (chart series and Table 3).

Twenty-eight species of fish were collected by trawl (Table 4), 21 species of invertebrates were collected by trawl (Table 5) and 20 species of invertebrates were collected by dredge.

Summary

The demersal biological community in the Old Plantation Flats Deep Trough study area was shown to have relatively high diversity, as evidenced by the large number of species of fishes and invertebrates taken in our August 29-30, 1978 survey. These data are indicative of a seasonally stable environment, not a stressed or transitional environment. This is borne out by the constancy of the physical and chemical features of the Deep Trough (Table 2). The addition of spoil to the Deep Trough would obliterate the benthos, increase the physiological stress to organisms by particle size or adsorbed pollutants and thus reduce the biotic richness (diversity and biomass) in the trough. The magnitude and permanency of the loss, or shift in biotic composition, would depend on the quantity and permanency of the spoil. The apparent persistency of depth and contour, evidenced from a review of older charts, suggest that the Deep Trough is flushed strongly.

Our tentative conclusion is that the Old Plantation Flats Deep Trough should not be used as a spoil disposal site.

Table 1 : Deep trough survey stations, Chesapeake Bay, August 29-30, 1978

No.	Bay Station	Lat °N	Long °W	Date Occupied		30' Trawl	Dredge	Trawl & Dredge
1	R 1096	3714	7604	29 Aug	30 Aug			X
2	R 1036	3714	7603	29 Aug	30 Aug			X
3	R 1077	3715	7605	29 Aug		X		
4	R 2000	3715	7606		30 Aug		X	
5	R 1064	3716	7605	29 Aug		X		
6	R 1081	3716	7606		30 Aug		X	
7	R 1057	3717	7605		30 Aug		X	
8	R 1013	3717	7606	29 Aug		X		
9	R 993	3718	7606		30 Aug		X	
10	R 1029	3718	7605	29 Aug		X		
11	R 1038	3719	7605	29 Aug	30 Aug			X
12	R 1020	3720	7605	29 Aug		X		
13	R 1069	3720	7605		30 Aug		X	
14	R 998	3721	7602	29 Aug	30 Aug			X
15	R 1040	3722	7604	29 Aug	30 Aug			X
16	R 1002	3723	7604		30 Aug			X
17	R 1075	3724	7604		30 Aug			X
18	R 1032	3725	7604		30 Aug		X	
19	R 979	3725	7605		30 Aug	X		
20	R 1010	3726	7605		30 Aug	X		
21	R 1052	3726	7604		30 Aug		X	

Table 2 : Deep trough survey, Chesapeake Bay, Aug 29-30, 1978, hydrographic data.

No.	Bay Station	Date	Time EST	Mean Depth m	Temp °C			Salinity ‰		D.O. mg/l		Tide ¹	Wind ²		Secchi, m
					Air	S.	B.	S.	B.	S.	B.		Dir	Sp.	
1	1096	29 Aug	0909	13.7	28.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	225-6	-	
2	1036	29 Aug	1004	29.0	29.8	27.5	-	20.0	27.3	7.12	-	5	225-4	2.1	
3	1077	29 Aug	1145	45.7	29.9	27.8	26.6	-	28.0	7.42	3.92	5	225-3	2.2	
5	1064	29 Aug	1303	29.0	30.6	28.3	26.2	18.4	27.4	7.78	3.66	5	225-2	2.1	
8	1013	29 Aug	1415	21.9	30.7	28.8	26.6	17.5	26.6	7.52	3.14	5	225-2	2.0	
10	1029	29 Aug	1455	22.3	29.6	28.5	26.4	16.7	26.9	6.68	3.06	5	225-2	1.8	
12	1020	29 Aug	1556	18.9	31.9	28.4	26.4	16.3	26.0	7.96	3.06	5	225-2	2.0	
11	1038	29 Aug	1648	19.8	29.5	28.2	24.9	16.3	26.1	7.94	2.78	5	225-2	2.0	
15	1040	29 Aug	1740	23.8	30.1	28.2	26.5	16.3	25.8	8.06	2.86	5	225-1	1.8	
14	998	29 Aug	1805	18.3	30.0	28.0	26.6	16.2	26.3	7.68	3.14	5	225-2	1.9	
16	1002	30 Aug	0644	18.9	26.0	27.0	25.6	17.9	26.4	7.06	2.94	3	315-2	2.1	
17	1075	30 Aug	0758	20.4	28.5	28.2	26.2	16.4	26.1	7.54	2.88	3	315-2	2.5	
19	979	30 Aug	0850	29.0	28.5	28.5	25.6	16.2	25.8	7.28	2.92	3	99-99	2.4	
20	1010	30 Aug	0920	22.9	28.8	28.0	26.5	16.2	26.0	7.32	2.92	3	99-99	2.3	
21	1052	30 Aug	1035	18.0	30.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	99-99	-	
18	1032	30 Aug	1112	20.7	30.2	29.2	26.3	16.4	26.1	7.30	2.82	4	99-99	2.4	
17	1075	30 Aug	1138	21.3	31.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	99-99	-	
16	1002	30 Aug	1223	23.5	29.9	29.0	26.6	16.5	26.5	7.40	2.66	4	99-99	2.2	
15	1040	30 Aug	1242	22.3	32.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	99-99	-	
14	998	30 Aug	1302	19.8	31.3	30.4	27.0	16.7	25.2	7.16	3.08	5	99-99	2.1	
13	1069	30 Aug	1325	18.3	31.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	99-99	-	
11	1038	30 Aug	1400	19.8	30.0	29.8	27.1	16.5	26.1	7.66	3.96	5	99-99	2.3	
9	993	30 Aug	1437	19.8	30.3	29.2	26.7	16.5	26.6	7.86	3.24	5	99-99	1.7	
7	1057	30 Aug	1508	23.8	29.4	29.0	26.5	16.5	26.5	7.76	3.30	5	99-99	1.8	
6	1081	30 Aug	1531	25.9	30.1	28.8	26.2	16.6	26.5	8.62	3.42	5	99-99	1.0	
4	2000	30 Aug	1612	32.9	30.3	29.0	26.3	16.6	26.4	8.00	3.38	5	135-5	0.9	
1	1096	30 Aug	1642	21.9	30.8	28.8	26.5	17.9	25.3	7.78	3.68	5	135-6	1.5	
2	1036	30 Aug	1708	29.0	29.5	27.7	26.2	21.2	27.0	6.98	3.96	5	135-5	1.6	

²Wind direction and speed
Degrees and m/sec
99=variable and light

¹Tide: coded
3 = flood
4 = high slack
5 = early ebb

Table 3: Deep trough survey, Chesapeake Bay, August 29-30, September 19, 1978, bottom profiles.

Chart Page	Bottom Profiles
4	Transect No. 1
5	Transect No. 2
6	Transect No. 3
7	Transect No. 4
8-9	Transect No. 5, 2p.
10-12	Transect No. 6, 3p.
13-25	North-South Transect, 13p.
	<u>Profile</u>
26	R1096 Hydro
27	R1036 Hydro, Trawl
28 a+b	Ditto Hydro, Dredge
29	R1077 Hydro, Trawl
30	R2000 Hydro
31	R1064 Hydro
32	R1081 Dredge
33	Ditto Hydro
34	R1057 Hydro, Dredge
35	R1013 Hydro, Trawl
36	R 993 Hydro, Dredge
37	R1029 Hydro
38	R1038 Hydro, Trawl
39	Ditto Dredge
40	R1020 Hydro, Trawl
41	R1040 Hydro
42	Ditto Dredge
43	R 998 Trawl, Hydro
44	Ditto Hydro, Dredge
45	R1075 Hydro
46	R1075 Dredge & R1002 Hydro
47	R1032 Hydro
48	R 979 Hydro
49	Ditto Trawl
50	R1010 Hydro, Trawl
51	R1052 Dredge

Table 4 : Deep trough survey, Chesapeake Bay, August 29-30, 1978, species list of fishes and tow numbers. See Table 1 for location of tow.

<i>Raja eglanteria</i>	2, 3, 5, 8, 11, 12, 14, 15
<i>Dasyatis sayi</i>	3, 10, 14, 15, 16
<i>Gymnura altavela</i>	1
<i>Myliobatis freminvillei</i>	11
<i>Anchoa mitchilli</i>	2, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20
<i>Synodus foetens</i>	4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12
<i>Conger oceanicus</i>	14, 17, 19, 20
<i>Urophycis regius</i>	3, 5
<i>Syngnathus fuscus</i>	17
<i>Centropristis striata</i>	2, 10, 12, 14, 16, 17
<i>Cynoscion regalis</i>	1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20
<i>Leiostomus xanthurus</i>	1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20
<i>Menticirrhus americanus</i>	1, 2, 3, 5, 15, 16, 19, 20
<i>Menticirrhus saxatilis</i>	3
<i>Micropogonias undulatus</i>	2, 8, 12, 14, 16, 17
<i>Gobiosoma ginsburgi</i>	15
<i>Prionotus carolinus</i>	1, 8, 15
<i>Prionotus evolans</i>	8, 10, 12
<i>Hypsoblennius hentzi</i>	1
<i>Peprilus triacanthus</i>	1, 5, 7, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20
<i>Rissola marginata</i>	2, 3, 5
<i>Etropus microstomus</i>	1, 2, 15, 16, 17
<i>Paralichthys dentatus</i>	1, 2, 10, 11, 12, 14, 16, 17, 19, 20
<i>Scophthalmus aquosus</i>	1, 2, 12, 14, 16
<i>Trinectes maculatus</i>	1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 10, 11, 12, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20
<i>Symphurus plagiusa</i>	1, 6, 9, 11
<i>Sphoeroides maculatus</i>	16
<i>Stephanolepis hispidus</i>	3, 16

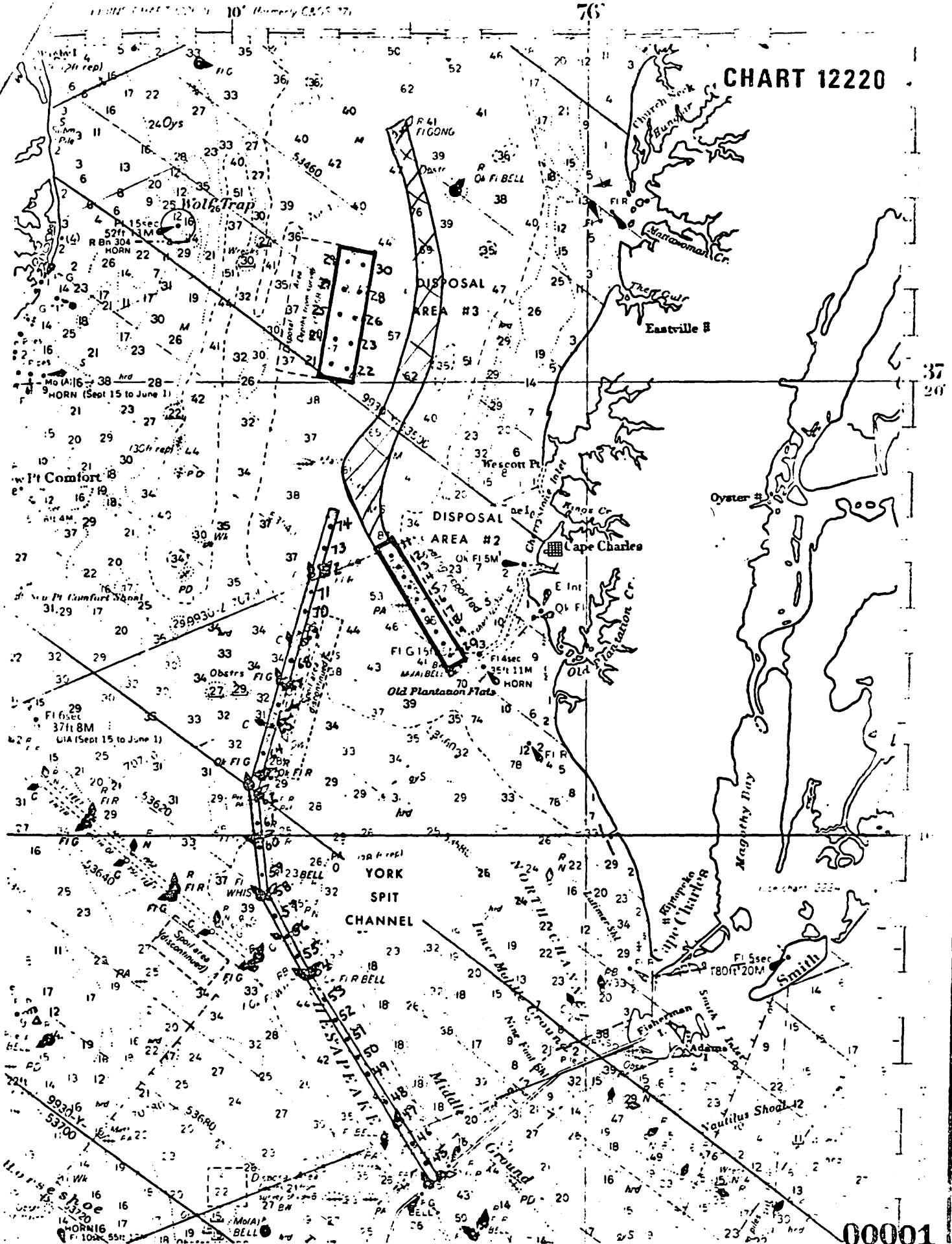
Table 5 : Deep trough survey, Chesapeake Bay, August 29-30, 1978, species list of invertebrates caught by trawl and tow numbers. See Table 1 for location of tow.

Cnidarians	
Astrangia danae	17
Mollusks	
Busycon carica	1, 2, 3, 5, 12, 14, 16
Busycon canaliculatum	10, 17
Polinices duplicatus	11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 20
Lolliguncula brevis	1, 2, 8, 16
Crustaceans, decapods	
Penaeus aztecus	1, 3, 8, 10, 11, 14, 16, 17, 19
Penaeus duorarum	2, 3, 5, 10, 11, 14, 15, 17
Trachypenaeus constrictus	2
Palaemonetes sp.	2, 3, 5, 14
Crangon septemspinosa	1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20
Pagurus pollicaris	1, 2, 3, 8, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20
Hepatus pudibundus	5
Callinectes sapidus	1, 2, 3, 8, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20
Ovalipes ocellatus	2, 15, 16, 17
Portunus gibbesii	1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20
Portunus spinimanus	2
xanthids	2, 5, 8, 11, 12, 16, 17, 19, 20
Libinia dubia	1, 3, 8, 10, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20
Crustaceans, stomatopods	
Squilla empusa	1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 10, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20
Other arthropods	
Limulus polyphemus	2, 3, 5, 8, 10, 12, 16, 17, 19
Echinoderms	
Asterias forbesi	3, 5, 8, 10, 12

Table 6 : Deep trough survey, Chesapeake Bay, August 29-30, 1978, species list of invertebrates caught by dredge and tow numbers. See Table 1 for location of tow.

Cnidarians	
<i>Ceriantheopsis americanus</i>	7, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21
Ectoprocts	
<i>Electra crustulenta</i>	1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21
Annelids	
<i>Nereis succinea</i>	1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21
Mollusks	
<i>Anadara transversa</i>	7, 9, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21
<i>Mytilus edulis</i>	1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21
<i>Mercenaria mercenaria</i>	
<i>Mya arenaria</i>	7, 13, 14, 15, 17, 21
<i>Busycon carica</i>	1, 2, 4, 14, 17, 18
<i>Busycon canaliculatum</i>	2, 6, 9, 17, 18
<i>Polinices duplicatus</i>	7, 11, 13, 14, 18
Crustaceans	
<i>Pagurus pollicaris</i>	2
<i>Callinectes sapidus</i>	2, 6
<i>Portunus gibbesii</i>	2
xanthids	18
<i>Libinia dubia</i>	7, 15, 17
Crustaceans, stomatopods	
<i>Squilla empusa</i>	1, 6, 17, 18
Other arthropods	
<i>Limulus polyphemus</i>	2, 4, 11
Echinoderms	
<i>Asterias forbesi</i>	2, 4
<i>Cucumaria pulcherrima</i>	1, 4, 6, 7, 9
<i>Micropholis atara</i>	1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21

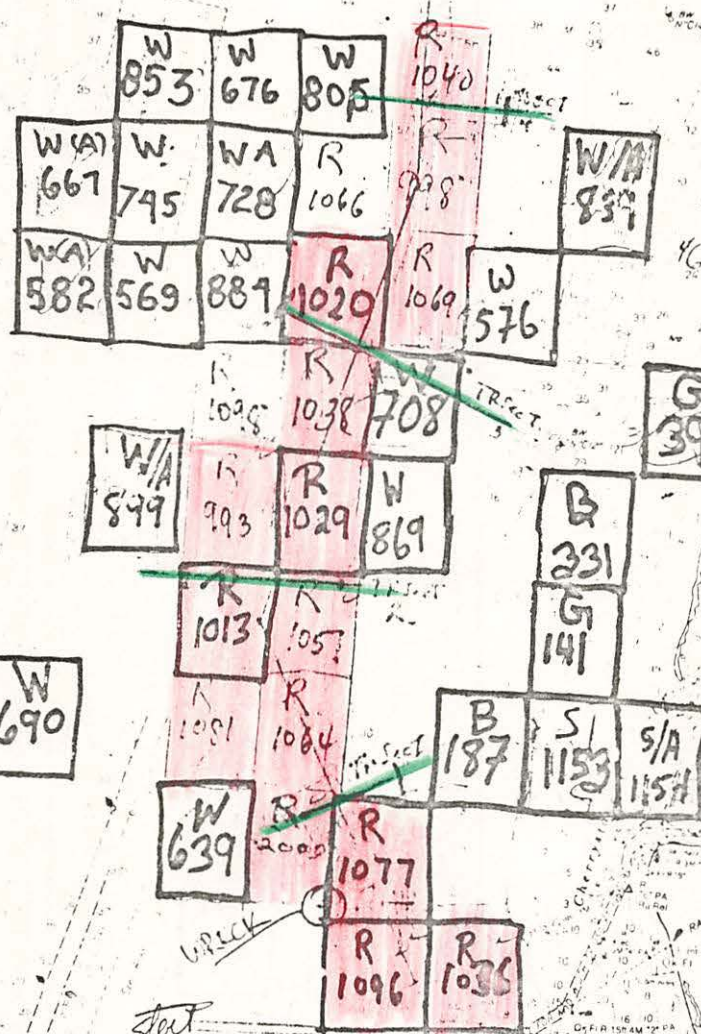
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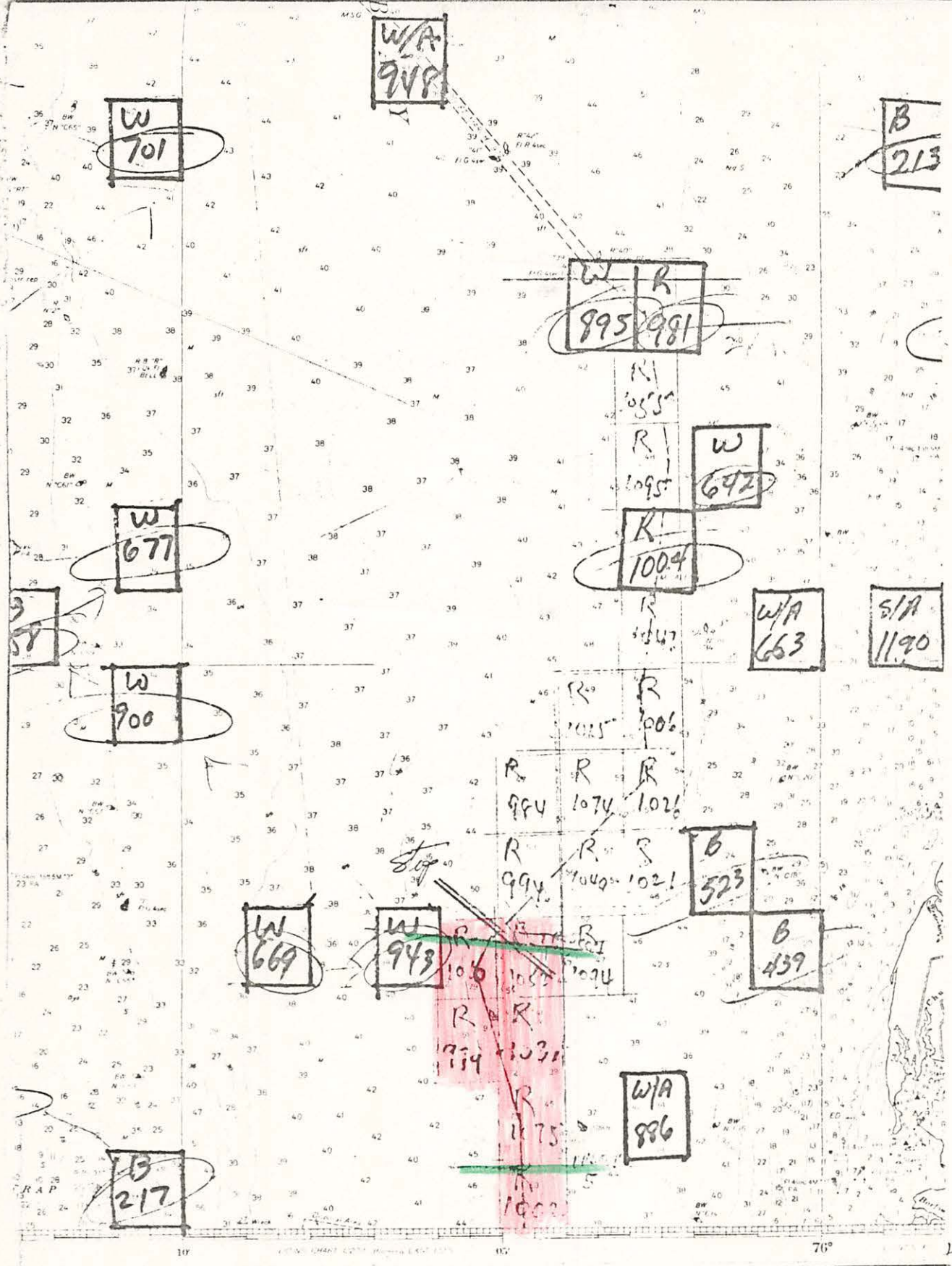
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 Surveys of July 1975. Ja
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 to vessels and other watercraft
 down Chesapeake Bay, and
 other watercraft shall cross
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 entered the channel shall feel
 thereof for its entire length.

CAUTION
 Mariners are to
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Figure 202
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 NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
 NATIONAL OCEAN SURVEY

SOUNDINGS

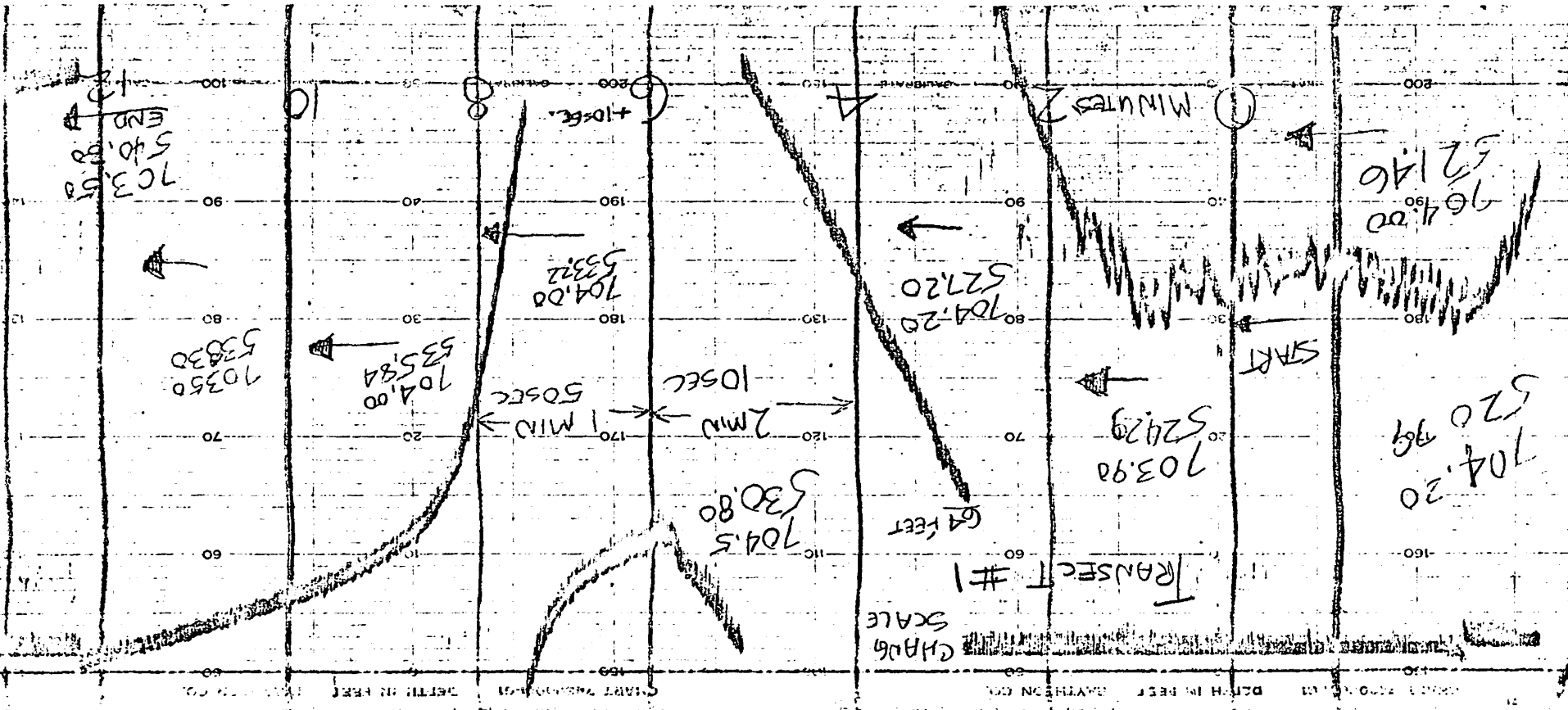
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Chart # 12225

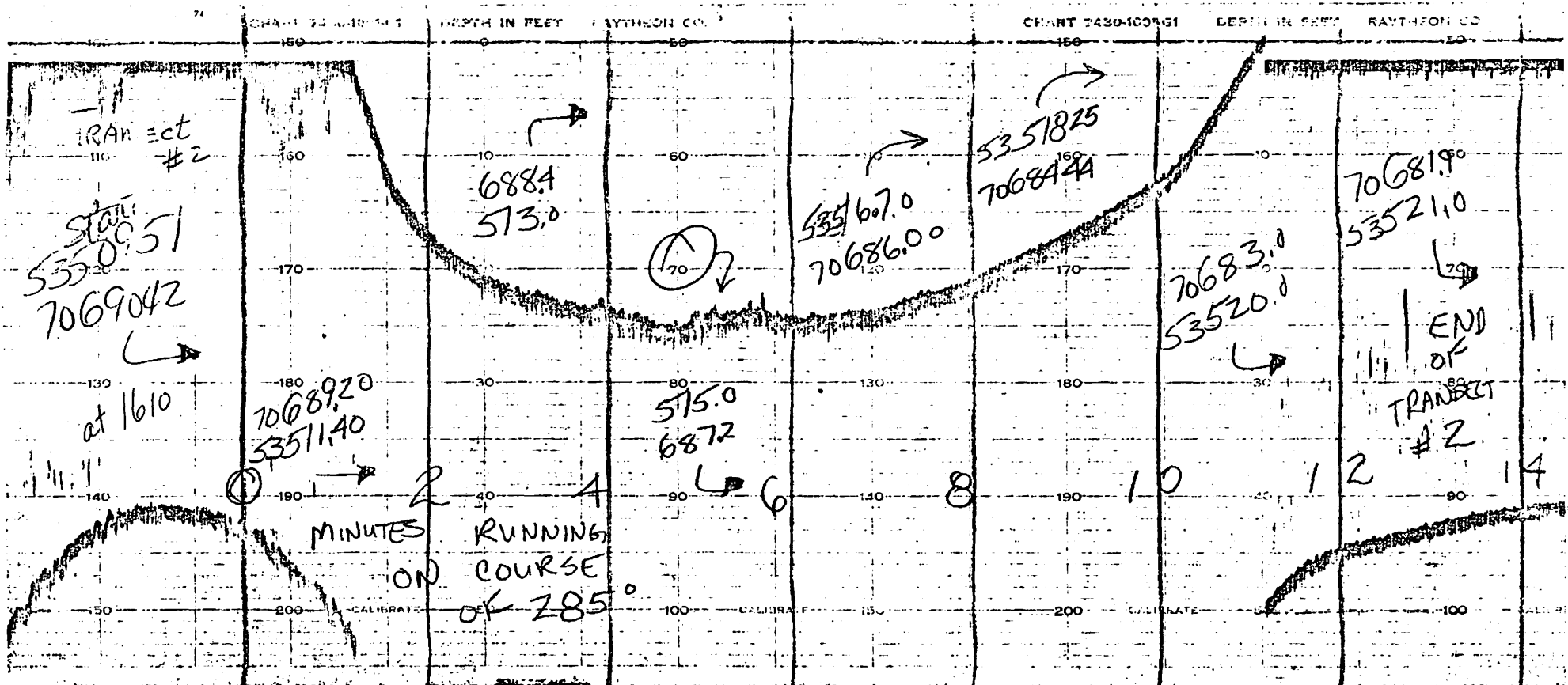
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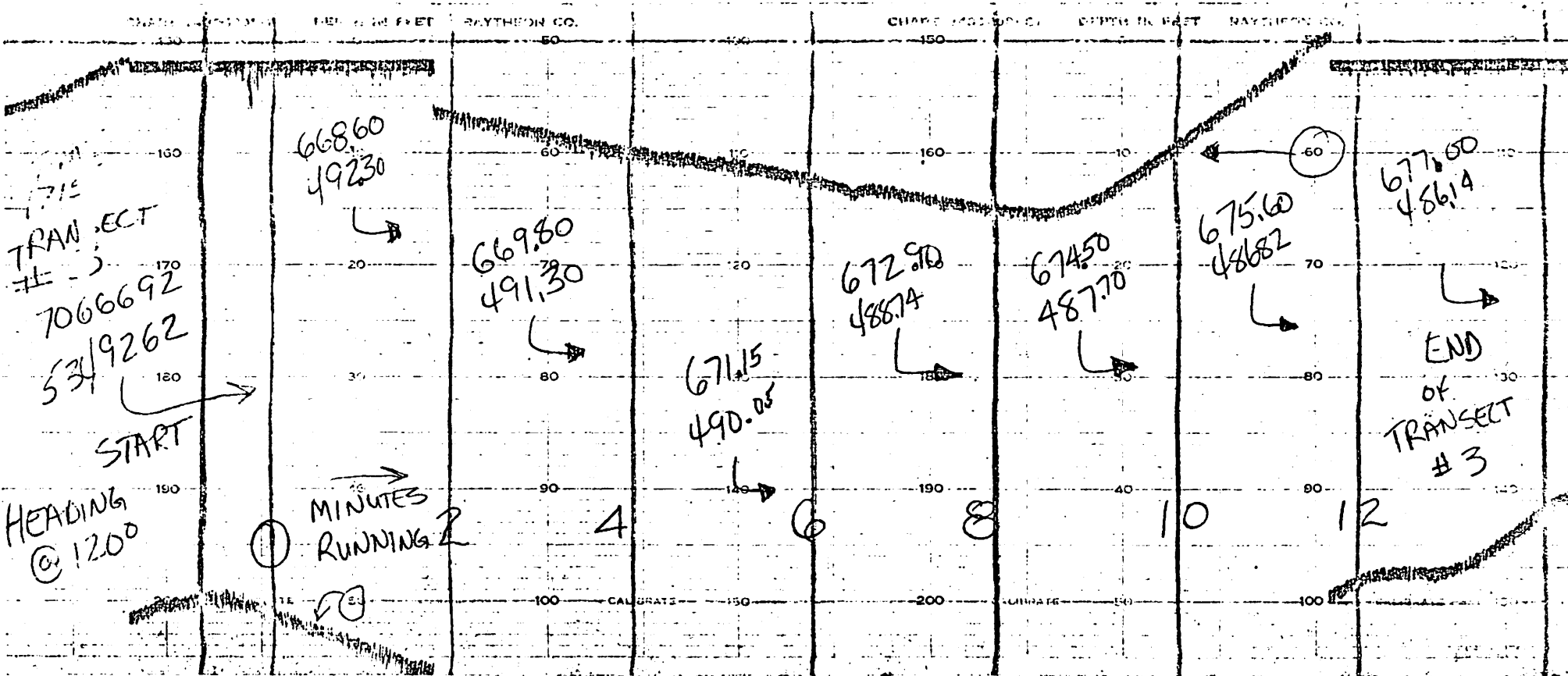
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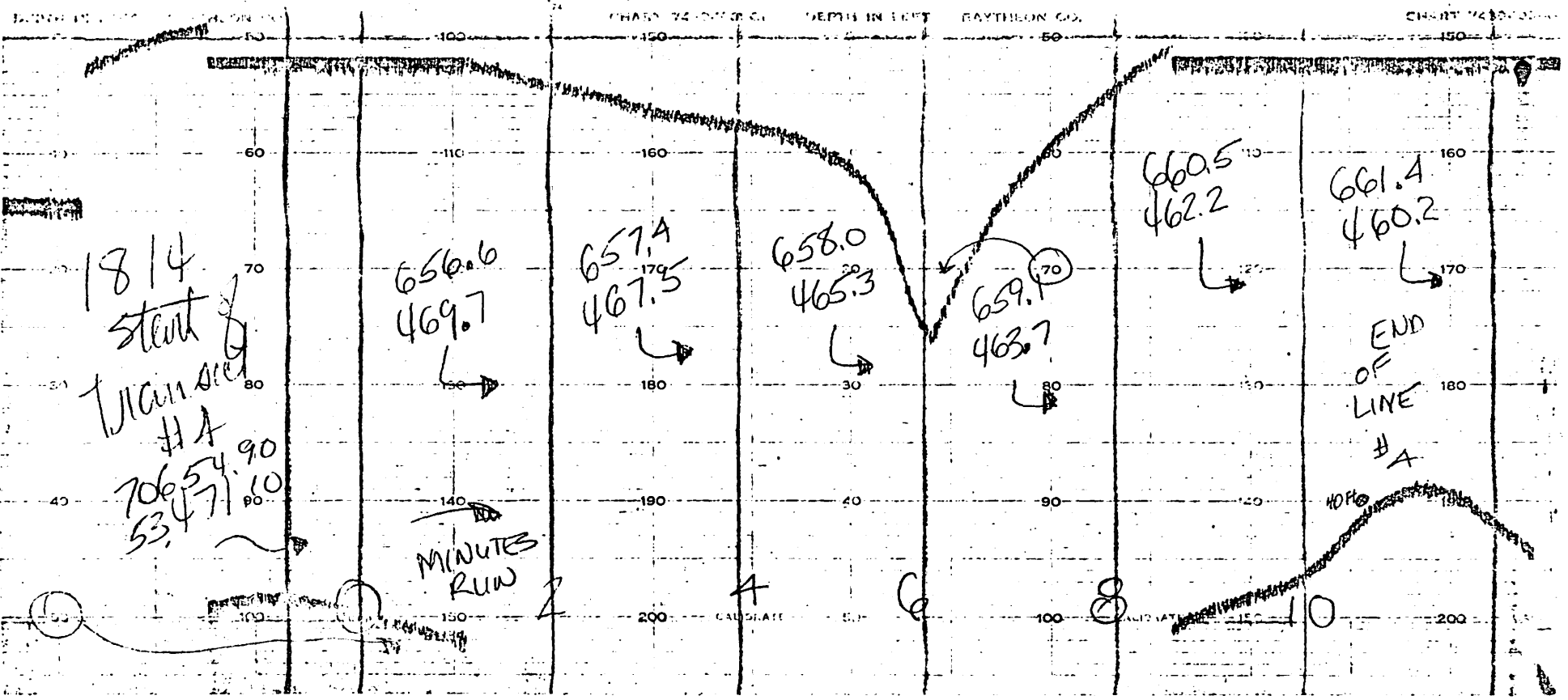


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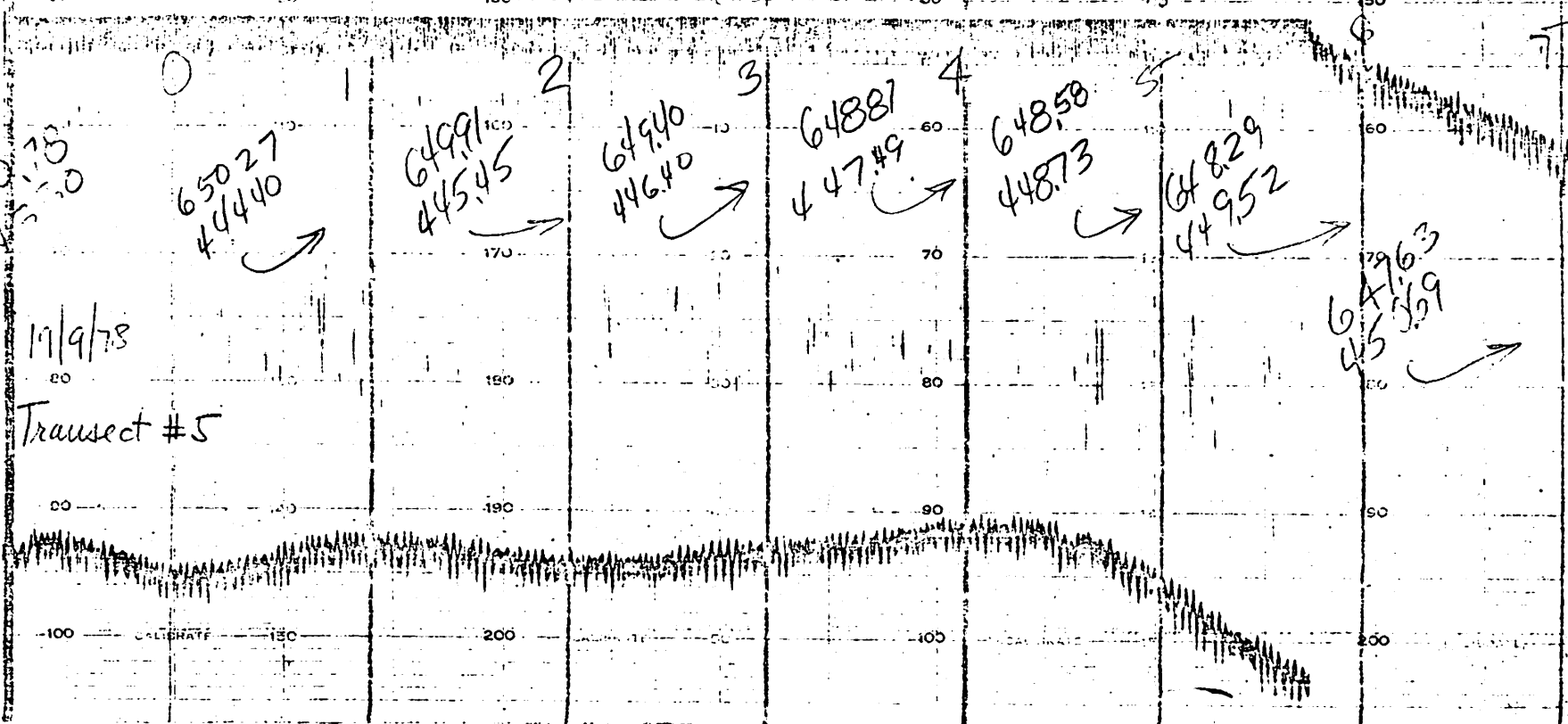
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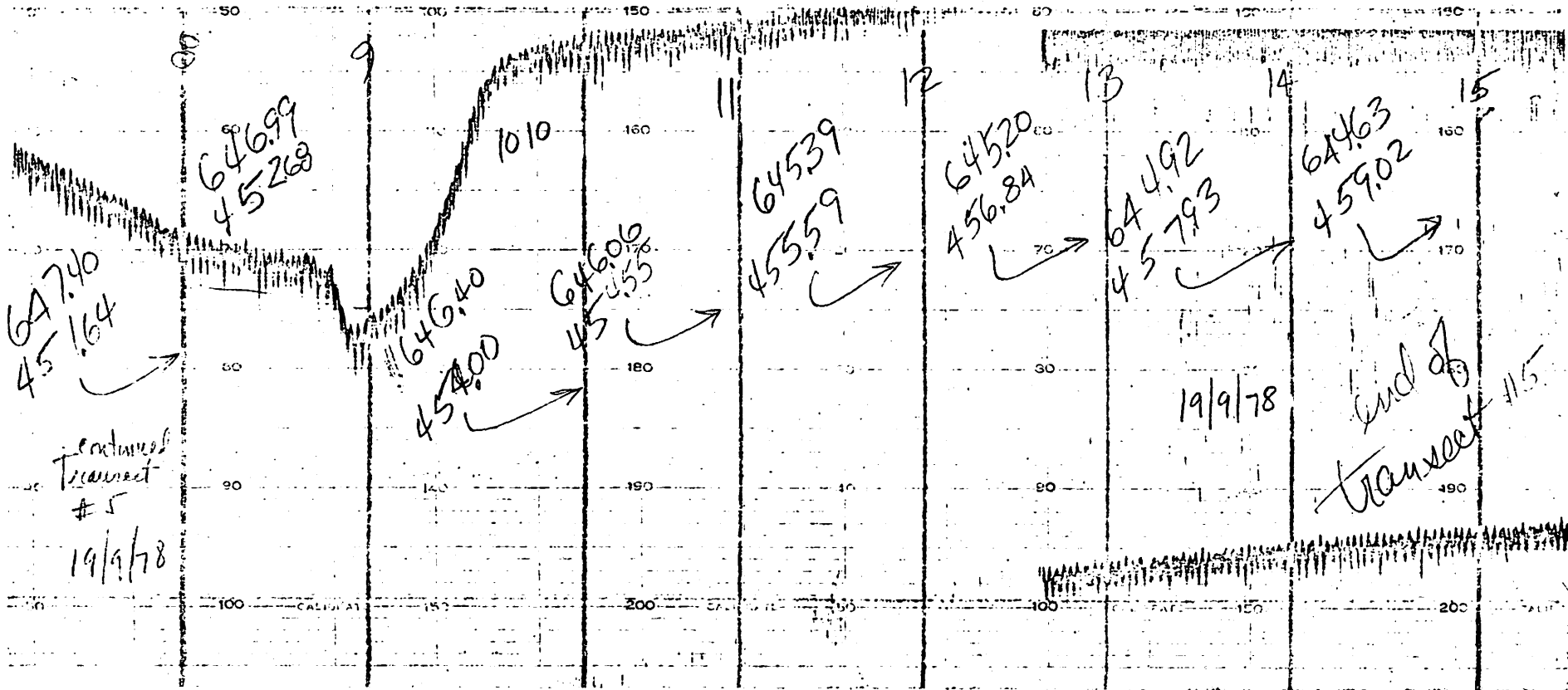
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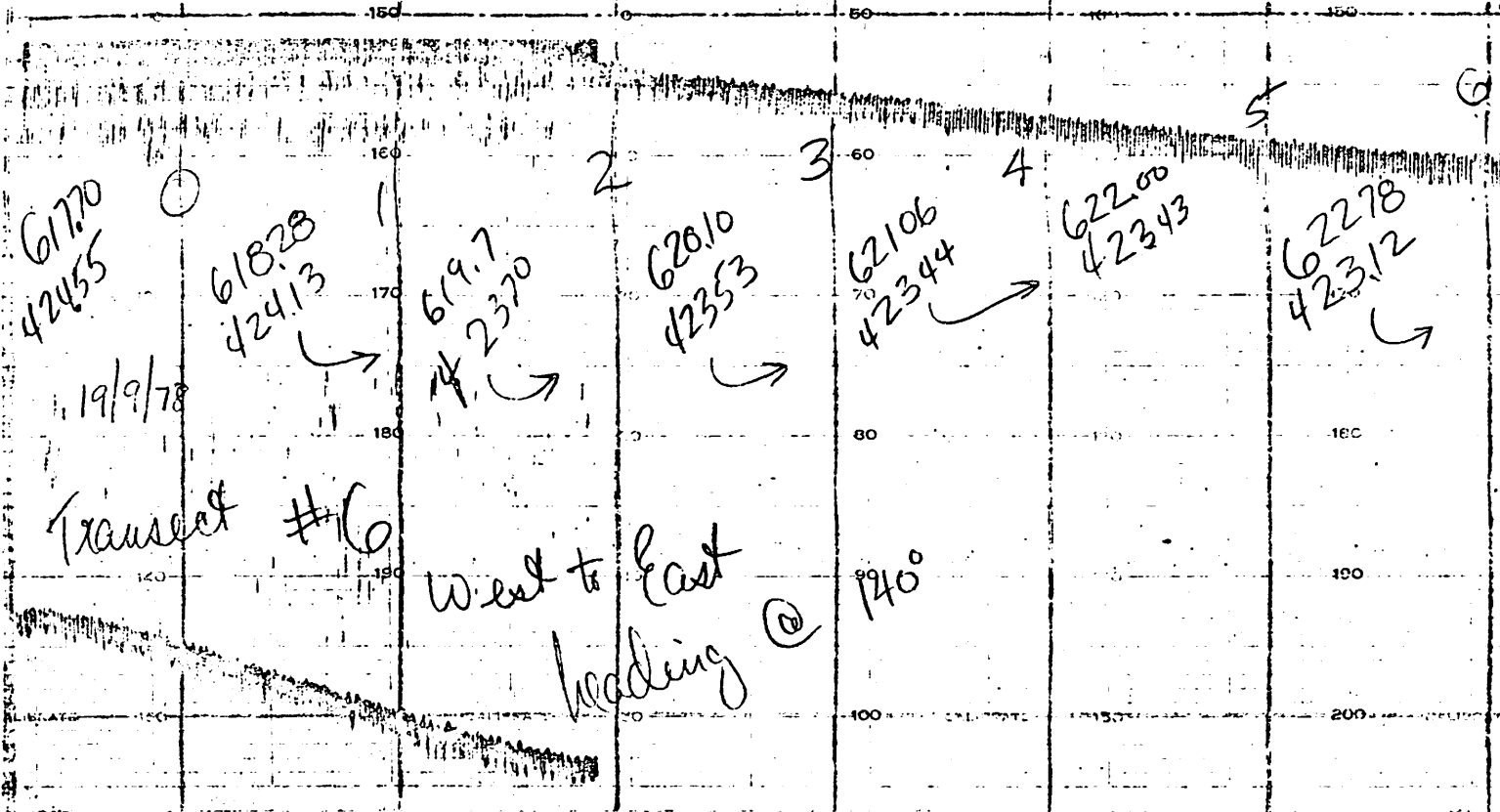
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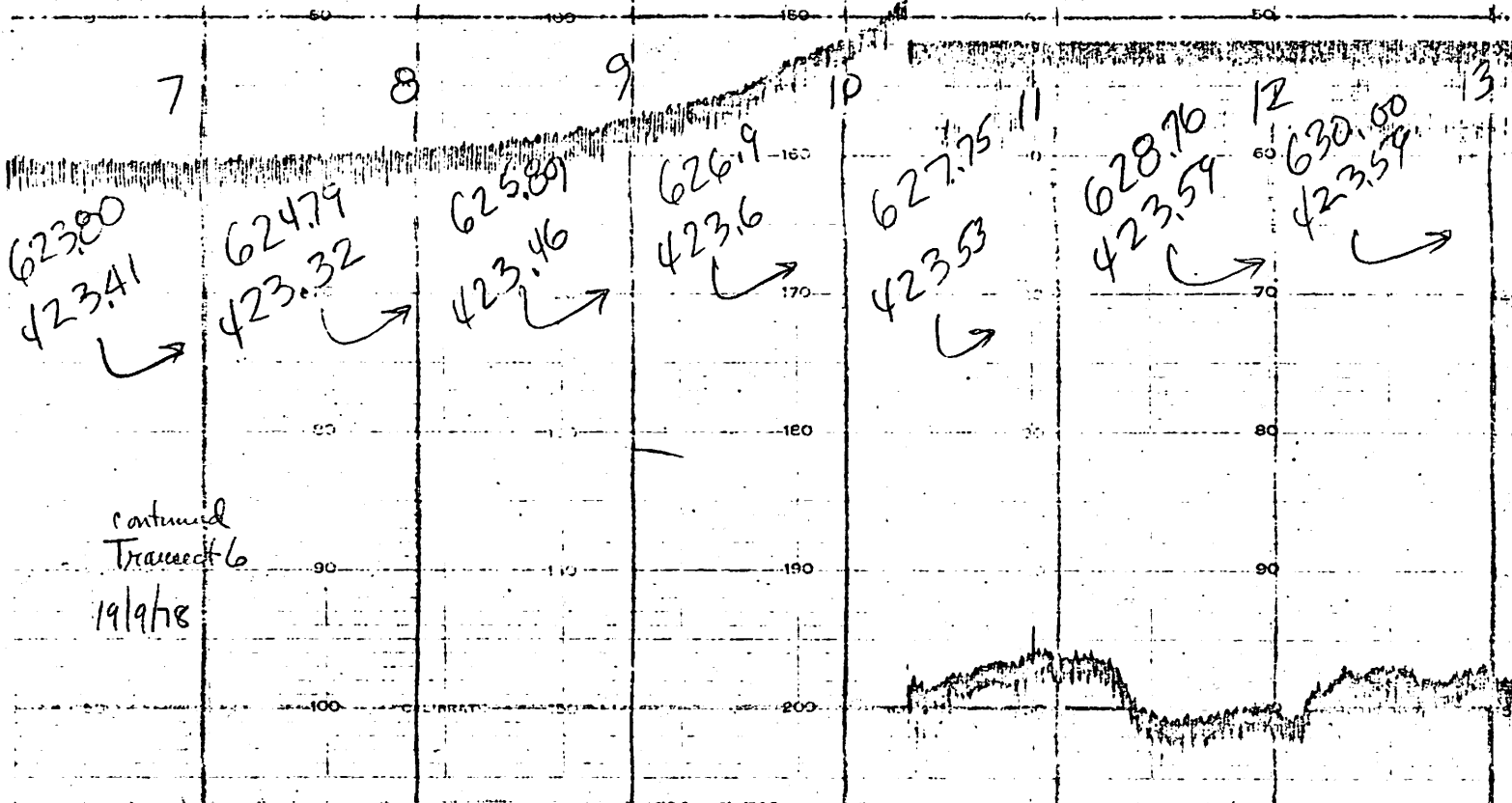
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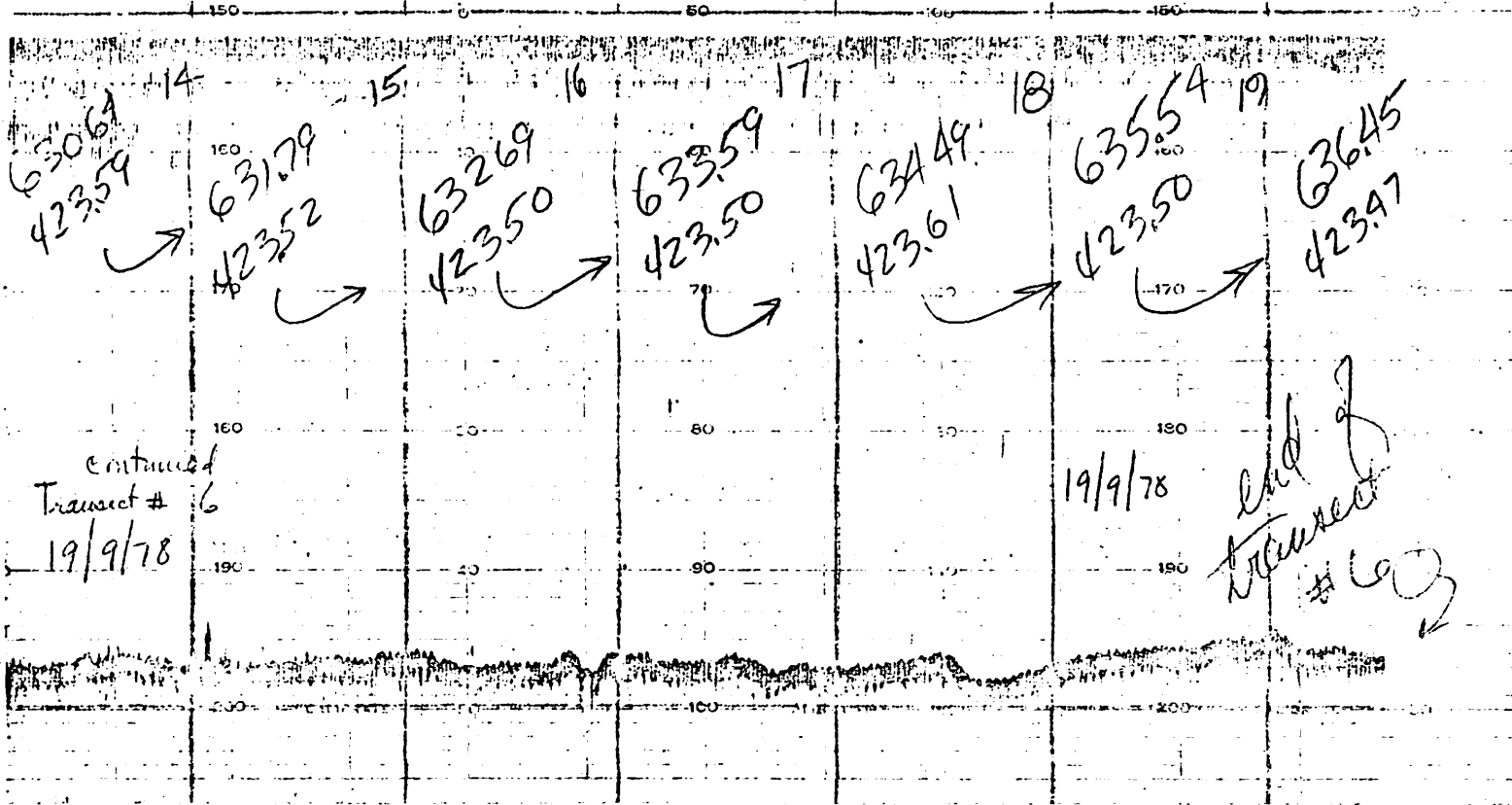


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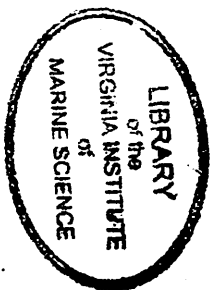
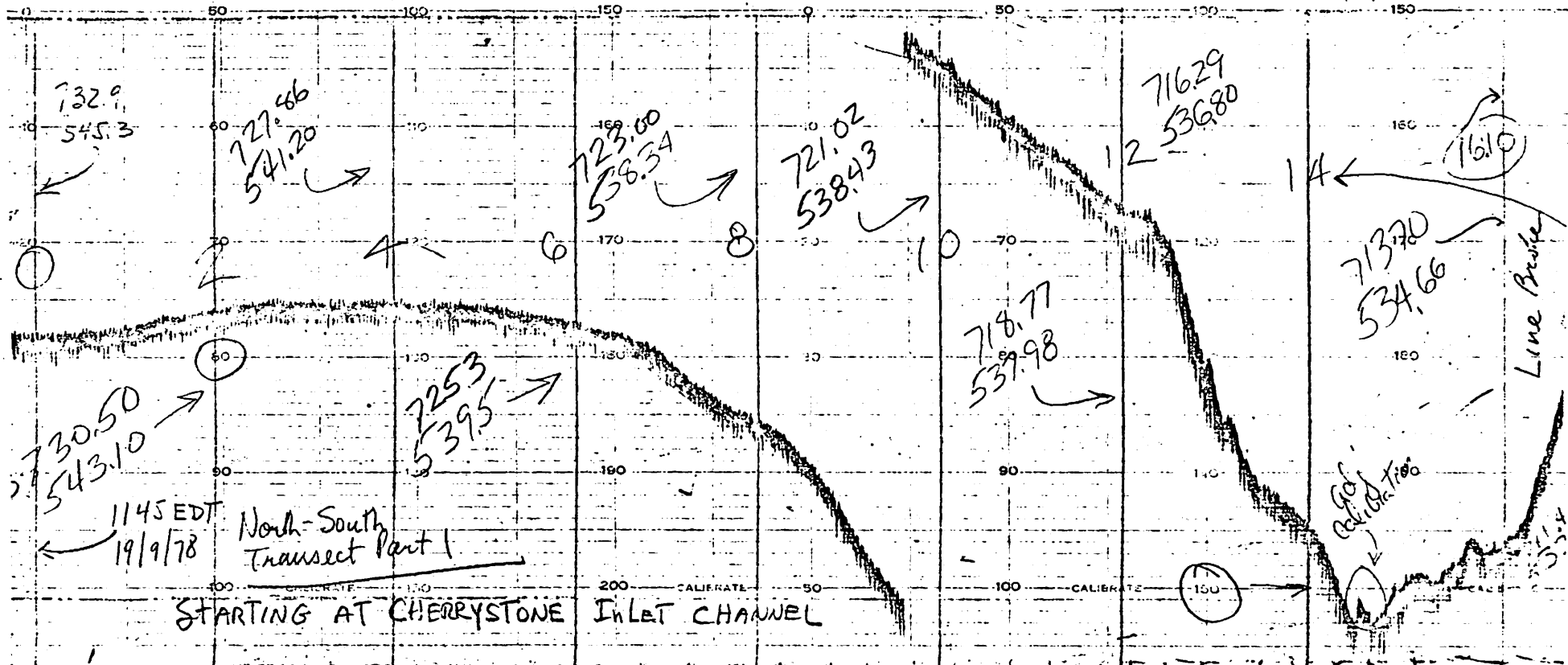


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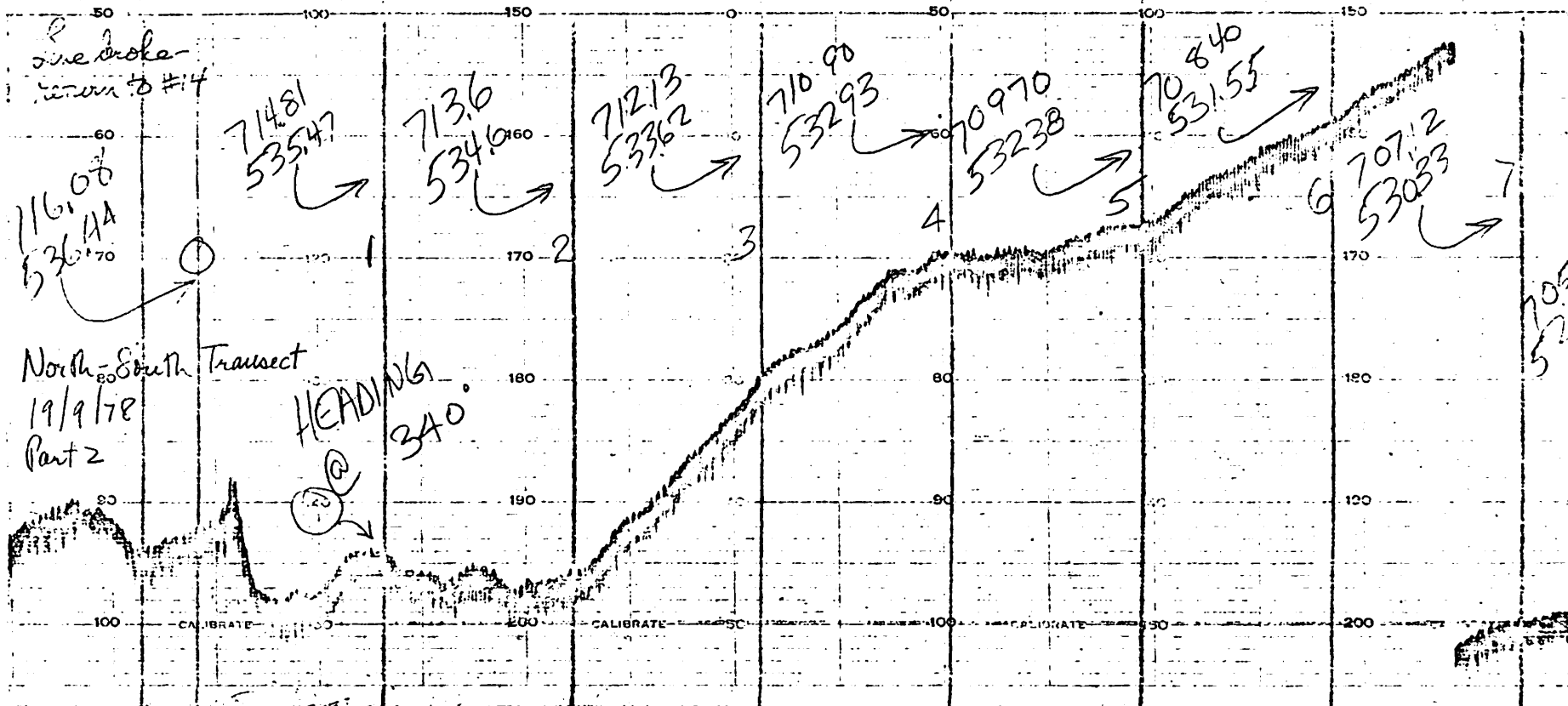
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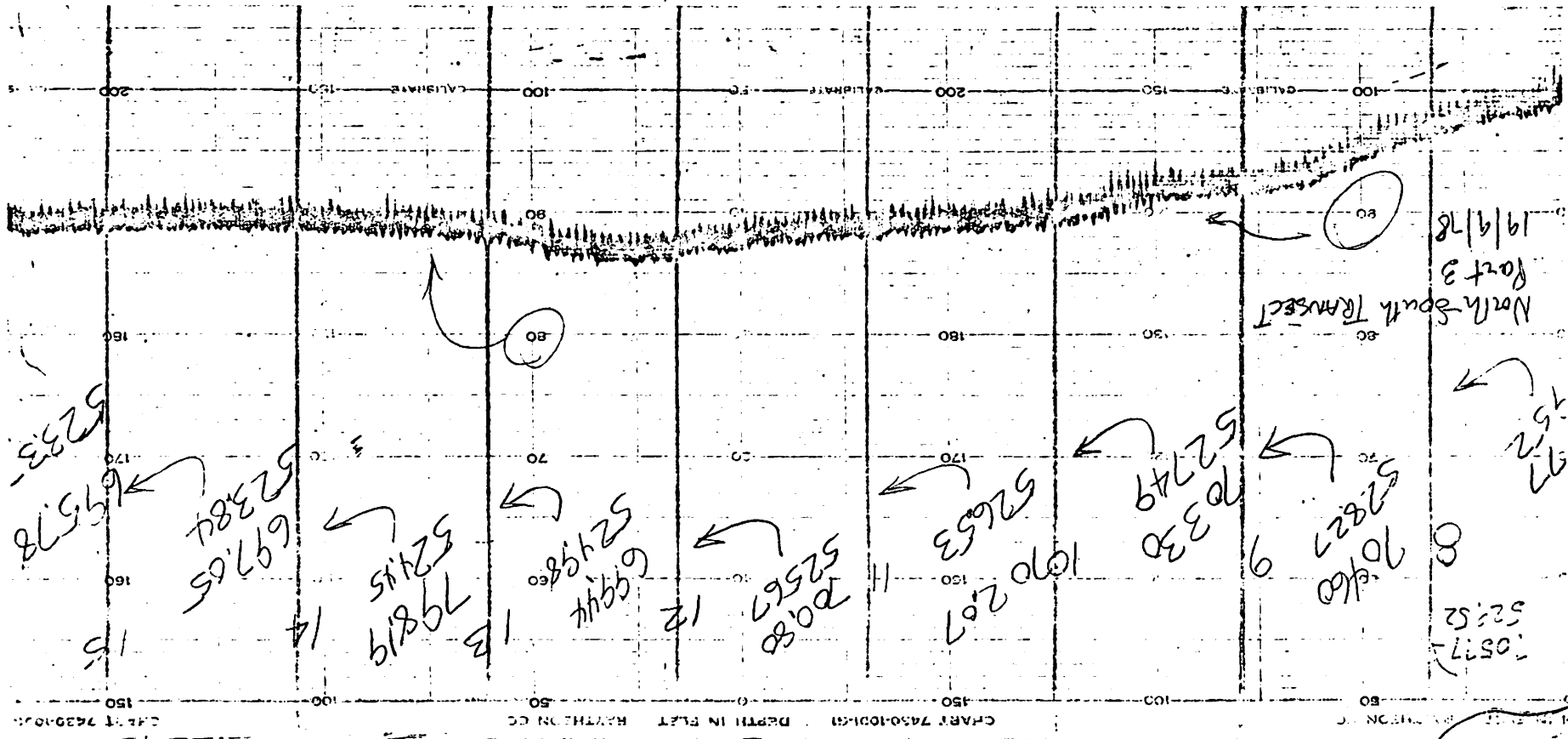
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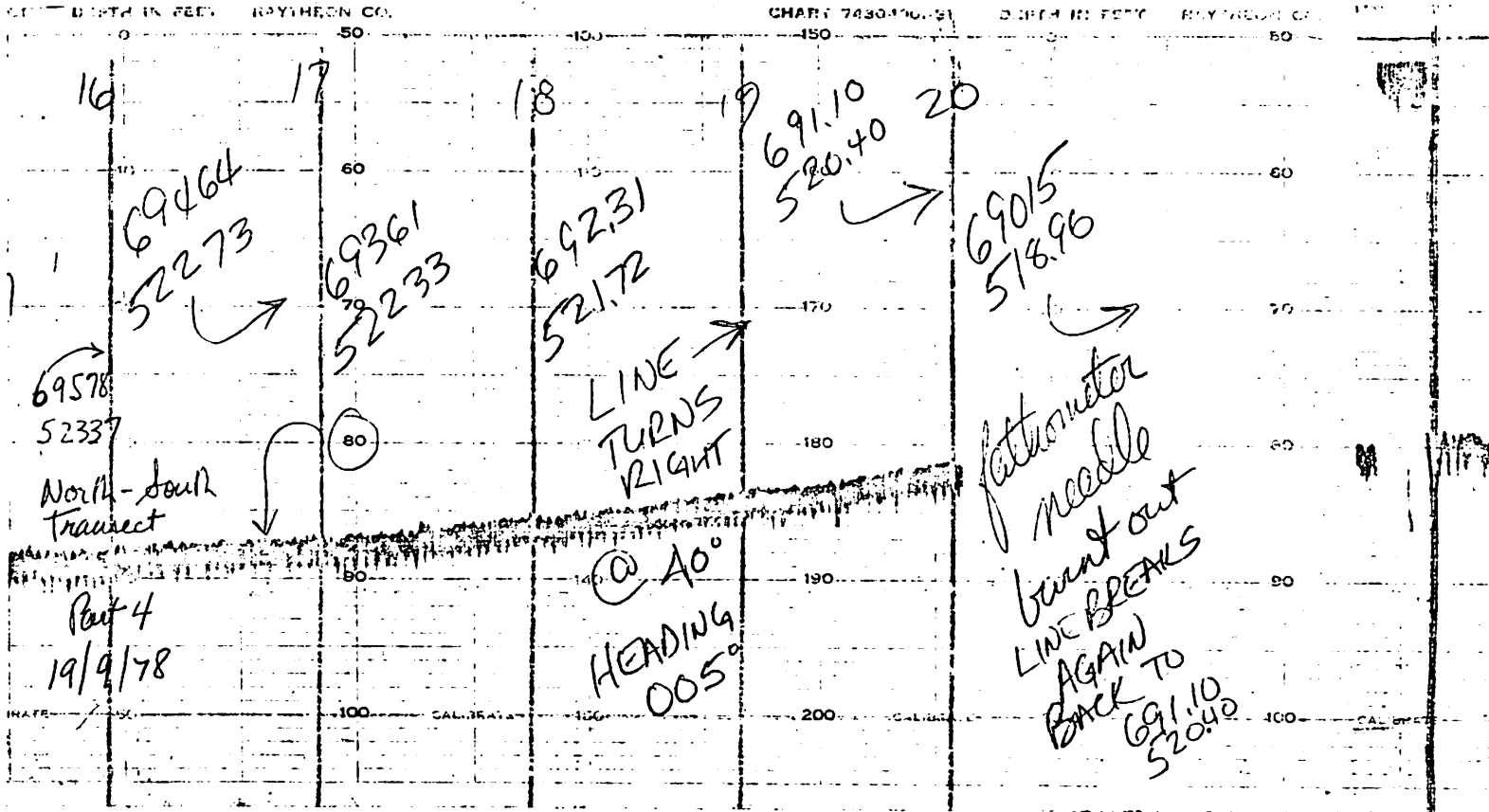


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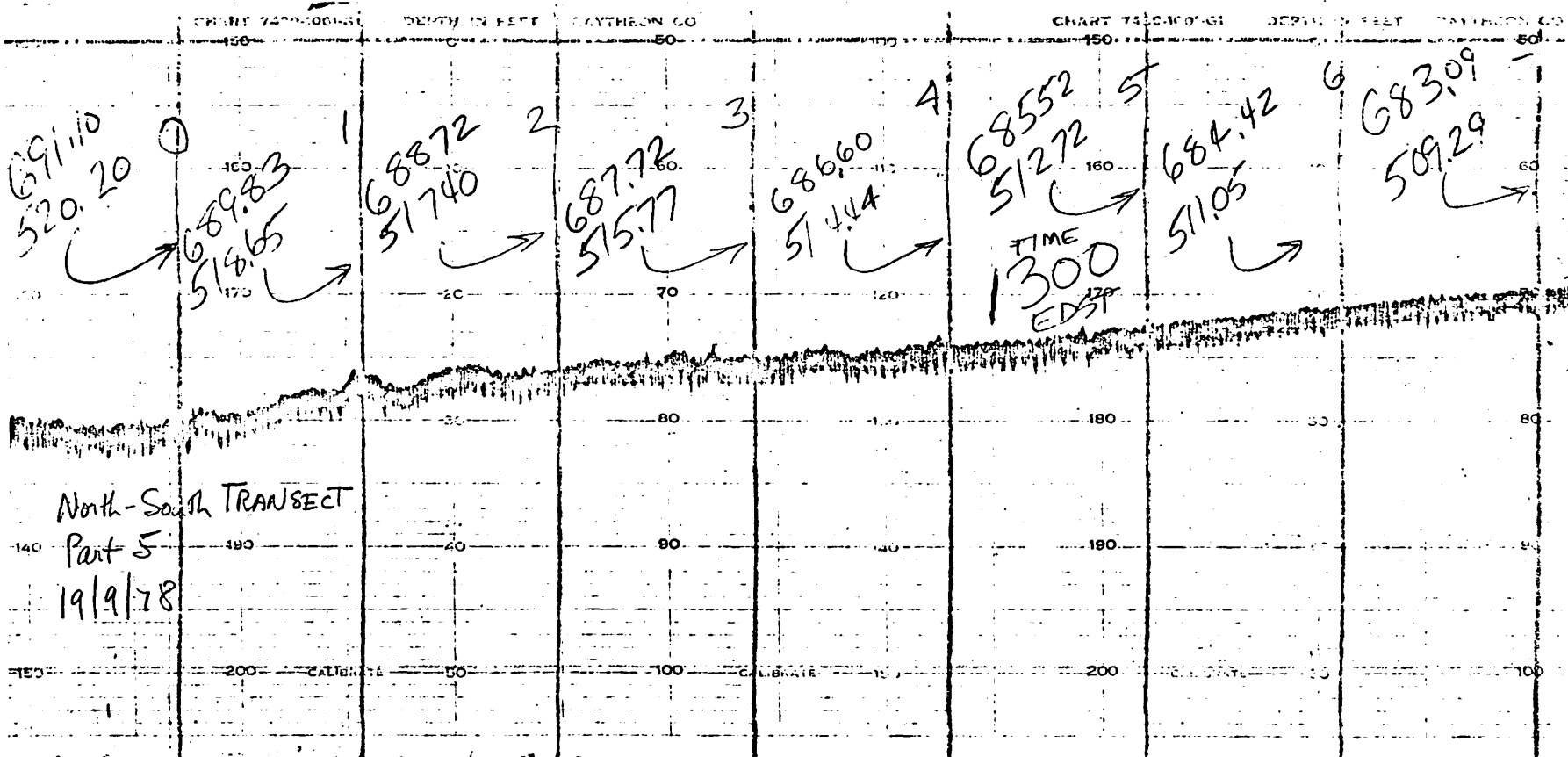


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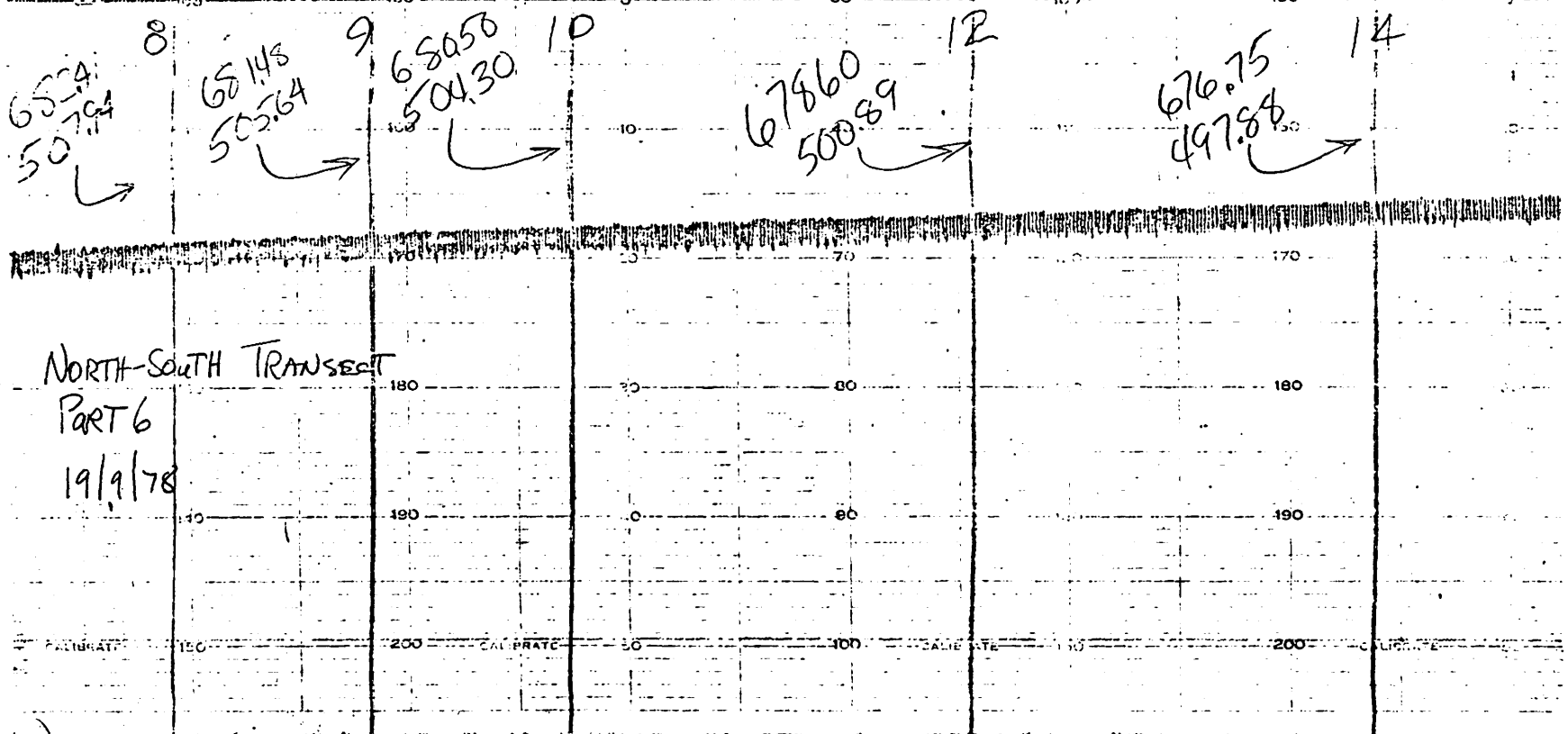




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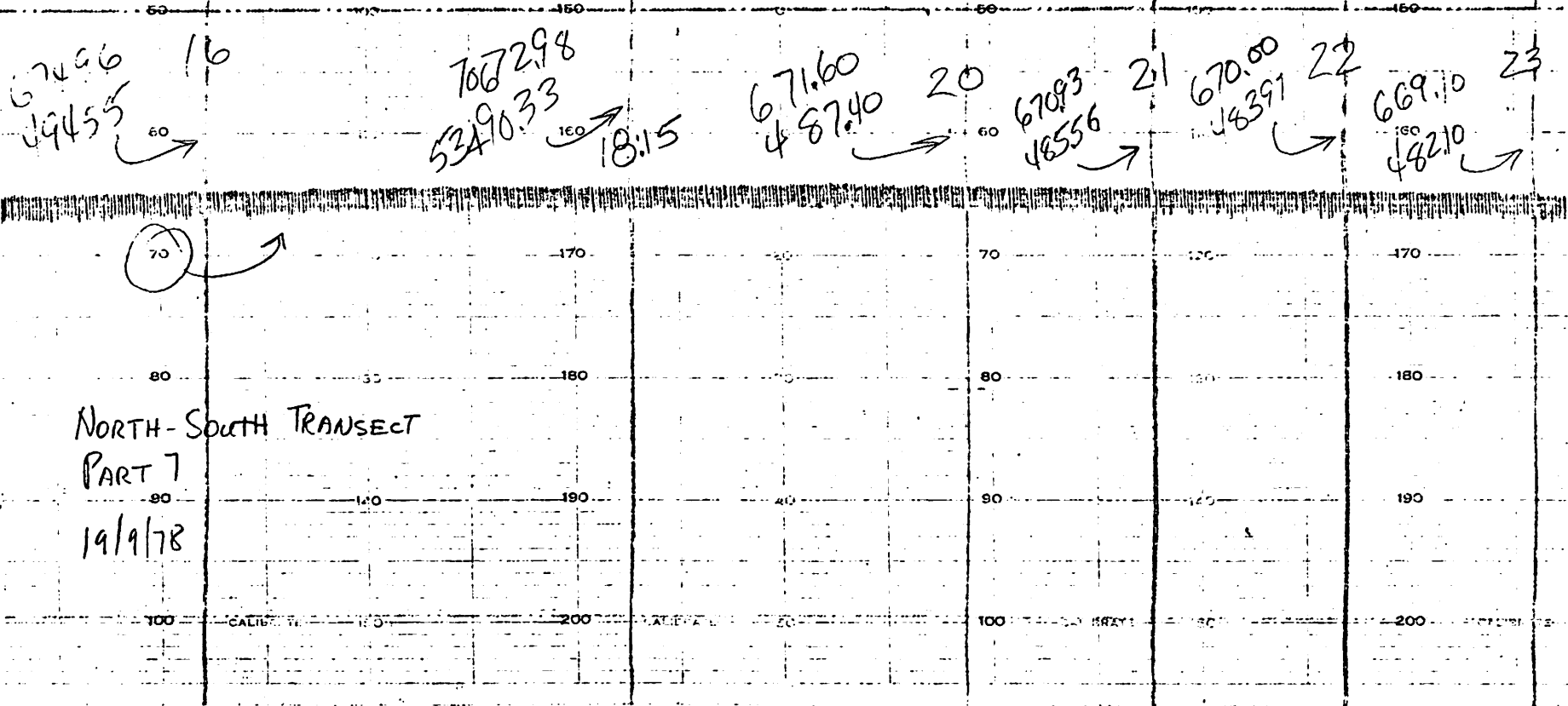


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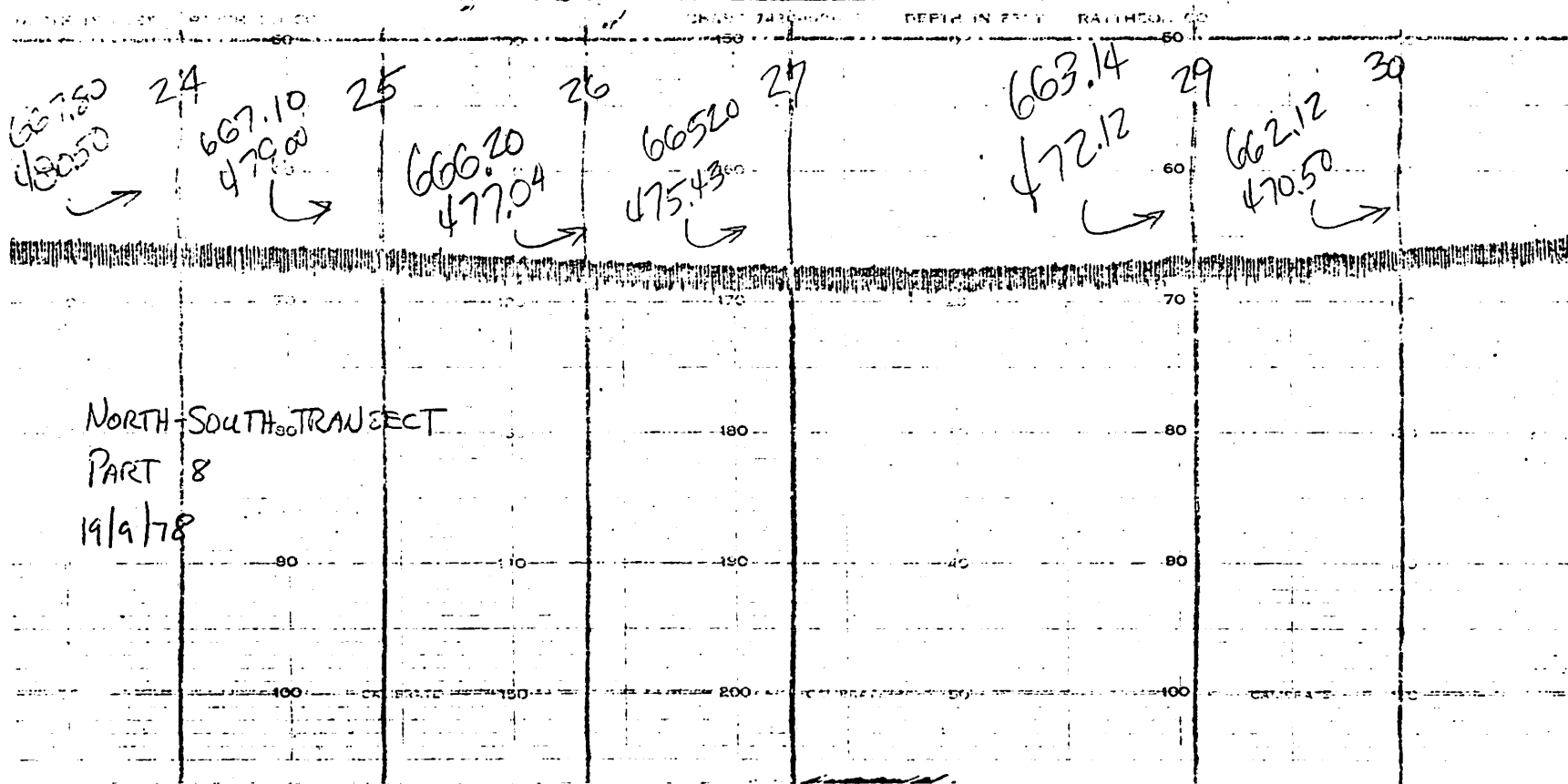


NORTH-SOUTH TRANSECT
PART 6
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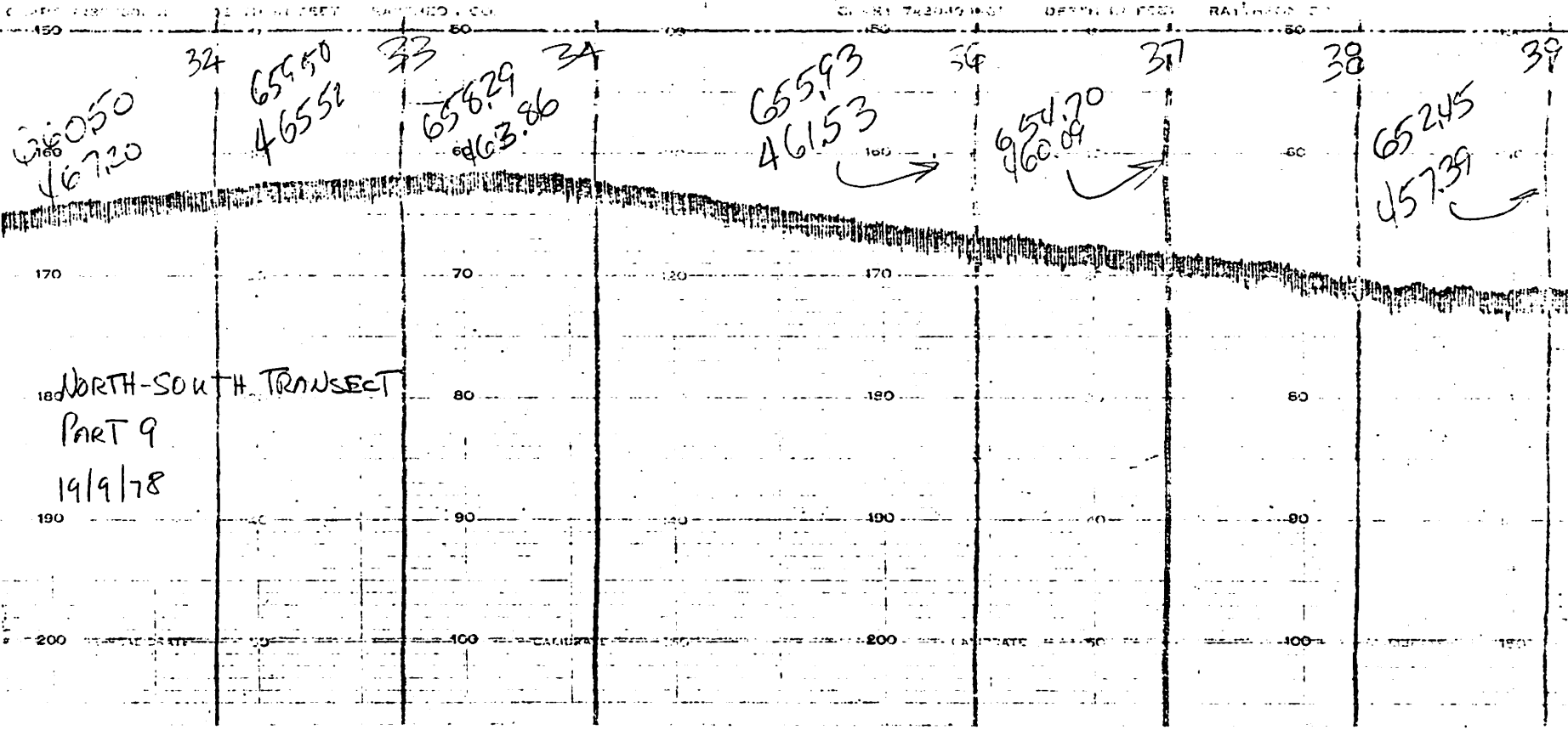
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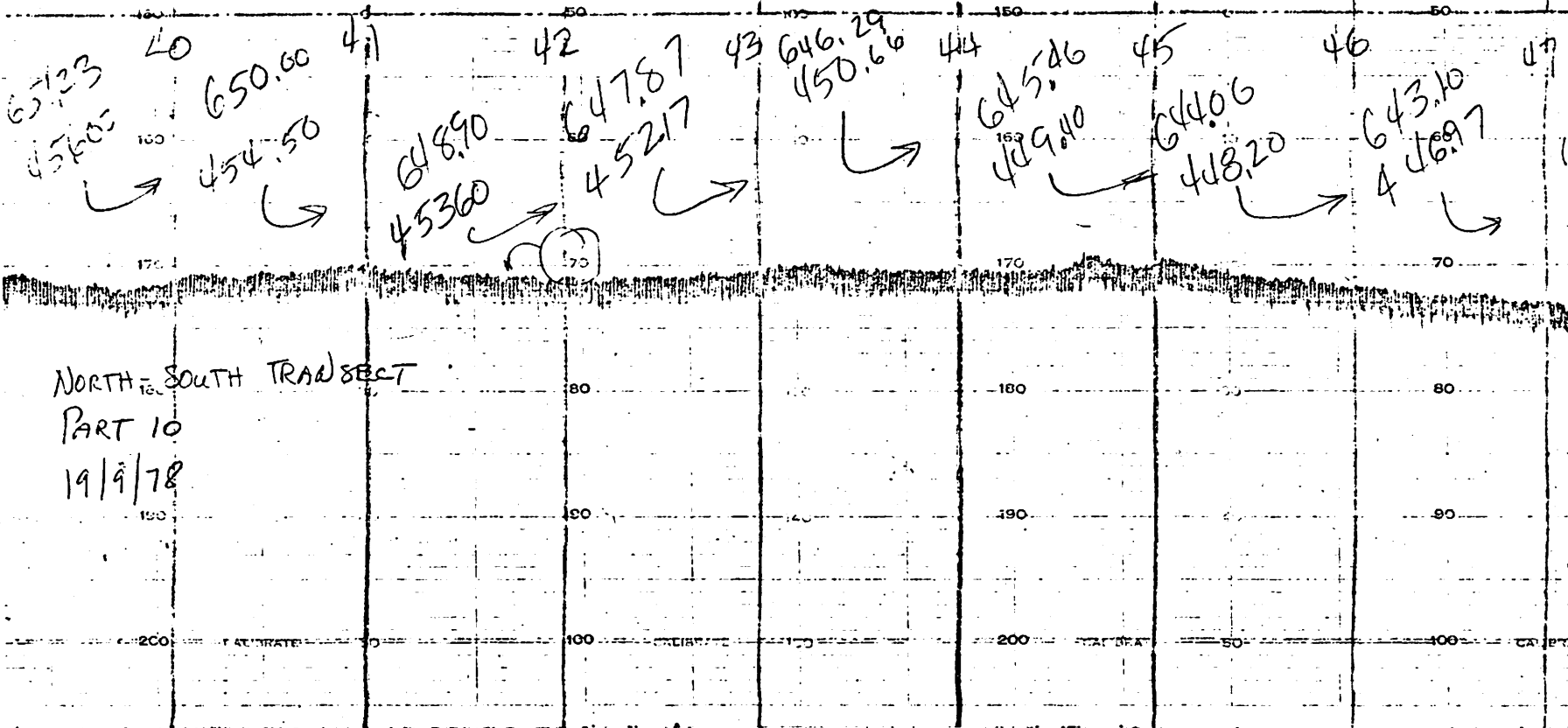
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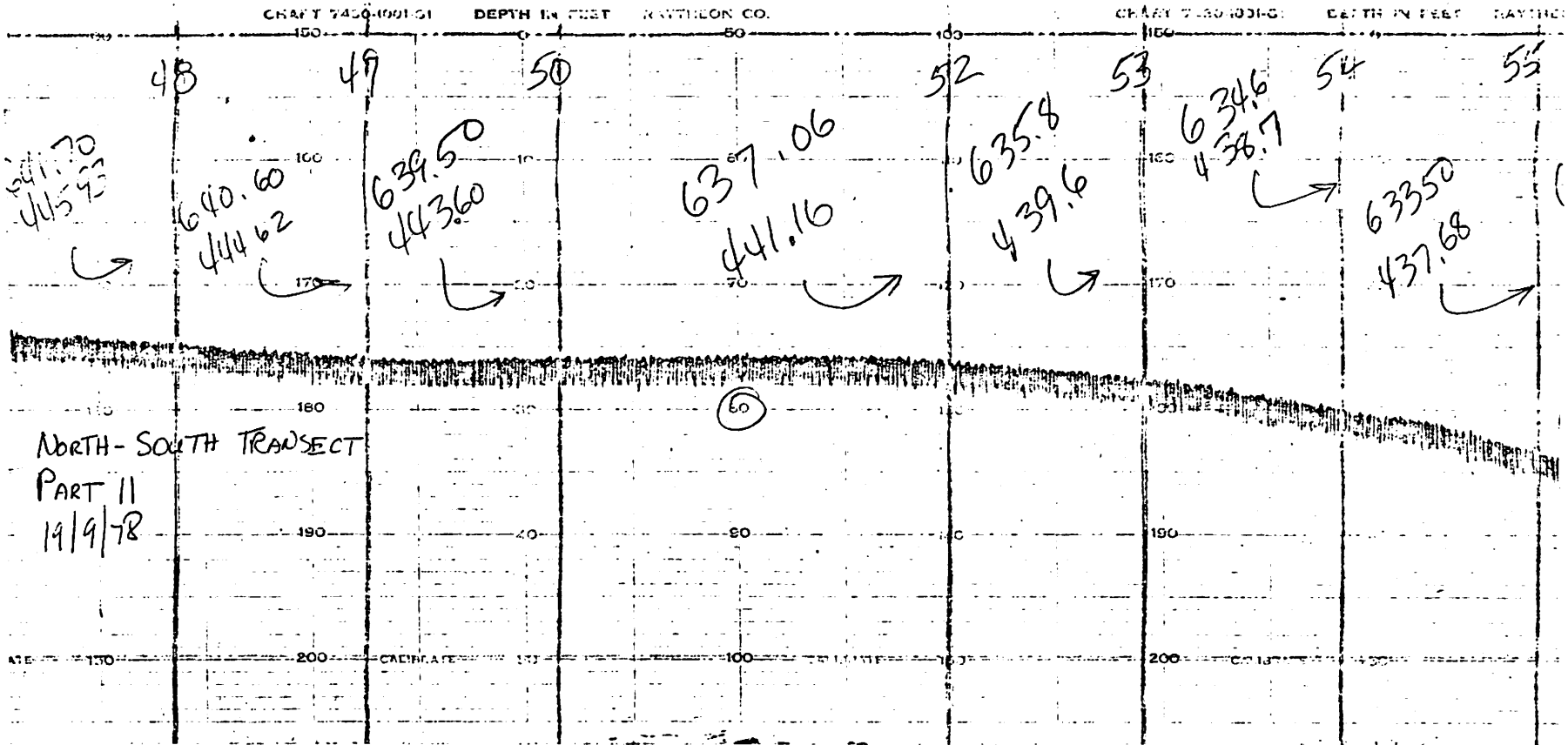
00021

CHART 7330(100-5) DEPTH IN FEET PARCHEEN CO.

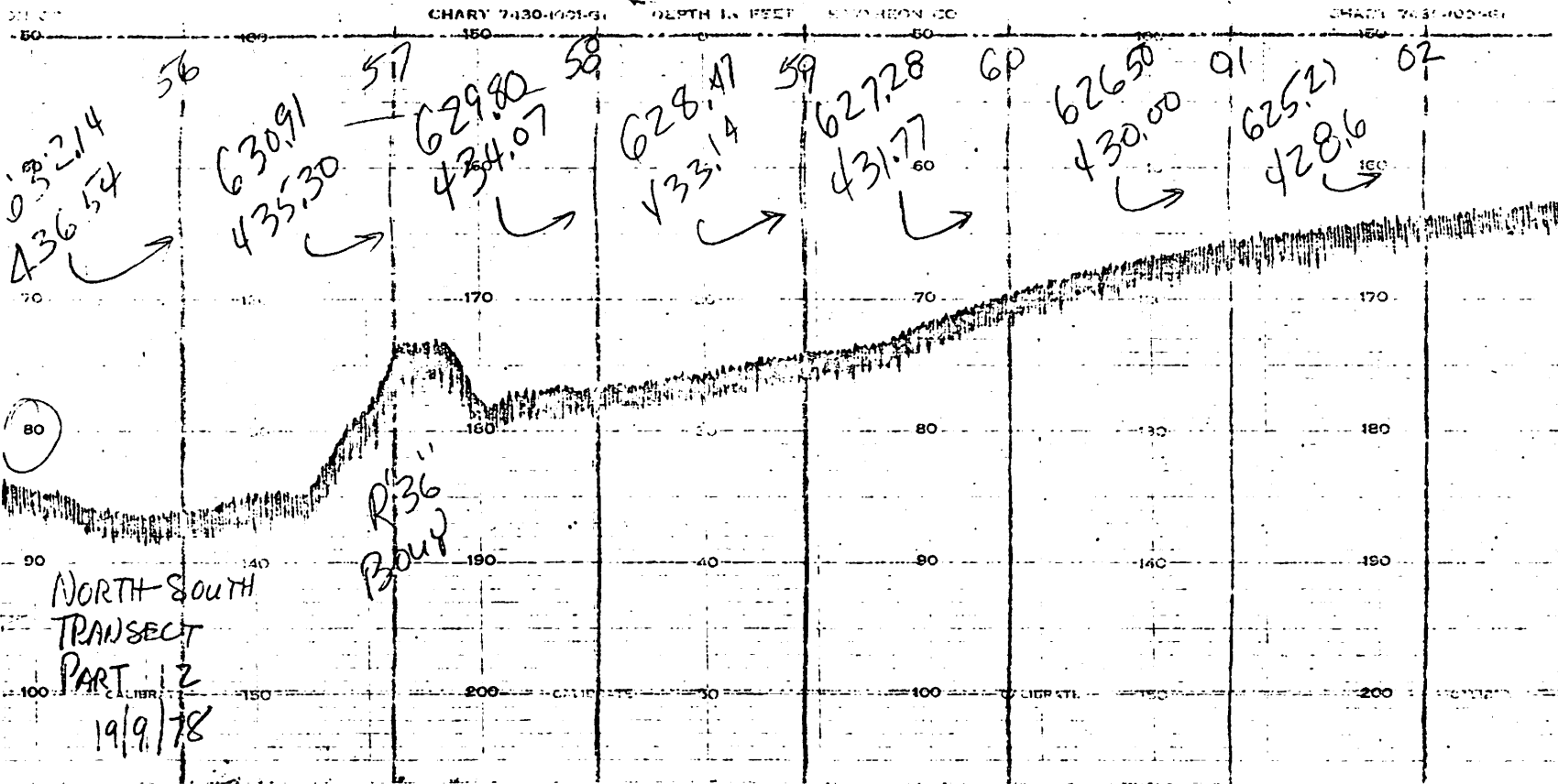
CHART 7330(100-5) DEPTH IN FEET PARCHEEN CO.



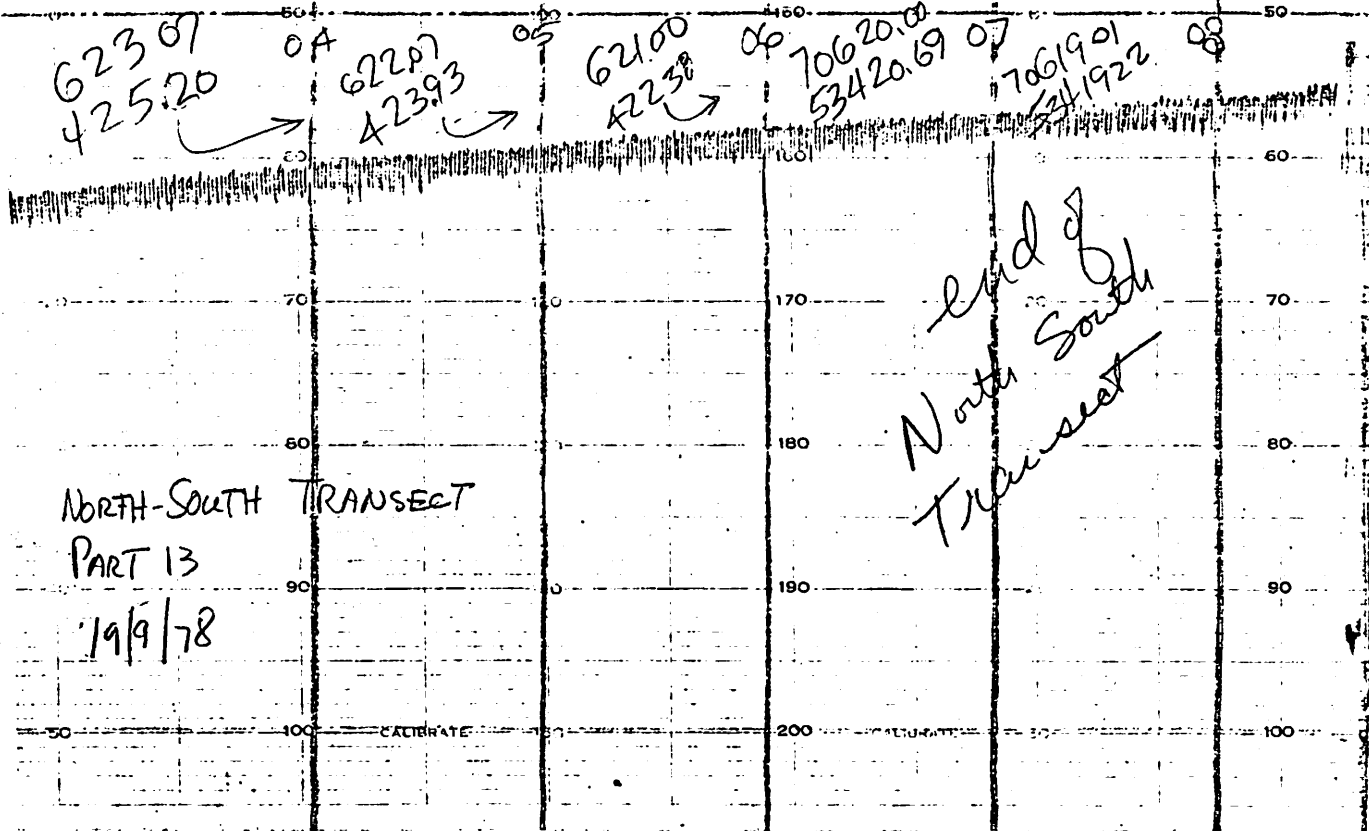
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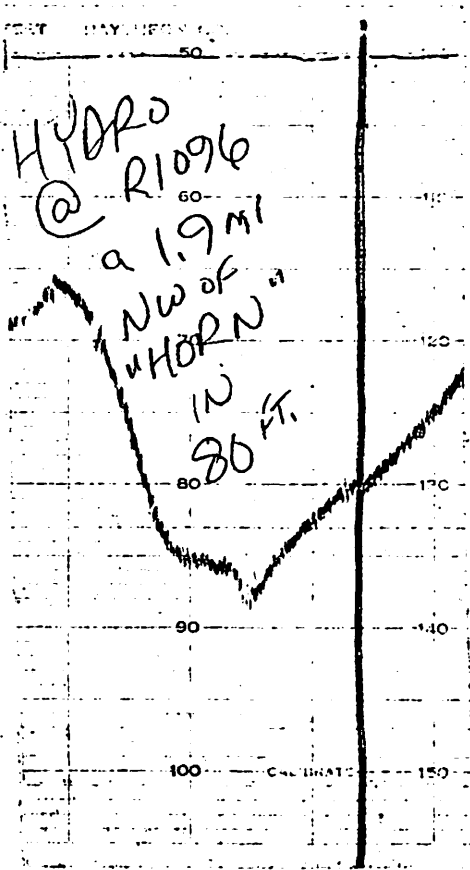
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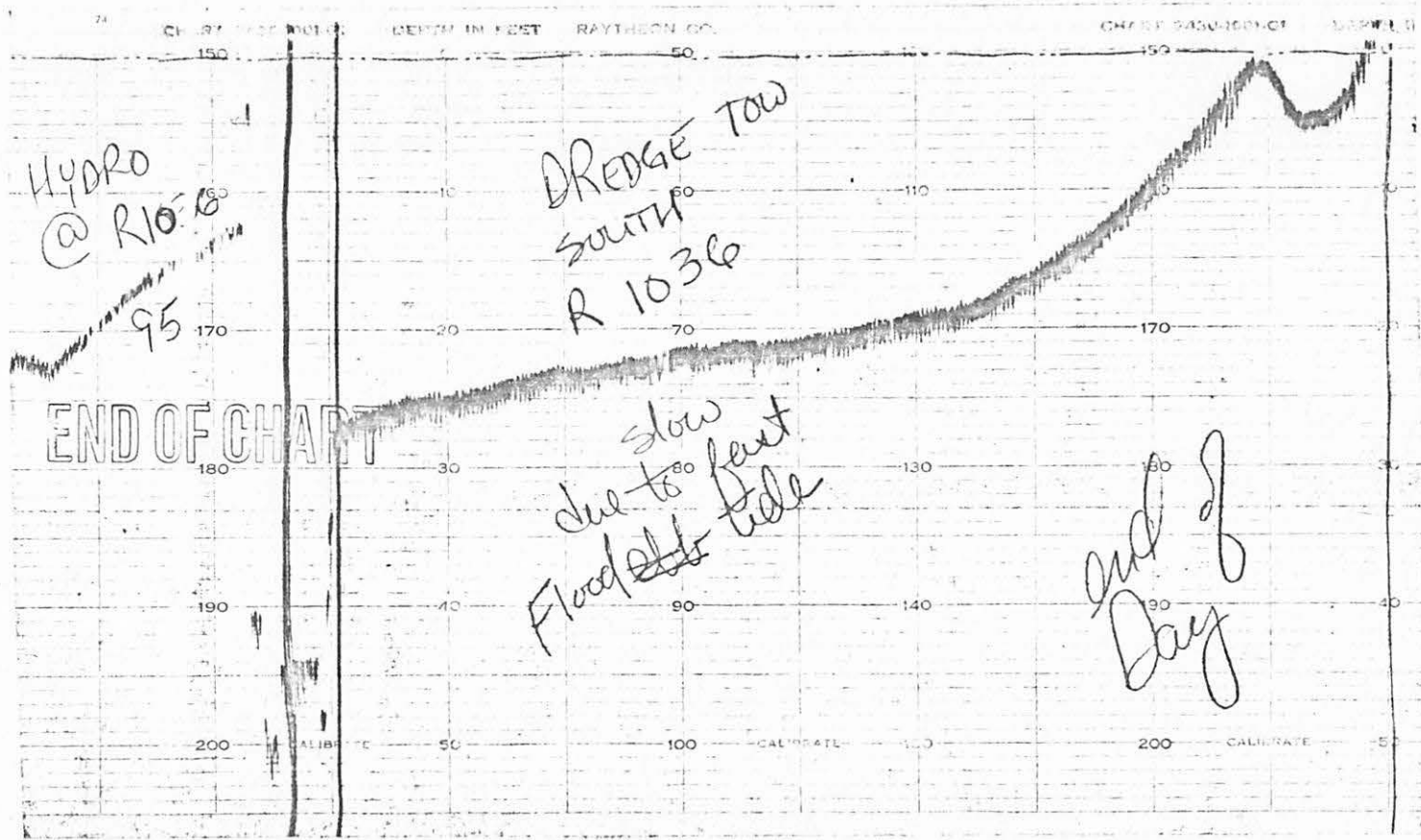
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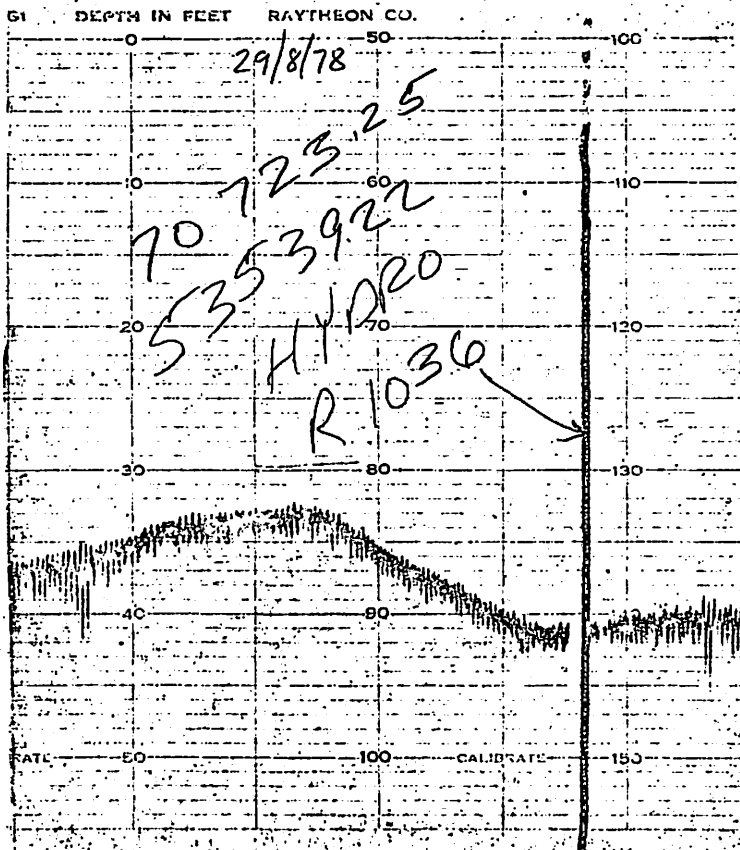
00025



00028



00027



000282

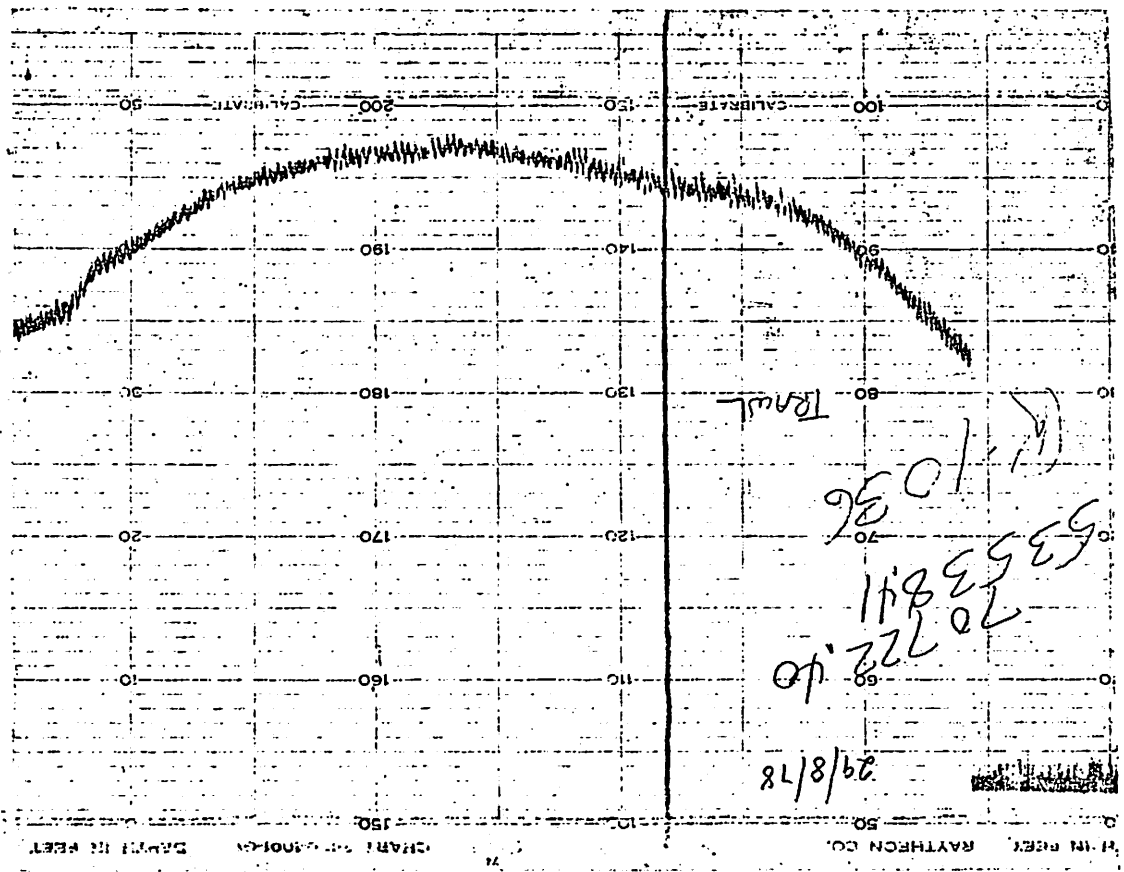
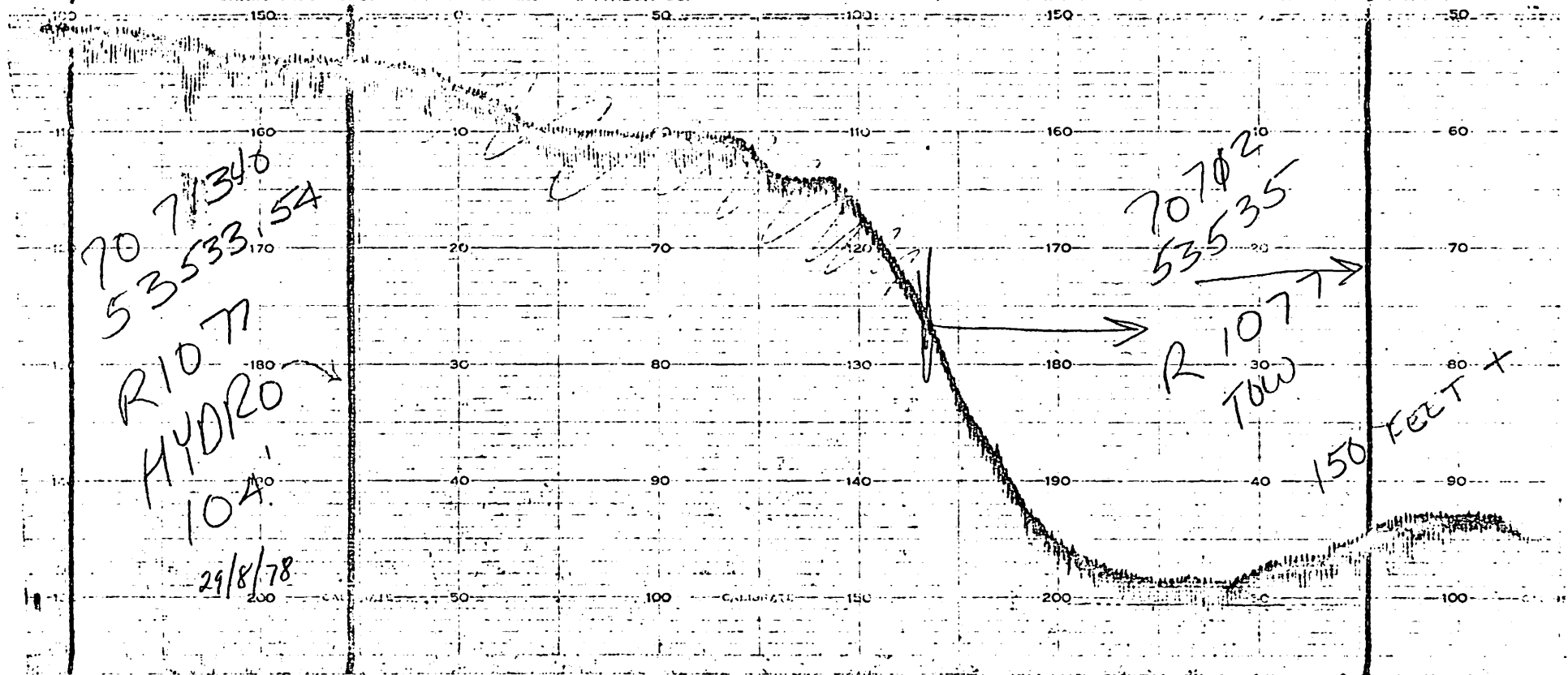


CHART 7420-1001-G1 DEPTH IN FEET RAYTHEON CO.

CHART 7420-1001-G1 DEPTH IN FEET RAYTHEON CO.



60029

