

Gem Mining at the Cryo Genie Pegmatite Mine, southern California; Report #5,
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On Monday, David and I mucked out rocks and excess debris but left enough for a platform beneath the pocket. Large matrix specimens of microcline, cleavelandite and quartz were exposed in the center of the pocket. We removed all the pocket buckets and transported them to the main camp and then brought up all the big matrix pieces on the drift floor. In general, we cleaned up the area.

In all, the pocket has produced 5 outstanding large matrix specimens, one of which takes two men to lift. Other numerous wall and floor pieces aren't so pretty. Most are a combination of microcline, cleavelandite, quartz and some bi-colored tourmalines. Some of the large microcline faces have pink and green tourmaline pencils embedded on their surfaces, not protruding but all lying flat. The cleavelandite sits like tuffs and mounds covering the microcline and quartz. Only one significant bi-colored tourmaline came out so far (Figure 2, Report #3). It is nearly 25 centimeters in length, doubly terminated, tapered and the colors are better than what came from the Big Monday Pocket. There is also a layer near the bottom of the pocket that is producing pencils up to 10 centimeters in length, tapered and only 1.25 centimeters in diameter on the thick end.

On Wednesday, Dana and Dave went to Anza to start the process of cleaning the material. We are trying to sort the buckets straight as to which pocket and where in the pocket they came from. This aids in any repair work needed. Nick Rose and I surveyed the new workings and then dug around the pocket; it's still going on. So far, we have produced 100 buckets of material, and at the last measurement, the volume of the pocket material is about 2 cubic meters. There is no doubt that we are in the mineral stream and there is enough room between this last pocket and the Big Monday Pocket of last year to find several more pockets.

Otherwise, the week was spent hosting numerous visitors, most of whom came to view the workings and film the activities.

Jim Clanin