

Gem Mining at the Cryo Genie Pegmatite Mine, southern California; Report #4,

September 13, 2002

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Since we found and dug out that beautiful tourmaline crystal last Saturday, we haven't found any others close to its size.

On Monday, David and I worked around the pocket to expose as much as possible so we could wet down the projecting mud and have it fall apart along mud seams. Otherwise, you have to pry it apart with a screwdriver and that has a tendency to break and chip specimens. We worked around the pocket until the muck pile made it impossible to stand straight, so we mucked out and then started again.

Dana came out on Tuesday to continue digging the pocket. By Thursday we produced 37, five-gallon buckets of material that is covered in heavy, tenacious mud, and several extra-large specimens of microcline with small tourmaline bicolor pencils on at least one face. There was so much mud covering the pieces that we can't tell what else might be on them.

By Friday we had removed just over a meter going into the face by 2 meters wide and about 60 cm in height. That's about 1.34 cubic meters of pocket so far with no end in sight. The left side of the pocket appears to be rounded while the right side thins out. It appears that we hit the pocket at an angle, and that the rounded left end is the bottom of the pocket while the true dip of the pocket is at an angle to our face. I think there are 4 meters of pegmatite between our present location and the pink pocket from last year.

We left the pocket this week with several nice quartz clusters showing in the face. Unfortunately, no large tourmaline crystals yet. Next week is full of visitors coming to photograph the pocket and hoping they will be present when the "big one" comes out. Till then....

Cheers,

Jim Clanin