

**Gem Mining at the Cryo Genie Pegmatite Mine, southern California; Report #7,
September 29 to October 27, 2002**
Jim Clanin, JC Mining

Week of September 30 – October 6, 2002.

The pocket is now officially finished, but what a pocket (Figures 1, 2). We took most of the week off, since this will be a busy weekend with mine tours.

Dana organized a cleaning party that revealed many tourmalines, some complete, and some larger than a person's forearm (see Figures 1-3, Report #6). Dana is working hard to get as many as possible ready for the Mineral Show at the LA County Museum in December, and the rest ready for the Tucson Show. We will have another case at the TGMS Main Show at the convention center next year showing off the new gems.

Week of October 7 – October 11, 2002

Dave and I started drilling and blasting again on Wednesday. This is the first time we have drilled and blasted since August 28th. I think we made about 7 or 8 feet of tunnel through the pocket with screw drivers and sticks.

I drilled 6 holes under the pocket to bring up the floor. We then mucked for two days, it was a good blast and we got very good breakage. I want to have room enough to stand in the pocket and use the roof of the pocket as the roof of the tunnel.

My belief now is that if I continue tunneling straight I should run into the plunge in about three or four feet. Once I establish this I will drift more easterly and tie into the Big Monday Pocket crosscut tunnel. I don't believe it is very far maybe 4 or 5 feet, but it maybe enough to hide another pocket.

Then I want to drift in the opposite direction and see if another pocket exists in that direction and establish a line on the down dip side of the plunge that seems to be controlling the mineral stream in this section of the mine.

Weeks of October 14 – October 27, 2002

I arrived early Monday on the 14th knowing that there was a lot of muck waiting for us. Spent the morning mucking and breaking up the larger rocks to fit into 5-gallon buckets. After mucking 28 wheelbarrows, I seriously scaled the ceiling and generated another 10 barrows full. Due to a big crack and the coarse texture of the rock, it was fairly easy scale, but now we have a safe ceiling.

Dave put chicken wire around our ventilation system to appease MSHA Regulations.

Late in the afternoon, Dr. Tom Rockwell paid us a visit from SDSU Department of Geological Sciences. Utilizing one of his students, I would like to use his Total Station and generate a three dimensional diagram of the underground.

On Tuesday morning, Dave and I finished mucking and set up to drill. I drilled 6 holes in the line rock again and shot them. The breakage was lousy, I think it blew into the country rock.

On Wednesday, we had some help for our friend Curtis from San Clemente. With his help we were able to muck everything and drill again. This time I drilled toward the upper crosscut where we hit the Big Monday Pocket. I drilled 6 holes and shot them with no misfires, but most of the energy went into the upper crosscut knocking over several buckets of pocket material Ken had stashed there. Nothing got hurt but it was covered with white dust and small rocks. The two tunnels must be closer than I thought, since the thin area of rock between the two tunnels was still untouched by the blast. Now I will have to drill some very short holes to open it up.

Thursday was cold with a temperature variance of only 4° and the high was 52°. The mine, however, was a pleasant 72° and we worked in tee-shirts. If you wanted to go outside we had to take off the wet tee-shirt and put on a long sleeved shirt and a sweater.

Cleaned out all the buckets, barred (shored) from both sides out of the wall between the two tunnels, and have only about 10 inches left. The rock between the two pockets is a blue perthite and is harder than the hinges of hell.

On Friday, Dana and Dave went to Anza to clean buckets and remained in camp to do some things around on the surface.

I didn't return to the mine until the next Wednesday (10/23) when Curtis would be there to help. With his help we removed 28 wheelbarrows of muck from the BAT pocket and got it ready to drill and open the rock between the two tunnels.

Thursday morning, Dave and I got ready to drill when the compressor gave us some problems. On Friday, I worked in the morning by myself moving the muck from the upper crosscut down to the lower crosscut where it could be loaded into the buckets. Meanwhile, Dave went for water and supplies. When he returned we were able to muck out all of that material but not the muck in the BAT pocket.

Till next time,

Jim Clanin



Figure 1. Jim Clanin in front of the BAT pocket, pointing at a large pink tourmaline exposed through the muck on the face.



Figure 2. One of the many fine matrix specimens of quartz and feldspars that lined the BAT pocket.