

PALA, CA 92082

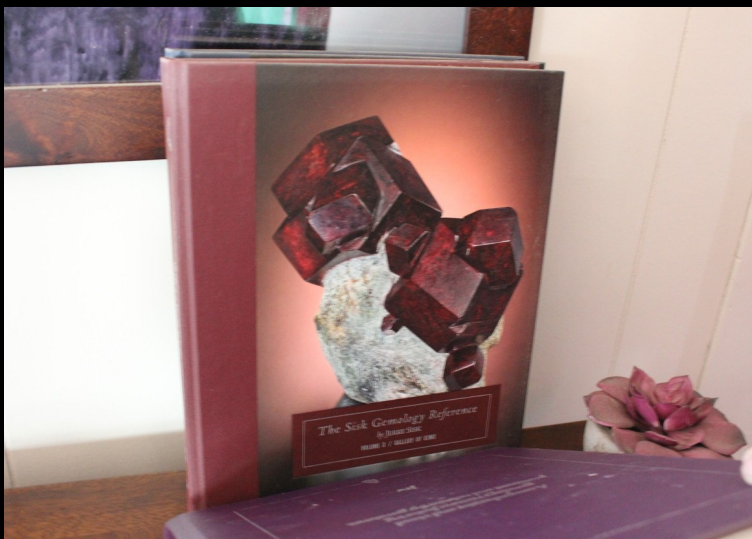
OCEANVIEW AND PALA CHIEF MINES,
ELIZABETH R CLAIM
FOR SALE | \$5,000,000

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37304 | **MAGEE RD**
PALA, CA 92059



offering summary

Property Name	Oceanview and Pala Chief Mines, Elizabeth R Clain
Address	37304 Magee Road, Pala, CA 92059
Property Type	Rare Gem Mine
Sale Price	\$5,000,000
Lot Size	Approx. 42.91 Acres
Market	Pala, CA
Price / SF	\$2.67
APNS	109-190-04, 109-160-25, 190-160-24
Zoning	AG 20

property overview

Rare Gem Mine Hosting a Variety of Gemstones-
Pink Tourmaline, Watermelon Tourmaline, Black & Green Tourmalines, Kunzite, Lepidolite, Aquamarine, Gossanite, Morganite, Quartz, Garnets, Book Mica, Muscovite Mica and Crystals.

Rare Class 1- Class 3 Storage Mine Grandfathered Clause for AG 20 Magazine 54.

property highlights

- Scheduled Gem Tours with Schools, Universities, Gemological Institute of America & Smithsonian
- Mineral, Timber, & Water Rights from Federal Government
- 2 Mine Support Buildings with Kitchens, Bathrooms, Bedrooms & Laundry Facilities
- Grandfathered Clause for AG 20 Magazine 54
- 1907 Dr. Kunz Discovers Kunzite from Pala Chief Mine
- Candelabra Tourmaline is Discovered and Insured for \$30,000,000 in Smithsonian



property photos



property photos



InColor

Fall 2020

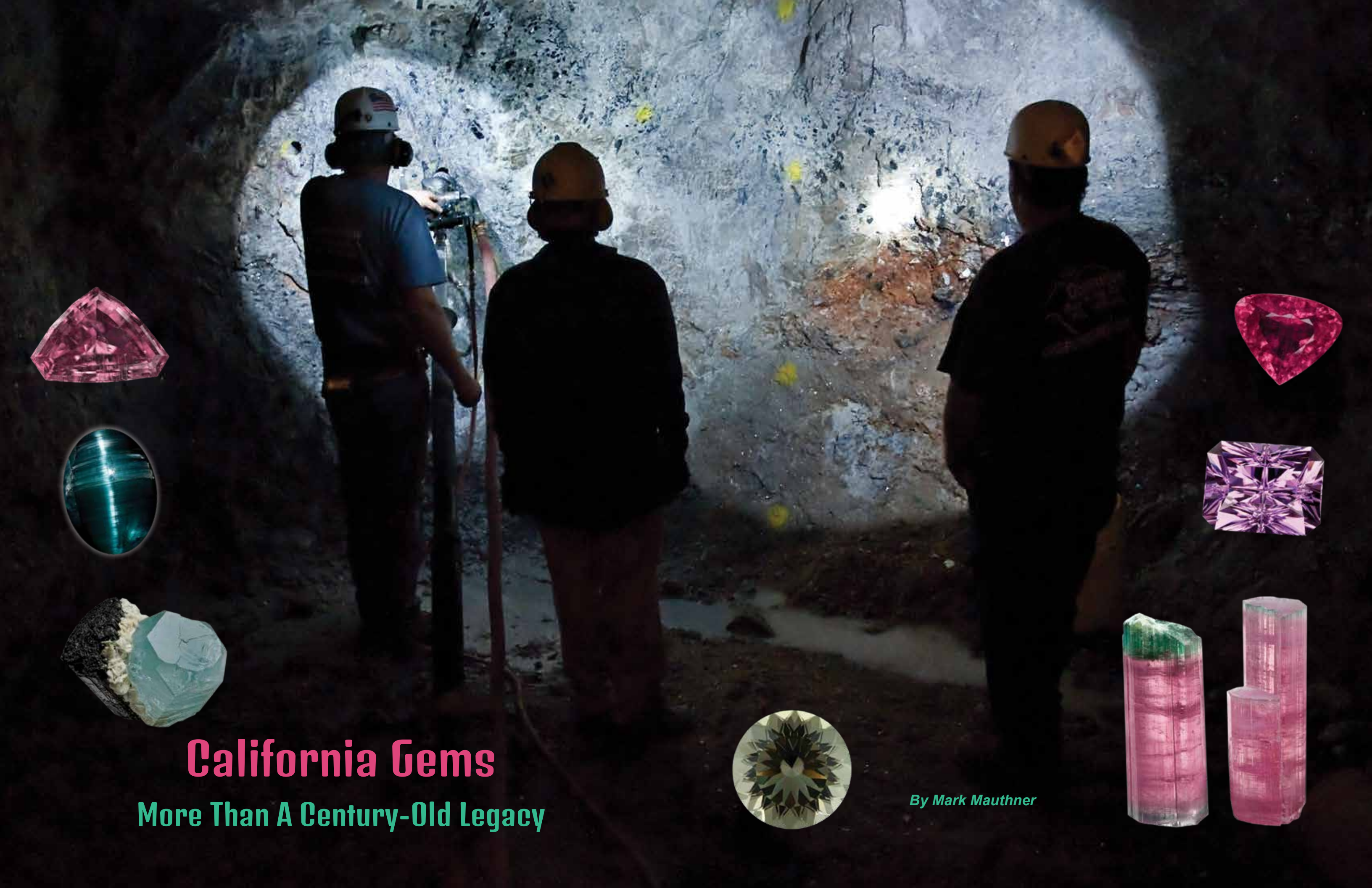
Issue 45

All About Colored Gemstones

AMERICAN
GEMSTONES

*WHAT THEY ARE AND
WHERE THEY ARE FOUND*





California Gems

More Than A Century-Old Legacy

By Mark Mauthner

Southern California has, in the last one-and-a-quarter century, been the source of some amazing gem material. It was one of the world's leading sources of tourmaline in the first ten years of the 20th century, decades before being eclipsed by new discoveries in Brazil, and even decades later, by other deposits in Asia and Africa.

Although commercial gem mining has recently found a resurgence in San Diego County, especially at the Oceanview, Pala Chief and Elizabeth R Mines in the Pala District, this early period remains the most productive in the area's history.

Gem tourmaline was first reported from the Columbia Mine (Thomas Mountain, Riverside County) in 1872, but organized gem mining in southern California did not really get started until the tourmaline-rich pegmatite deposit that became the Himalaya Mine was discovered in 1898. Many gem-producing pegmatites in the various districts in San Diego and Riverside counties were located and staked in the ensuing "gem boom" that took place over the next 15 years.

A large boost to the industry at that time came from the Chinese market for carving-grade rather than faceting-grade tourmaline. The Empress Dowager Cixi was particularly enthralled by the beautiful pink to deep red varieties, so much so that much of the carved tourmaline on display today in the treasure room at the Forbidden City in Beijing originates from California mines.

While many more mines produced fine collector mineral specimens, in terms of suitable cutting material, the major tourmaline producers in southern California were the Himalaya, Tourmaline King, Tourmaline Queen, and the Stewart Lithia Mines.

Despite being staked very early on in the 1890s, the Stewart Lithia mine was a late starter in the gem business. It was originally staked in the hope of mercury mining as the red tourmaline was mistaken for cinnabar. A brief, if at all realized, second go-around by a new owner sought to produce dimension stone from this "unusual marble." During the great gem boom, even though rubellite had been recognized by then, it was the massive lepidolite that was mined at the Stewart, as an ore of lithium.

With the Chinese Revolution of 1911 and a concomitant saturation of these gems in the U.S. market, gem mining in San Diego County came to a halt. A post-World War II resurgence brought a few of the mines to life again. Southern California never again attained its former prominence, but over the next 50 years, smaller projects here and there produced material that still holds its own on the world stage.

In the 1950-60s, Ralph Potter and a crew revamped the Himalaya Mine and came into a series of pockets that produced much material, mostly tourmaline. From 1977 until the late 1990s, Pala Properties International, led by Bill Larson with his mine manager John McLean, took the Himalaya to another level yet and extracted tourmaline possibly to that level of the great boom. Since then, the new owners have high graded what remains and still come out with hundreds of pounds of material.

Photos previous pages, from top left:

- Mine: Steve Carter, Phil Osborn and Mark Baker drilling in the Xenolith zone, Baker Boulevard level, Oceanview Mine, Pala, San Diego County.

- Elbaite; 26 ct. Elizabeth R Mine, Pala District, San Diego County, Roland Reed collection.

- Elbaite (cats eye); 19.5 ct. Elizabeth R mine, Pala, San Diego County. Roland Reed collection.

- Beryl (aquamarine) with schorl and albite (cleavelandite). Recovered in late November 2007, and dubbed the "Prince," this is the finest beryl (aquamarine) specimen from the 49er Pocket, Oceanview Mine, Pala District, San Diego County. William F. Larson specimen.

- Quartz (citrine-smoky quartz); 80+ cts. One of the first gems cut by Phil Osborn from material from the 49er Pocket, Oceanview Mine, Pala District, San Diego County. Jeff Swanger specimen.

- Elbaite: (left) 2.8 cm and (right) 2.9 cm tall. The crystal with the green cap is doubly terminated. Big Kahuna zone, Oceanview Mine, Pala District, San Diego County.

- Spodumene (kunzite); 57.61 ct (24.4 x 18.5 x 18 mm), combination Barion Cross cut by Jewels of the Woods. Baker Boulevard level, Oceanview Mine, Pala District, San Diego County. Oceanview Mines LLC specimen.

- Elbaite; 25 ct. Tourmaline Queen Mine, Pala District, San Diego County. Private collection.



Phil Osborn drilling to open up more of the December 2009 pocket, Oceanview Mine, Pala District, San Diego County, California.



Spodumene (kunzite), 50.94 ct. Showing a twin plane perpendicular to the length of the stone, which allows orientation; the twin plane is the b-c plane crystallographically. Baker Boulevard level, Oceanview Mine, Pala District, San Diego County. Oceanview Mines, LLC. specimen.



Elbaite (blue cap), Albite (cleavelandite), Quartz (smoky-citrine); tourmaline xl 8 cm long. One of the finest tourmaline specimens mined by Bob Dawson in the Pala Chief Mine, Pala, San Diego County. Bob and Jane Dawson collection.

Pala Properties also rejuvenated operations at the Stewart Mine in 1968, truly bringing it on line as a gem mine, and a significant one. Well into the 1990s, Blue Sheppard continued mining there and has been selling his gems on late-night television.

Probably the best known revival is that of the Tourmaline Queen Mine in the 1970s. Gem tourmaline from that mining period, including the famous 1972 "blue-cap" tourmaline pocket, can still be found trickling through the market.

Over a two-year period in the early 2000s, brothers Dana and Ken Gochenour, along with miner, Jim Clanin, uncovered several major pockets at the Cryo-Genie Mine containing numerous large, pink tourmalines that exhibit a strongly tapered and striated habit. Impressive as the specimens are, little cutting material was found.

Better known for the *kunzite* it contained (more on that in a bit), the Carter Court level of the Oceanview Mine, and especially the Big Kahuna zone, encountered in mid 2010, produced a fair amount of green elbaite as well as a pocket of fine, green-pink bicolor gem elbaite, reminiscent of the bicolor material from the Himalaya.

Kunzite, the "lilac" variety of spodumene, was first described from the Pala District and is second only to tourmaline in terms of reputation and abundance in southern California. The first such colored spodumene that was found and sent to George F. Kunz of Tiffany's in New York for identification by Fred Sickler came from the Katerina Mine, but the "type" material used by Baskerville (1903) to show the phosphorescence after X-ray excitation was mined a bit later at the Pala Chief Mine. Interestingly, it was primarily this luminescent property that was officially cited as grounds for naming the new gem variety as *kunzite*.



Upper right: Elbaite, carved lions; 4.5 cm across. Tourmaline Queen Mine, Pala District, San Diego County. William F. Larson collection.

Elbaite, carved snuff bottle; 8.5 cm tall. Carved from a single crystal from the Tourmaline Queen Mine, Queen Mountain, Pala District, San Diego County. The distinctive "blue cap" color zonation is more evident when the bottle is turned upside down. William F. Larson collection.



Elbaite; 4.2 cm tall; stone 3.41 ct. Elizabeth R Mine, Pala District, San Diego County. Roland Reed collection.



Spodumene (kunzite) rough & cut. Strongly pleochroic, this crystal exhibits the green color of the 'a' or broad face, hints of the lilac color are seen near the terminations. The gemstone was cut such that the table is nearly perpendicular to the length of the crystal it is cut from. December 2009 Spodumene pocket, Oceanview Mine, Pala, San Diego County. Cut stone 6.0 ct (April Logan collection); specimen 3.2 cm tall (private collection).



Elbaite, Lepidolite; 7.1 cm tall. Stewart Lithia Mine, Pala District, San Diego County. Jeffrey & Lindsey Kent collection.



Elbaite, lepidolite and albite; 7.4 cm tall. Big Kahuna II zone, Baker Boulevard level, Oceanview Mine, Pala District, San Diego County. Fabian Wildfang collection.



Elbaite with lepidolite, albite (cleveandite) and quartz (smoky-citrine); specimen 18.4 cm tall. Collected December 2010. Big Kahuna II zone, Baker Boulevard level, Oceanview Mine, Pala District, San Diego County. William F. Larson collection.



Roland Reed inspecting some of the July 2008 find from the Elizabeth R Mine, Pala District, San Diego County.



Beryl (morganite); 7.7 cm across. Elizabeth R Mine, Pala, Pala District, San Diego County. Jeffrey & Lindsey Kent collection.



Topaz, albite; 7 cm tall. Little Three Mine, Ramona, San Diego County. Jeffrey & Lindsey Kent collection.



Spodumene (triphane); cut stone 90.90 ct, specimen 4 cm tall. 2011 Triphane Pocket, Pala Chief Mine, Pala District, San Diego County, Oceanview Mines, LLC, specimen: private collection.



Spodumene (kunzite) The "Big Kahuna"; 28 cm tall (15.6 cm wide; 2 cm thick). This is arguably one of the finest American kunzite crystals in existence. Collected December 20, 2010 in the Big Kahuna II zone, Baker Boulevard, Oceanview Mine, Pala District, San Diego County. Oceanview Mines, LLC specimen.



Beryl (aquamarine) with tourmaline needles; specimen 6.5 cm tall. Pala Chief Mine, Pala, San Diego County. Bob and Jane Dawson collection.



Spodumene (kunzite); specimen 3.0 cm long, cut stone 15.532 ct. Elizabeth R Mine, Pala District, San Diego County. Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Museum collection.



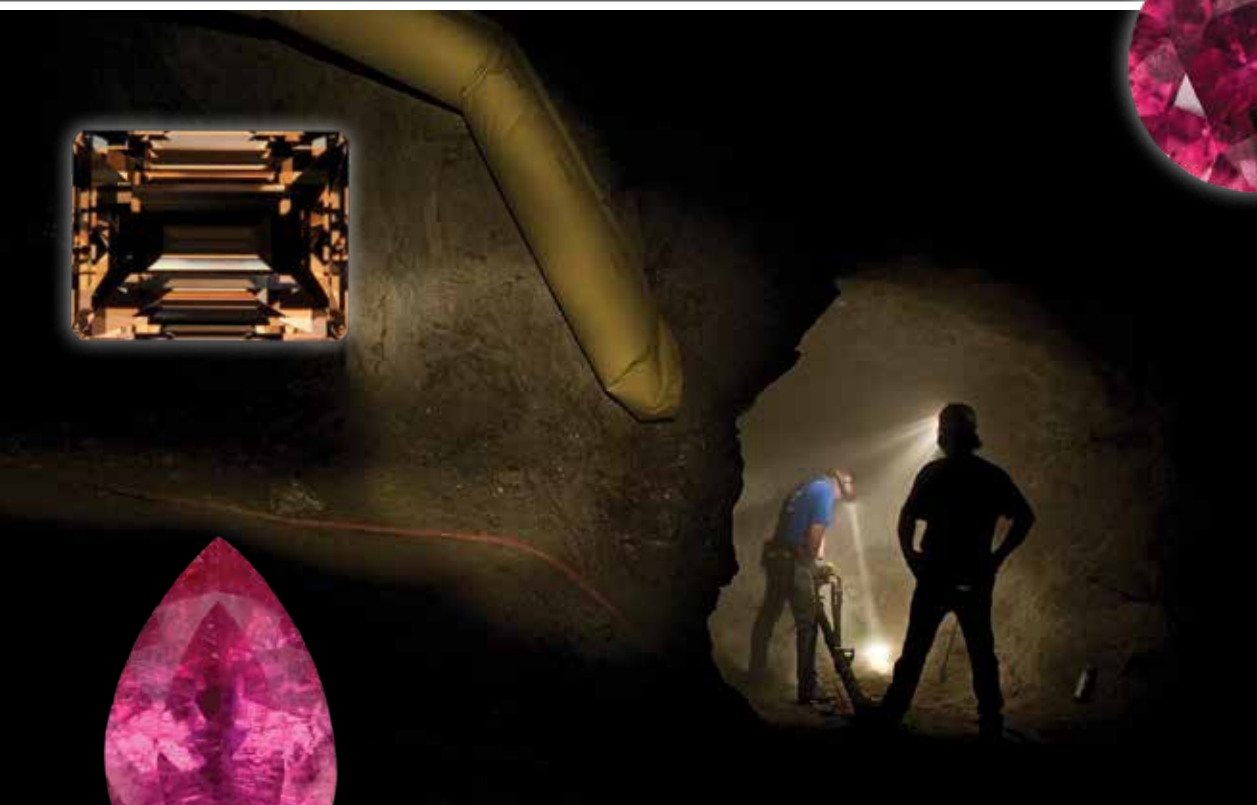
Spodumene (kunzite); 8.1 cm long. Vanderberg Mine, Pala District, San Diego County. William F. Larson specimen.



Beryl (morganite) with smoky quartz, albite (cleveandite); specimen 33 cm across (main xl 7.5 cm across). Pala Chief Mine, Pala District, San Diego County. Oceanview Mines, LLC specimen.



Beryl (pale aquamarine and morganite); crystal group 5 cm across. 49er Pocket, Oceanview Mine, Pala District, San Diego County. Oceanview Mines, LLC. specimen.



Elbaite (rubellite); 78.41 ct (3.7 cm tall). Modern cut from an old "gem boom" specimen. Tourmaline King Mine, Queen Mountain, Pala District, San Diego County, courtesy Heritage Auctions (ha.com).

Pre-Great War finds were dominantly made at the Pala Chief Mine on Chief Mountain and the Katerina, Vanderberg, San Pedro, White Queen and Naylor claims on Mt. Hiriart. Among the best existing crystals are two large blades with well preserved color from a 1914 find at the Pala Chief Mine, which currently reside in a vault at the Harvard Mineralogical Museum (Holden collection). Most major museums worldwide have representative specimens from early finds at the Pala Chief. The University of Delaware Museum has a wonderful display of early *kunzite* pieces that were part of the collection of Irénée Dupont, who obtained them from George F. Kunz. One of the more significant of these is a fine crystal that was found in 1903 by the Sicklers at one of their claims on Mt. Hiriart in the Pala district. Outside of the Pala District, the only significant spodumene find of this period was made in 1903 at the Fano (Simmons) Mine in Riverside County—just shy of 30 kilograms of fine *kunzite*, and almost 35 kilograms of lesser spodumene.

Shortly after having purchased the Katerina mine from Fred Sickler in 1947, George Ashley apparently hit a series of pockets with "fair to good" material, including some that cut a 93.50-carat stone. Another version of this story has Ashley and an associate, Bill McGee, high grading Sickler's mine and, upon emerging from the portal, Ashley discovered that Sickler was on his way up to the mine...with a gun. According to the teller of the story, McGee arrived at the portal moments later to witness Ashley barreling through the brush like a jackrabbit with his tail on fire, and Sickler running the other direction, because, after "getting upset" at having caught someone at his mine, he had forgot to set the parking



Elbaite ("The Hand"); 14.5 cm tall. Himalaya Mine, Mesa Grande District, San Diego County, California, USA. Gerhard Wagner Collection (T375), courtesy Heritage Auctions (ha.com).

brake on his vehicle and was now chasing it down the hill. It seems that Ashley was able to purchase Sickler's mine not long after...with the proceeds of what he and McGee had found.

In about 1950 or 1951, Charles Reynolds and his crew encountered a large pocket of spodumene that yielded almost 300 pounds of colorless to pink to pale green spodumene, including a 2.25 kilogram crystal with over 75% of a suitable



Elbaite, 6.86 ct. Elizabeth R mine, Pala, San Diego County. Roland Reed collection.

Smoky quartz, 183.7 cts, 3.7 cm across). Collected and cut by John Sinkankas. Tourmaline Queen Mine, Queen Mountain, Pala District, San Diego County. William F. Larson collection.

Daron Fisler and Steve Carter drilling the face on Baker Boulevard level, Oceanview Mine, Pala District, San Diego County.



Beryl (morganite), Albite (cleavelandite); crystal 4.4 cm long; cut stone 202.39 cts. White Queen Mine, Pala, San Diego County. Mined by Bob Dawson and party in the mid-1980s, stone cut by JoAnn McLean. Bob and Jane Dawson collection.



George F. Kunz inspecting the deepest color of a Pala Chief mine kunzite crystal. Note where the original has had a purple tinge added to highlight and colorize the kunzite crystal. Mark Mauthner photograph and restoration of original photograph, ex-Kunz collection, now in William F. Larson collection. Original photographer unknown.

Inset: This is the 16.6x10.6 cm spodumene (kunzite) crystal that George F. Kunz is seen holding in the well-known "Mineral Collector" article photograph. It was sold to J.P. Morgan, whose collection went to the American Museum of Natural History. It was traded out and eventually acquired by William F. Larson, in whose collection it now resides. Pala Chief Mine, Pala District, San Diego County.



Elbaite, Beryl (morganite). Bill Larson holding his iconic specimen from the famous 1972 "Blue Cap Pocket" in the Tourmaline Queen Mine, Pala District, San Diego County.



Spodumene (kunzite); 201.00 cts. Cut by Itamir Pimenta of Los Angeles, from a crystal found in the Big Kahuna II zone, Baker Boulevard level, Oceanview Mine, Pala District, San Diego County. Oceanview Mines, LLC. specimen.



Bicolor elbaite (tourmaline group); to 3.7 cm long. Big Kahuna Pocket, Oceanview Mine, Pala District, San Diego County. Oceanview Mines, LLC specimens.

quality for cutting. Another early 1950s find was also made by George Ashley, after he turned his efforts toward the Vanderberg Mine. The material was lauded as some of the best gem quality and color worldwide (one must remember that the large finds in Brazil had not yet been made, and discoveries in Afghanistan were decades away). It produced several notable gems—a deep amethystine 177-carat gem, a “magnificent” 215-carat gem, and a third weighing 107 carats.

A number of smaller finds were sporadically made during the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s: 1964, Pala Chief mine by Josie Scripps and company; 1966, Pala Chief mine by Robert Bartsch; 1974 to 1986, the “Beebe Hole” in south San Diego County by Lorne Beebe (the only other non-Pala district find); 1970, Anita Mine (Mt. Hiriart) by Bill McGee; 1998, Katerina mine (“first sizable discovery in southern California in 25 years”) by Byron Weege and company; 2008, Elizabeth R by Roland Reed.

Several major discoveries from 2010 to 2012, made in the Oceanview Mine by a crew led by current owner, Jeff Swanger, are a throwback to the good old gem boom days. The Big Kahuna zone on the Carter Court level of the Oceanview, the Big Kahuna II and several successive zones on the Baker Boulevard level produced hundreds of kilograms of fine kunzite. Several notable crystals were found in these pockets, including the “Big Kahuna”, a 30-centimeter, 2.2-kilogram, largely gem-quality crystal of the most intense purple, blue-violet color seen in a spodumene, which can easily stand next to the two Harvard specimens previously mentioned as the finest from the USA. Among many gemstones, the material has so far produced a number of 100+ carat stones of unequalled color. The December 2011 Triphane Pocket in the Pala Chief Mine produced many hundred kilograms of straw yellow spodumene (to some, the variety *triphane*).

Probably the third most significant gem to emerge from southern California is the pink to peach-colored beryl variety known as *morganite*. Though previously known from Madagascar as *rose-beryl*, and Russia as *vorobievite*, G.F. Kunz’s suggestion to rename the variety after J.P. Morgan (financier, gem collector and really good Tiffany’s customer), met with much approval and has stuck. Such is the power of Tiffany’s.

Many southern California pegmatites have produced a *morganite* here and there. Significant finds include those accompanying the famous “blue cap” tourmaline of the Tourmaline Queen, a few at the Stewart Lithia Mine, those during the 1960s to 1980s at the White Queen Mine on Hiriart Mountain, and in 2005 at the Elizabeth R Mine, all in the Pala district. The best of the White Queen material ranks among the best for this variety of beryl.

A 2007 find at the Oceanview Mine produced many fine beryl specimens. What is unusual about this pocket, dubbed the 49er Pocket, is that many fine *aquamarine* as well as *morganite* crystals emerged, some adjacent to one another on the same specimen. A few crystals were even bicolored.

Aquamarine has also appeared from the Fano (Simmons) and Audrey Lynn Mines of Riverside County. The Mack mine in San Diego County’s Rincon district, although not a big pro-



Steve Carter holds a 310-g kunzite crystal to his miner’s lamp to show the intense color viewed down the ‘c’ axis. December 2009 Pocket, Oceanview Mine, Pala District, San Diego County.

ducer, is known for its green-blue aquamarine, and the Pack Rat Mine, in the county’s south has also burped a few.

Topaz has also been found in a number of mines in southern California, but significant finds are largely restricted to the Ramona district pegmatite deposits, such as the Little Three and Hercules mines. These same mines have also produced fine orange gem spessartine.

Not least, quartz, of smoky to smoky-citrine color is found in many of the pegmatites of southern California.

Fine crystal specimens of southern Californian “gem” minerals such as tourmaline, beryl, quartz, spodumene and many accessory non-gem mineral species grace private and institutional collections worldwide. Cut gems, with few exceptions tend to be restricted to tourmaline, spodumene (kunzite), beryl (morganite), spessartine and quartz, but are also widely known.

While halcyon days seem to be a thing of the faded past, they need not be. As operations at the Oceanview, Pala Chief and Elizabeth R show, as do the active smaller operations throughout the area, the end of gem mining in southern California has not yet come. New finds continue to be made.

About the Author

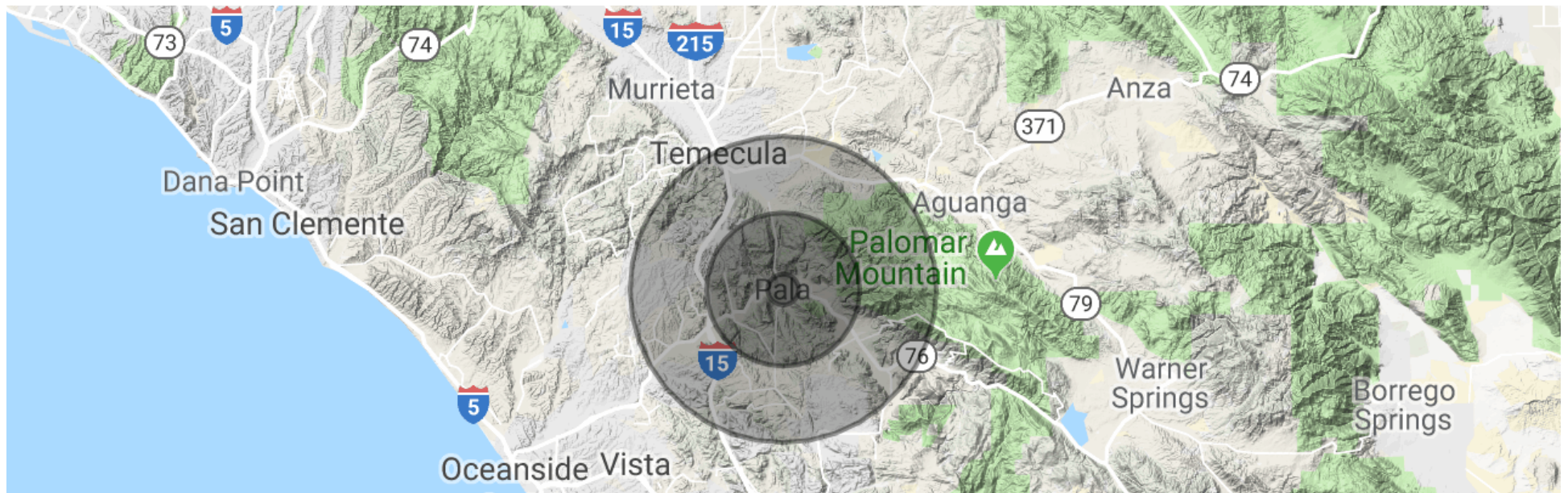
Mark Mauthner, a former gem and mineral museum curator, is currently a freelance photographer residing in Graz, Austria.

All photos are by Mark Mauthner unless otherwise noted. ■

location map



demographics



POPULATION

	1 MILE	3 MILE	5 MILE
Total Population	194	5,573	95,386
Median Age	34.7	35.3	36.4
Median Age (Male)	30.8	32.7	35.0
Median Age (Female)	37.0	37.1	37.2

HOUSEHOLDS & INCOME

	1 MILE	3 MILE	5 MILE
Total Households	57	1,702	30,344
Average Household Size	3.4	3.3	3.1
Average Household Income	\$79,604	\$88,655	\$97,000
Median Home Value	\$509,182	\$504,353	\$470,028

*Demographic data derived from 2010 US Census

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