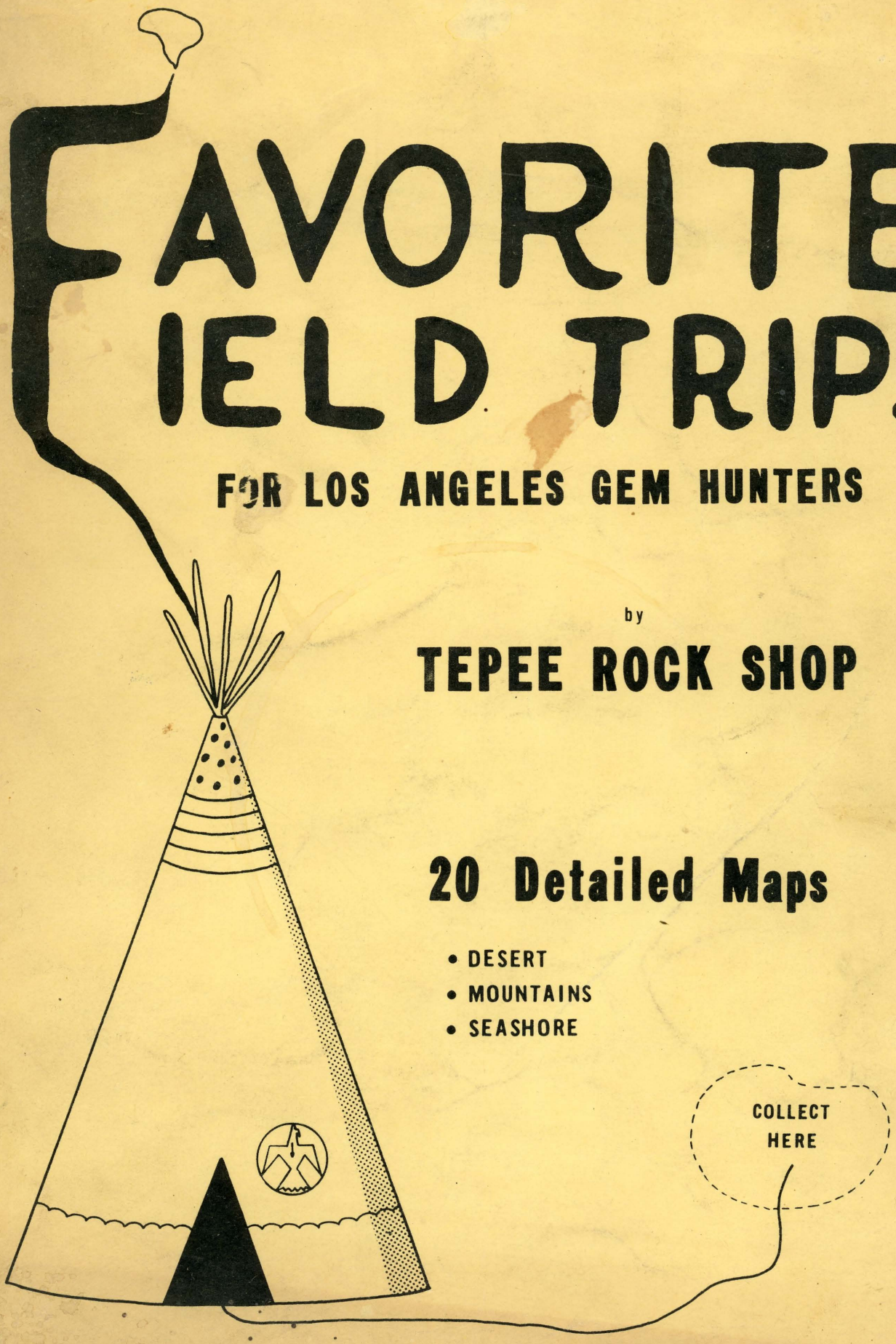
FAVORITE FIELD TRIPS

FOR LOS ANGELES GEM HUNTERS

by

TEPEE ROCK SHOP



20 Detailed Maps

- DESERT
- MOUNTAINS
- SEASHORE

ABOUT THIS BOOK

Favorite Field Trips is a guide to local one-day trips for Los Angeles area gem hunters and has been prepared with the amateur gem collector in mind. All the locations described are within 150 miles of Los Angeles.

The areas presented here have been visited recently and a selection of material collected. At the time of publication, all areas shown were open to rock hunting, unless otherwise noted. However, due to constant changes, no guarantee can be assured of permission to enter properties which become closed.

While the locations listed are described in detail, the collector should scout the area before settling down in one spot to dig. So often the rock hunter comes across a spot where someone else has dug and he immediately settles down to some earnest digging while just a few hundred feet away lies the main source of material where the choicest pieces are found. By surveying an entire area first, you can often save yourself a great deal of wasted time and effort.

All of these trips, except those noted, have been made in a late model stock car. Whether a family car, pickup truck, jeep, etc., is used, remember there usually are a few bad spots in every dirt road, and it is well to be alert for ruts, holes, boulders, etc., that can cause trouble if proper caution is not exercised.

Most of the locations are many miles from the nearest supplies, therefore it is an excellent idea to carry plenty of water and something to eat in case an emergency should arise.

It is well to remember that the owners permission should always be secured before entering private property, mining claims, etc. Always leave gates as you find them. Observe, respect and heed all signs. Do not disturb any buildings, watering systems or fences.

GOOD LUCK
AND
GOOD HUNTING

FAVORITE FIELD TRIPS

A COLLECTION OF ONE-DAY FIELD TRIPS FOR LOS ANGELES GEM HUNTERS

MAPPED & EDITED BY

GARY GUNTHER and JANICE BOHRMAN

FOR

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Published by

TEPEE ROCK SHOP

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USING THIS BOOK

– Easy as 1, 2, 3 –

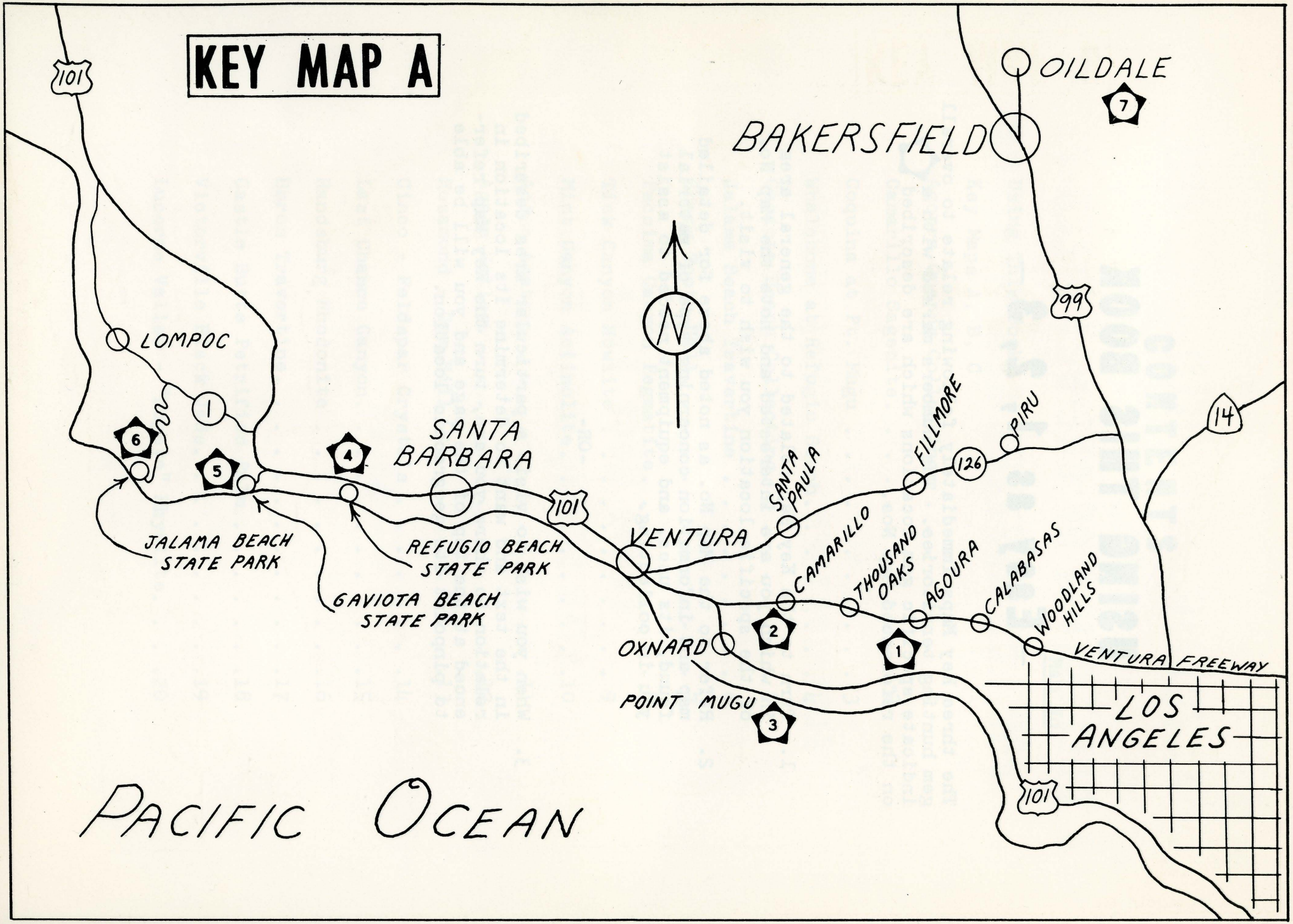
The three Key Maps immediately following relate to overall gem hunting territories. The numbers marked with a  indicate specific gem locations which are described on the referenced Map Nos.

1. Turn to the Key Map related to the general area in which you are interested and note the Map No. of the specific location you wish to visit.

2. Refer to the Map No. as noted above for detailed map and information concerning type of material found, its uses, and equipment needed to assist you in collecting.

-OR-

3. When you wish to visit a particular area described in the text and want to determine its location in relation to where you are, turn the Key Map referenced at the top of the page and you will be able to pinpoint its geographic location.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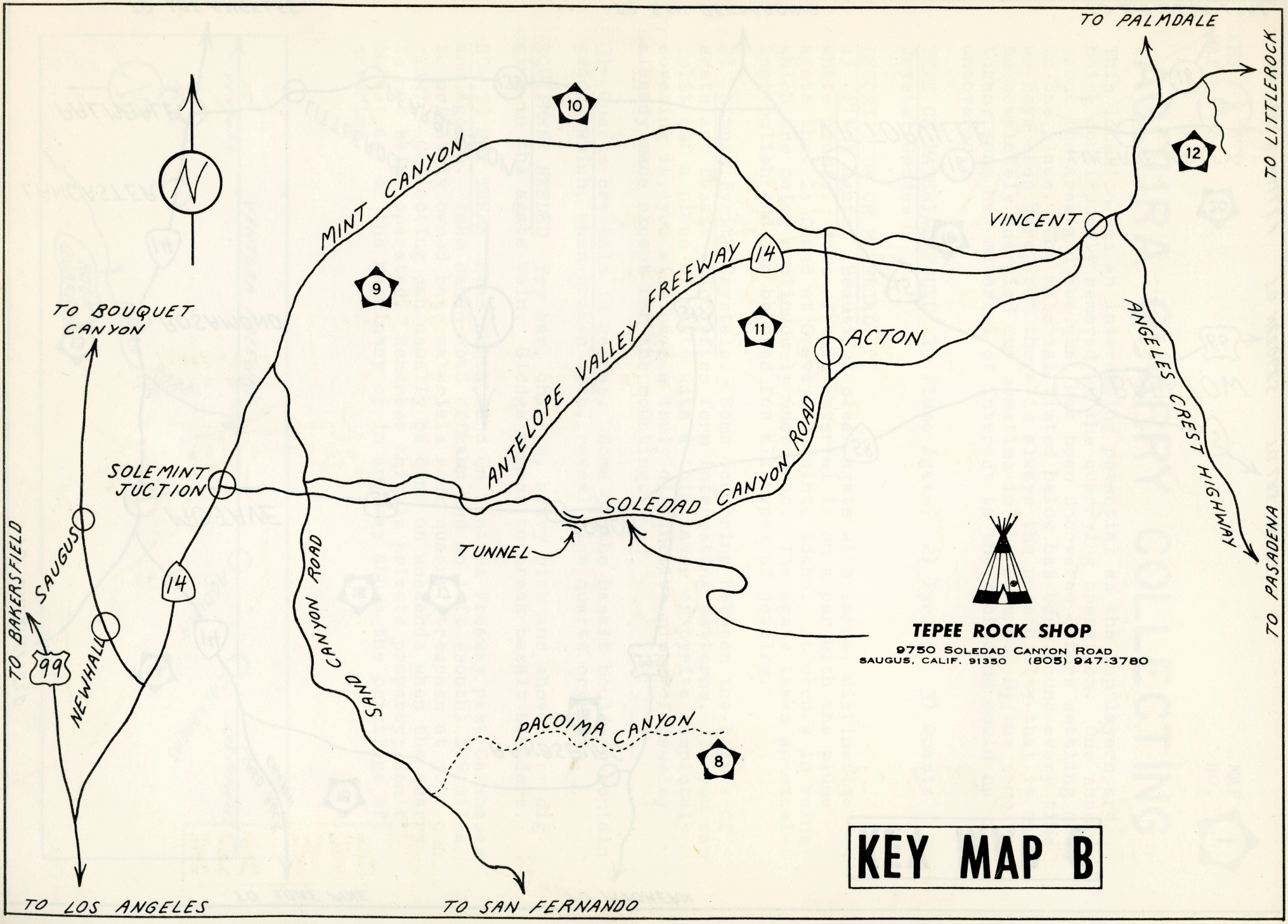
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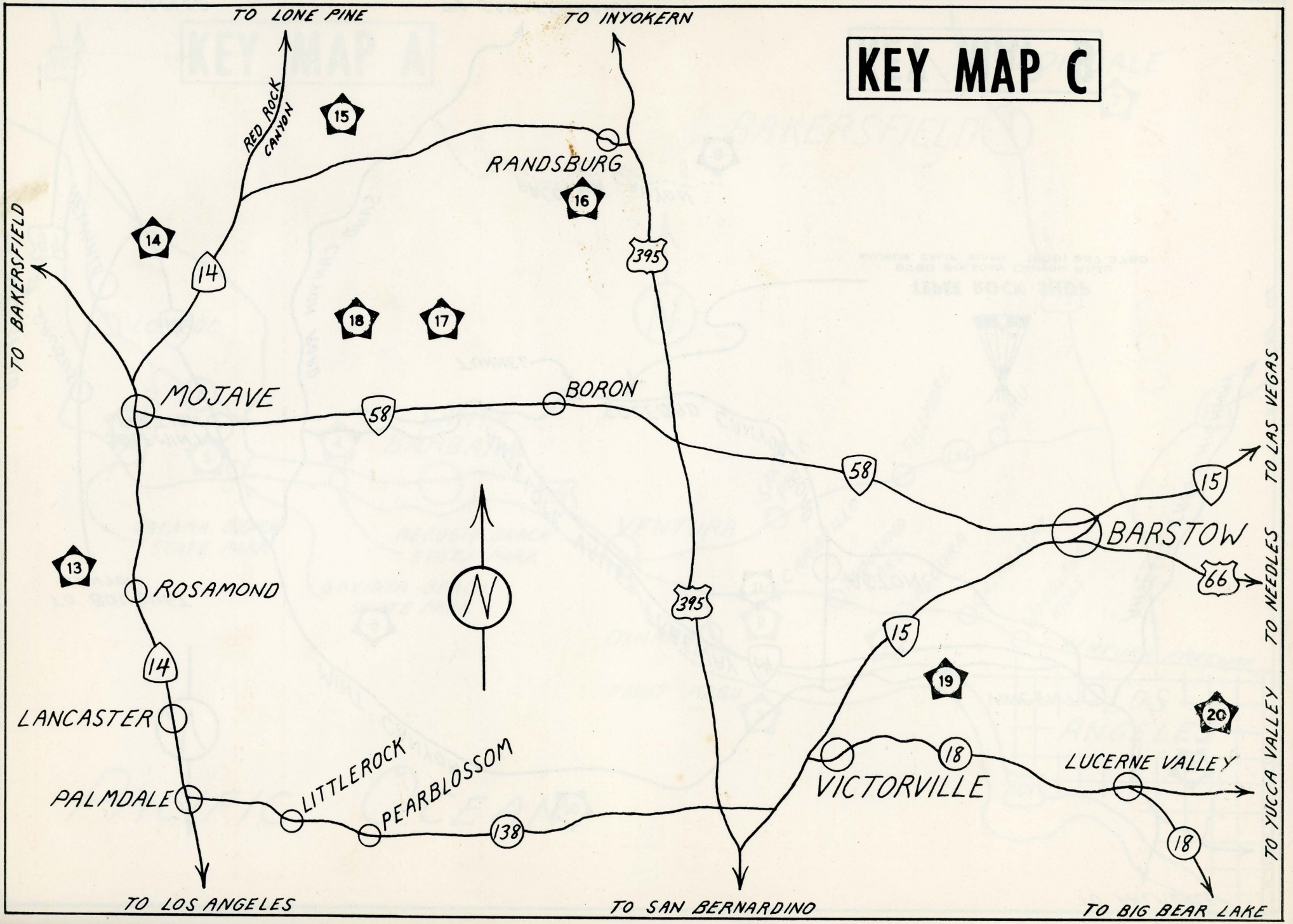
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KEY MAP (A)

MAP NO. (1)

AGOURA QUARRY COLLECTING

This location has an interesting potential as the top layers are being continuously removed by the quarrying operation. One should scout the area and see what has been uncovered before settling down in one place. The material listed below has been found every time we have been here, but there is always the possibility that it may be completely quarried out sometime in the future. By the same token, some new material of interest to the rockhound could be uncovered.

TYPE OF MATERIAL FOUND 1) Plume Agate, 2) Pyrite, 3) Quartz Crystal Geodes

DESCRIPTION OF MATERIAL

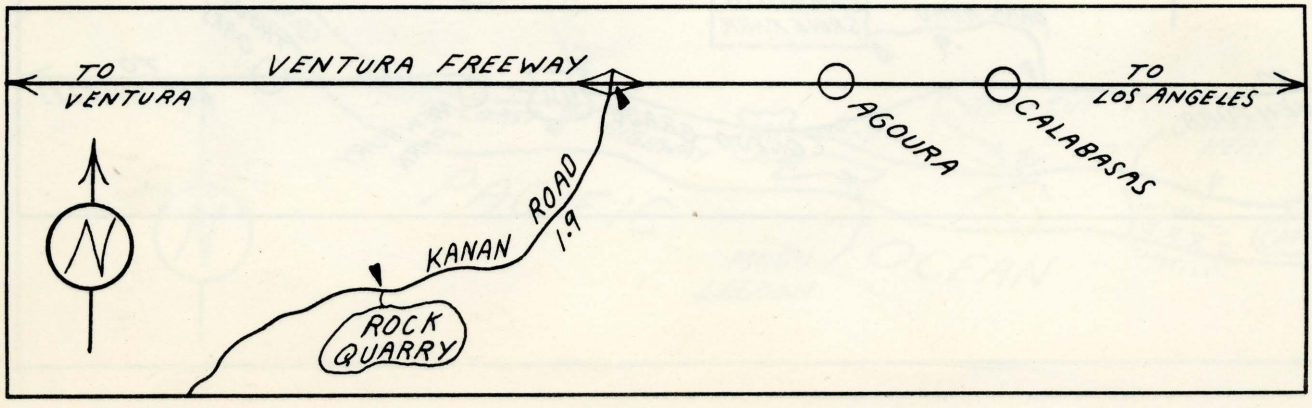
1) Plume Agate. Beautiful clear agate with large, distinctive white plumes. Some of this material is on a par with the plume agate that is found at Graveyard Point, Idaho. It occurs in veins which are being continuously uncovered. The agate takes an excellent polish and can be used for all types of jewelry.

2) Minute Pyrite Crystals. Some occurring between the layers of agate and basalt which often form interesting patterns. If you can split off a piece of agate with a thin layer of pyrite completely covering it, you will have a truly distinctive piece of jewelry already made except for the mounting.

3) Quartz crystals in geodes. Some of the basalt boulders contain geodes which, when broken open, reveal nice quartz crystals.

EQUIPMENT NEEDED Pry bar, chisels, heavy pick and shovel for digging in the agate vein. Sledge hammer to break basalt boulders.

HOW TO GET THERE Head northbound on Ventura Freeway past Calabasas and Agoura. Take Kanan Road offramp and go left (south) 1.9 miles to privately owned base materials rock quarry (trespass at your own risk). Collecting can usually be done on weekends when the quarry is not being operated. Remember this is private property; don't molest any of the machinery or in any way abuse the privilege of entering.



MAP NO. 2

KEY MAP A

CAMARILLO SAGENITE

TYPE OF MATERIAL FOUND 1) Sagenite in agate, 2) Chalcedony roses, 3) Aragonite is reportedly found here

DESCRIPTION OF MATERIAL

1) Sagenite occurs as singularly long needles or small-needled clusters of yellow to brown in agate. Good agate which takes an excellent polish and is good for jewelry.

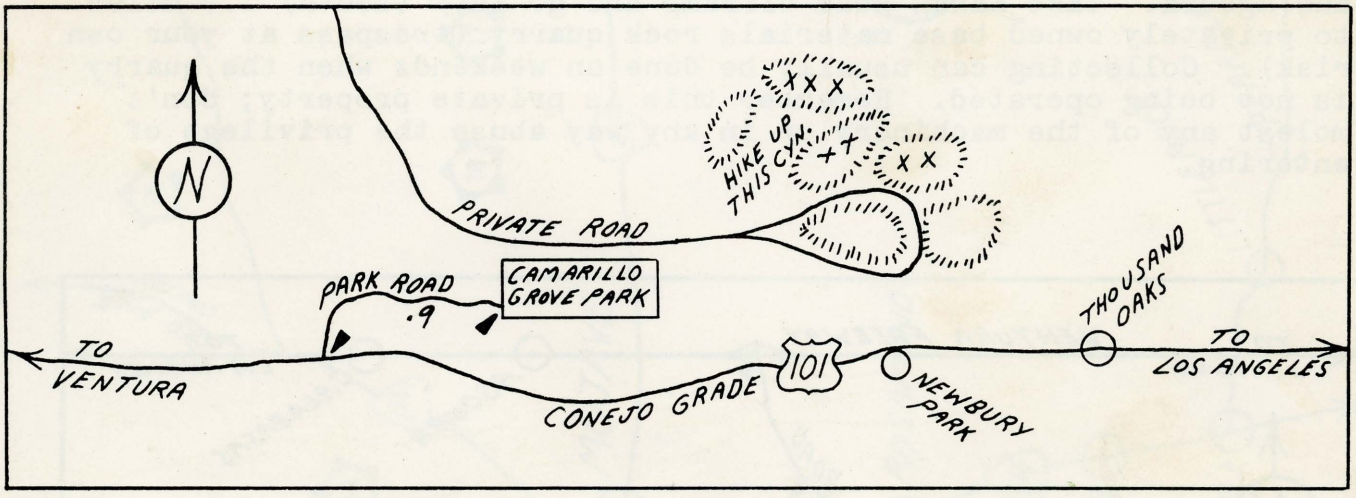
2) Chalcedony roses. Small, white rosettes of chalcedony.

EQUIPMENT NEEDED Rock pick

HOW TO GET THERE Take Ventura Freeway past Thousand Oaks and Newbury Park. At the bottom of Conejo Grade turn right onto Park Road and proceed .9 mile to Camarillo Grove Park. You can camp in the park from October to May. From the park walk up the private dirt road.

The hills here are quite brushy and there are many long-spined cactus plants, so wear good protective clothing and heavy boots. Some good material is found as you walk up the first wide canyon on the left (north) side of the road. More is found scattered on the hill at the head of this canyon. If you prefer to walk up the dirt road, agate can be found on the hills to the left of the road for about 1 mile.

The sagenite is not too plentiful, but by walking over the hills and keeping a sharp eye for the mottled reddish agate, you can find pieces suitable for cutting. The chalcedony roses are spread over this same general area.



KEY MAP (A)

MAP NO. 3

COQUINA AT PT. MUGU

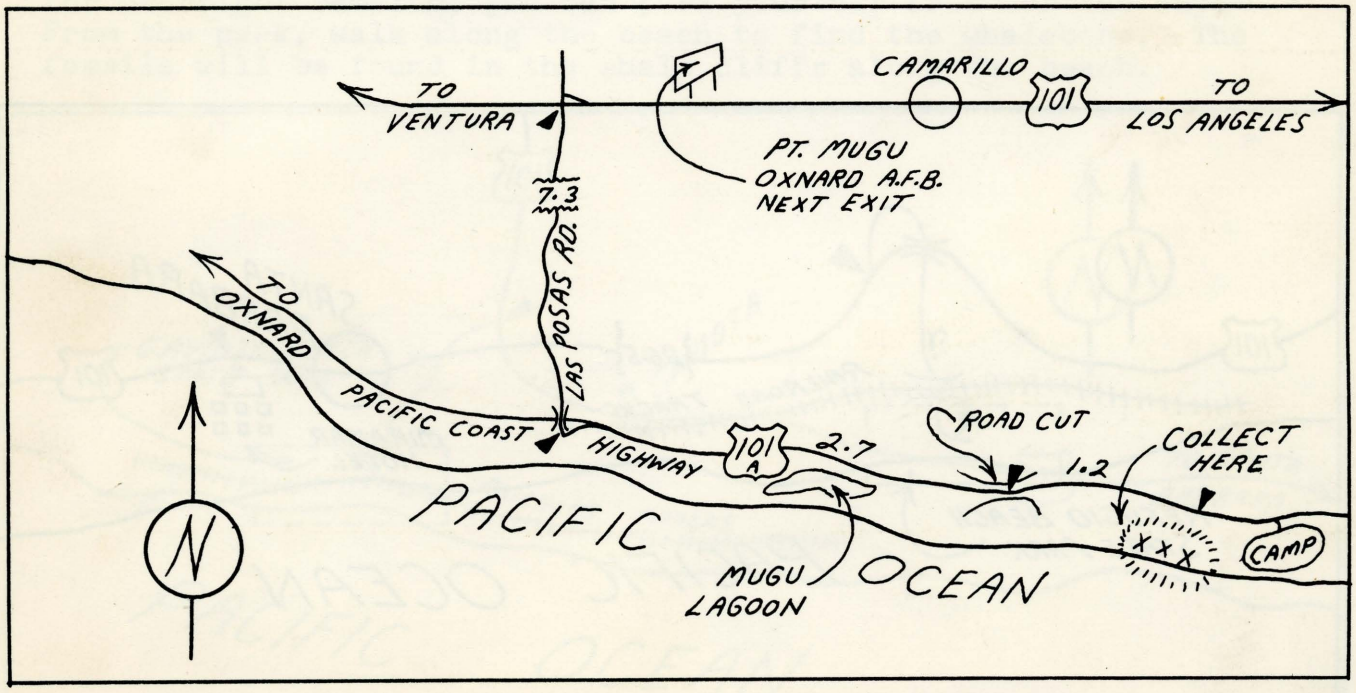
This is a good family outing for the summer season as it is right on the beach and there is a camping area nearby if you wish to stay over.

TYPE OF MATERIAL FOUND Coquina (a limestone containing pieces of broken shells or coral).

DESCRIPTION OF MATERIAL This coquina occurs as tan to brown and charcoal gray pieces. Some chunks contain only a single shell or two and others have a dense, compact assortment (the latter considered the most desirable). Beautiful bookends, spheres, pen bases and jewelry can be made from the material found here.

EQUIPMENT NEEDED As some of these rocks occur as large boulders too big to carry, you may find a heavy sledge hammer handy for breaking them down to carrying size.

HOW TO GET THERE Take Ventura Freeway northbound toward Ventura. After you pass through Camarillo, keep on look out for turnoff to Pt. Mugu/Oxnard A.F.B. (Las Posas Road). Take this offramp and proceed south on Las Posas Road 7.3 miles over bridge crossing Pacific Coast Highway. Turn left onto Pacific Coast Highway, toward Santa Monica. Go 2.7 miles, passing Mugu Lagoon on right, to road cut. From road cut travel 1.2 miles and park on wide shoulder. (There is a camping area a short distance farther.) The coquina is found among the rocks scattered along the water's edge, the best coming from the rocky stretch west of the wide beach area.



MAP NO. 4

KEY MAP A

WHALEBONE AT REFUGIO BEACH

Whalebone is best found at Refugio Beach during the winter when the storms have carried the sand off the beach and exposed the rocks.

TYPE OF MATERIAL FOUND Petrified Whalebone

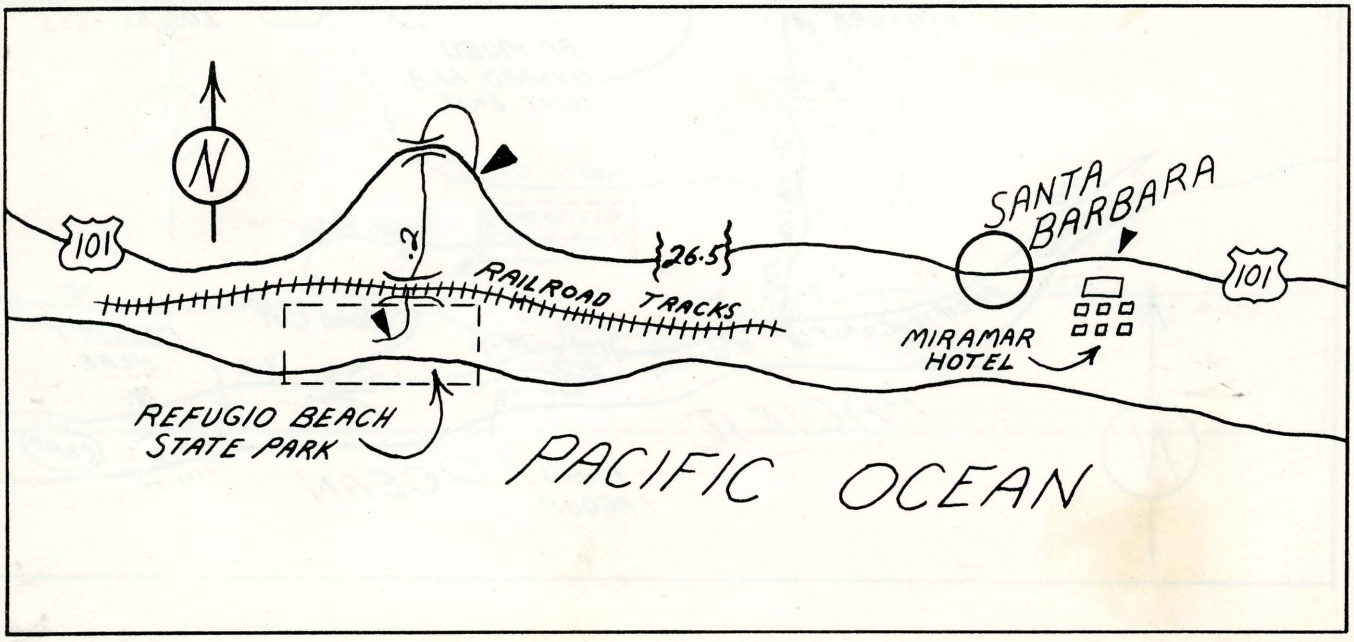
DESCRIPTION OF MATERIAL

Whalebone occurs as light and dark brown, rounded chunks. Agate has replaced the cell matter in the bones of these giant mammals that lived in this area millions of years ago. There are a lot of rocks here that look very much alike and it takes careful scrutiny to distinguish the whalebone. Wet the pieces you think have possibility and it will be easy to see the cell structure when you do have a piece of whalebone.

EQUIPMENT NEEDED Rock pick.

HOW TO GET THERE Take Pacific Coast Highway (U.S. 101) toward Santa Barbara. If you start checking your mileage from the Miramar Hotel in Santa Barbara, Refugio Beach will be approximately 26½ miles west. You should pay special heed when you are getting near, as the turnoff is on a sharp curve and it is very easy to miss.

Refugio Beach State Park has an outstanding campground. A palm-tree grove grows right down to the beach sands and grass grows thickly under the trees. There is a small charge for staying overnight. You can park your car here for the day at no charge. There is a snack bar, ice house and small grocery store in the park. The whalebone is found among the rocks along the beach.



KEY MAP (A)

MAP NO. 5

GAVIOTA BEACH COLLECTING

Whalebone is the principal material found here. The best season for whalebone hunting is during the winter after a storm has washed the sand off the beach. However, this area is also good for a summer visit to hunt fossils.

TYPE OF MATERIAL FOUND 1) Whalebone, 2) Fossils

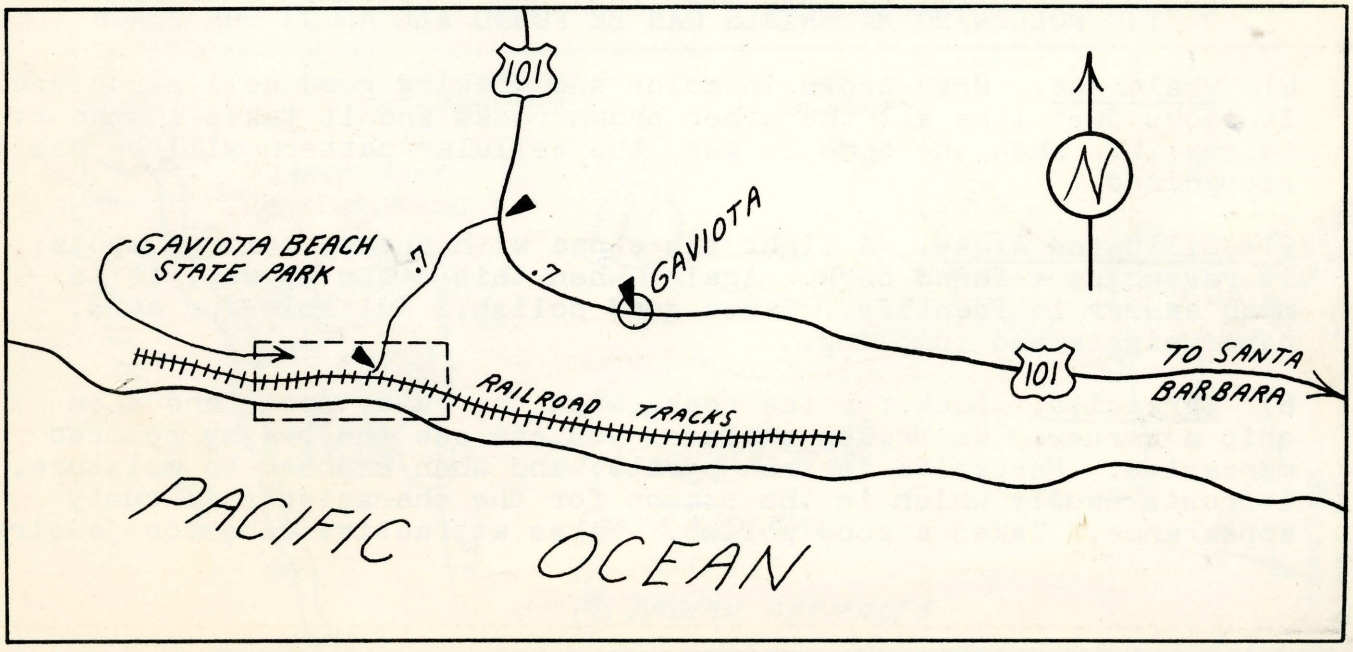
DESCRIPTION OF MATERIAL

1) Whalebone. The brownish gray exterior is similar to many of the other rocks found here. You can easily identify it by wetting the surface which enhances the clarity of the bone cell structure.

2) Fossils. The fossils occur in the shale cliffs along the beach. They are small and usually broken, but quite plentiful. Hold the slabs of shale on edge and tap along the grain lines until a layer breaks off along the bedding planes. With some concentrated effort, you will be able to find some good specimens.

EQUIPMENT NEEDED Rock pick.

HOW TO GET THERE Take Pacific Coast Highway through Santa Barbara west to the little stopover of Gaviota (means "sea gull" in Spanish). This is where Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, discoverer of California, first stepped ashore on October 17, 1542. The cafe at Gaviota stands on the site of the original store which served as a stage stop, inn, post office, general store and cafe at the time the steamers stopped at the wharf with passengers and freight. The wharf was built in 1875 and served until the railroad was built in 1901. From the store, one can see San Miguel Island, said to be the final resting place of Cabrillo. From the Gaviota Cafe, it is .7 mile to the turnoff to Gaviota Beach State Park. The park has excellent camping facilities. A small charge is made for overnight camping; you can park your car free for the day. From the park, walk along the beach to find the whalebone. The fossils will be found in the shale cliffs along the beach.



MAP NO. 6

KEY MAP A

JALAMA BEACH TRAVERTINE

The best season to visit this area is during the winter when the storms have uncovered most of the rock. However, summertime is a good season to hunt for fossils and some of the travertine boulders are exposed the year around.

TYPE OF MATERIAL FOUND 1) Travertine, 2) Fossils, 3) Indian Artifacts, 4) Whalebone, 5) Silicated Algae, 6) Marcasite, 7) Petrified Wood

DESCRIPTION OF MATERIAL

1) Travertine. Beautifully patterned travertine-onyx. This is some of the best patterned travertine we have seen from Southern California. It was originally formed as stalactites which were later crushed and re-formed as travertine boulders. When it is cut, the variations from round to elongated tubes in different colorings make striking pieces. The colors are in the brown tones. Takes good polish and is excellent for cabs, spheres, bookends, pen bases and tumbling.

2) Fossils. The shale cliffs along the beach immediately north of the park yield fossils. They are small and usually crushed, but with some concentrated effort a good specimen can be obtained. It is best to hold the pieces of shale on edge and tap along the side until a layer splits off along the bedding plane. The lady in the snack bar has a perfect fish fossil which she believes came from the area.

3) Indian Artifacts. The Indians roamed this entire region as late as 200 years ago. (Interesting exhibits of their culture can be seen at the Santa Barbara Museum). Many of their primitive belongings such as wampum beads, bone needles, etc., can be found in the campground with some diligent searching. No digging is permitted within the state park boundaries, but most of the items are found lying on the surface.

THE FOLLOWING MATERIALS CAN BE FOUND ALL ALONG THE BEACH

4) Whalebone. Gray-brown in color and showing good cell structure. It looks just like all the other brown rocks and it takes a keen eye to see it. When the bone is wet, the cellular pattern will be easily recognized.

5) Silicated Algae. A light tan stone with creamy colored spots; it resembles a faded cork. Again, when this stone is wet, it is much easier to identify. Takes good polish. Suitable for cabs, paperweights and tumbling.

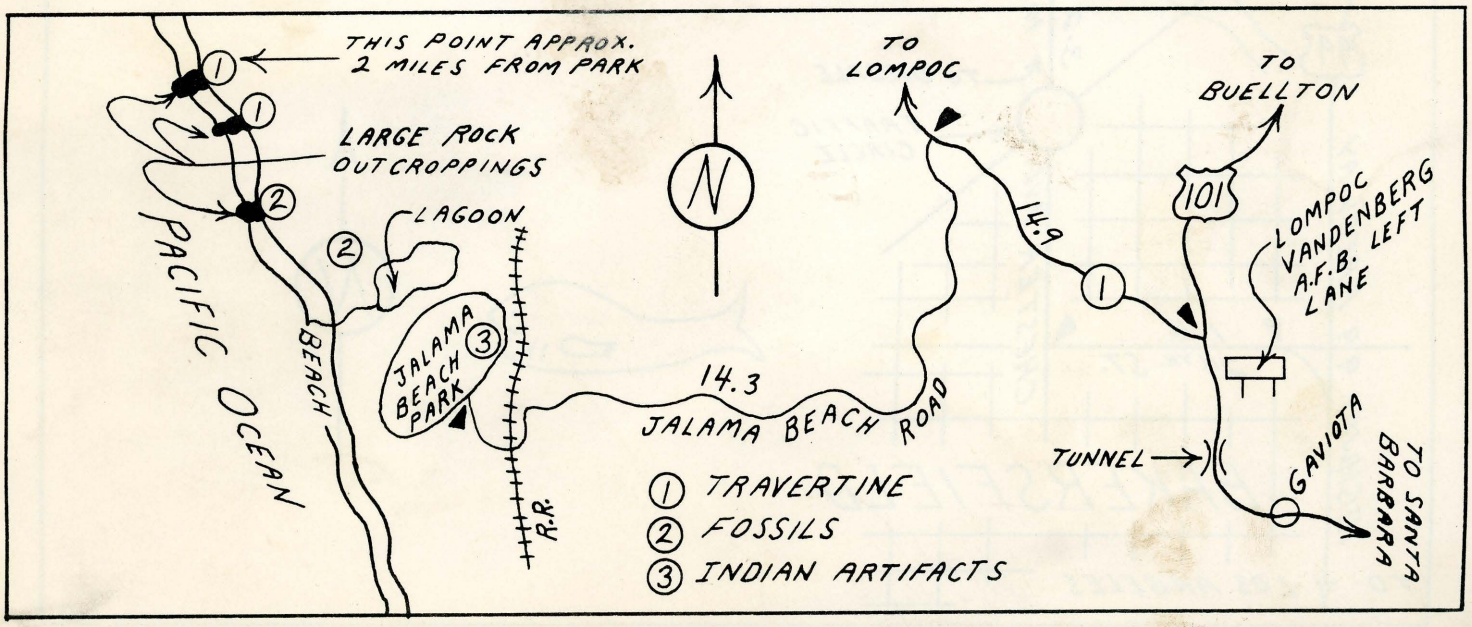
6) Marcasite. Look for the rocks with the rusty spots and then chip a corner. On broken surfaces you can see the brassy colored marcasite. Marcasite is iron pyrite, and when exposed to moisture, it rusts easily which is the reason for the characteristic rusty appearance. Takes a good polish. Makes attractive cabs for jewelry.

7) Petrified Wood. Look for the wood grain and cellular structure. This material has been carried in by the sea and will come in all varieties.

Items 4 through 7 above occur among the rocks piled along the beach and you will have to hunt very carefully to avoid overlooking a good piece.

EQUIPMENT NEEDED Heavy tools for breaking travertine boulders and good carrying sacks. For the fossils, chisels and a rock hammer are needed. Paper to wrap the specimens in for protection is a good idea.

HOW TO GET THERE To reach this area, take Pacific Coast Highway (U.S. 101) through Santa Barbara and continue on approximately 35 miles to Las Cruces. Turn left toward Vandenberg AFB (Highway 1). From Las Cruces, Highway 1 winds through oak studded grasslands where cattle roam the rolling plains for 14.9 miles to Jalama Road. Turn left toward Jalama Beach Park which is 14.3 miles over paved country road. As you reach the summit of the road, there is a sharp contrast in the density of vegetation, the westerly slopes being much more overgrown because of exposure to the dampness from the coast. Quite often deer, quail and other wildlife are seen here. The road ends at the entrance to Jalama Beach Park. (Note: Work is being done of this road to improve the narrow, winding country road and as new sections are opened, the mileages given above may be slightly changed.) If you wish to stay overnight in the park, there is a small fee for a space. There is a snack bar and small store in the park. From the park, it is an easy walk north along the beach approximately 2 miles to the travertine outcroppings. There are two outcroppings, the second having the material with the most beautiful markings. This outcropping can be recognized by the huge fissure in the rocks running about 50 feet toward the sea. During high tide, the ocean rushing toward you up this narrow opening is a thrilling sight. Sledge hammers can be used here to break chunks off the outcropping. You can also find pieces already broken off if you hunt among the rocks piled against the cliff. Be selective in the pieces you choose as it's a long walk back if you have a heavy load.



MAP NO. 7

KEY MAP A

SHARK TOOTH HILL

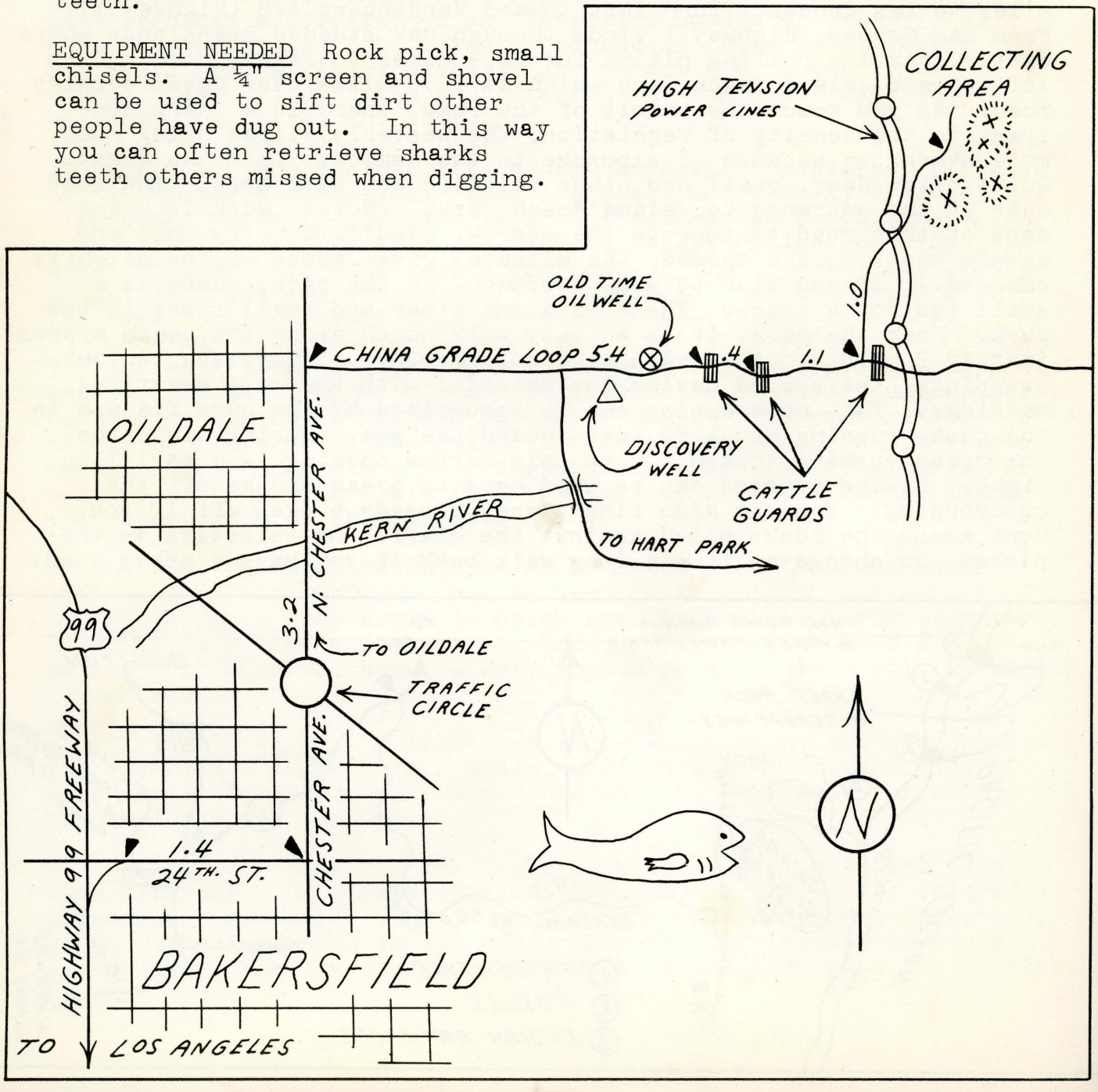
TYPE OF MATERIAL FOUND 1) Petrified Sharks Teeth, 2) Fossils, 3) Poor grade bone

DESCRIPTION OF MATERIAL

1) Shark teeth ranging in size from tiny quarter inchers up to teeth measuring 4" x 5". The roots of the teeth are sandy white and the teeth a mottled white.

2) During the early excavations of this area, segments of shark vertebrae were uncovered. At times, you can find small bone fragments and fossilized sea shells in the strata along with the teeth.

EQUIPMENT NEEDED Rock pick, small chisels. A ¼" screen and shovel can be used to sift dirt other people have dug out. In this way you can often retrieve sharks teeth others missed when digging.



HOW TO GET THERE To reach Shark Tooth Hill, take Highway 99 to Bakersfield and exit at the 24th Street offramp and proceed 1.4 miles to Chester Avenue. Turn left and follow Chester Avenue 3.2 miles through the traffic circle (watch carefully for sign to Oildale and take this exit) to China Grade Loop, turn right.

China Grade Loop winds leisurely through a rolling plain thickly spattered with oil wells. You'll pass the Discovery Well where the first producing well in Kern County was sunk in 1899. A short way farther is the older oil field with its network of suspended cables. These cables run to each well pump which is operated by a pulling action generated by a huge, centralized turntable. One of these central turntables operates many pumps scattered in all directions. At the side of the road, you can see one of the old wooden, cable-driven pumps still operating shortly after you pass the Discovery Well. This method of operation is a far cry from the rugged independent pumps in the modern fields.

Continuing on, the road crosses two cattle guards in close succession. After you cross the second cattle guard, go 1.1 miles and turn left onto fair dirt road. (If you cross the third cattle guard, you have gone too far.) Follow dirt road 1 mile to collecting area. The sharks teeth are dug over this entire area; you can see the potholes others have dug. Good luck!

Across the Kern River from Shark Tooth Hill is an oasis in the dry, barren hills, Hart Park. It lies on the banks of the River and is an excellent place to picnic and swim. (See map for directions.)

MAP NO. 8

KEY MAP B

PACOIMA CANYON PEGMATITE

This area is in the heart of the Angeles National Forest and is closed to entry during fire season. The road is good but not recommended for low slung cars.

Material from here is mainly of interest to the mineral specimen collector. There is, however, a poor grade moonstone which can be cut and polished.

TYPE OF MATERIAL FOUND 1) Zircon, 2) Allanite, 3) Biotite Mica, 4) Apatite, 5) Moonstone

DESCRIPTION OF MATERIAL

1) Zircon. Occurs as small pink to lavender clear crystals, and larger amber to brown crystals up to 2" long. They are embedded in the feldspar of the pegmatite and are hard to get out without breaking, but it can be done if you are careful.

2) Allanite. Found as flat, tabular crystals, dark brown to black in color. These are embedded in the feldspar and are almost impossible to remove. It may be best to keep these specimens in the feldspar matrix.

3) Biotite Mica. Occurs as dark colored "books", some of which are quite large. The pegmatite in which this occurs runs for a mile or more along the canyon walls.

4) Apatite. These are quite small and occur in the contacts between the mica and feldspar of the pegmatite. Colors are yellow, brown, green, violet, blue and colorless.

5) Moonstone. Can be found at the pegmatite and throughout the rest of the canyon as well. Occurs as a variety of feldspar in the pegmatite displaying a blue sheen. This material will polish, but usually has a "dirty" appearance.

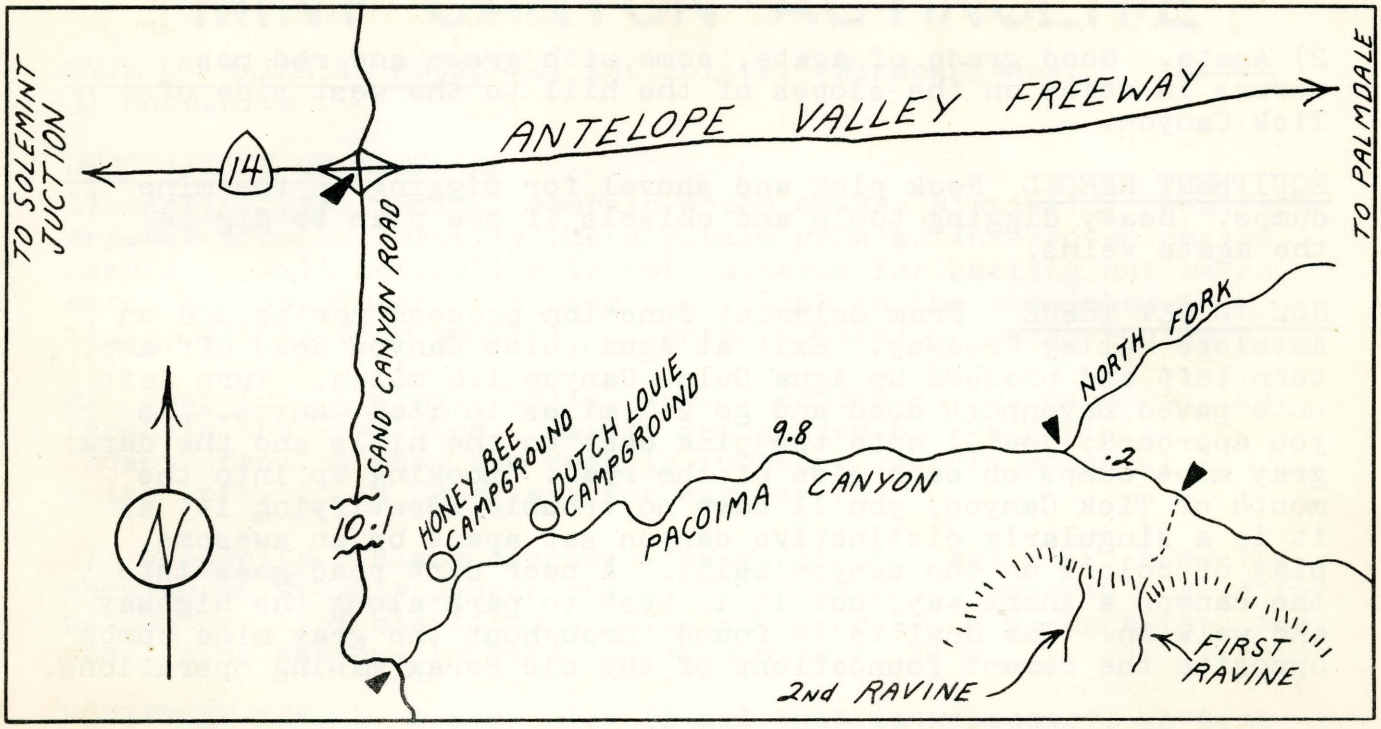
EQUIPMENT NEEDED Heavy sledge hammers, bars, chisels and rock hammers.

HOW TO GET THERE (Note: This area usually closed from June to September due to fire hazard).
From Solemint Junction, take Highway 14 (Antelope Valley Freeway) 1.9 miles to Sand Canyon Road exit. Turn right and go 10.1 miles to summit of road. Turn left onto dirt road and proceed down into canyon, past Honey Bee and Dutch Louie campgrounds, continuing along bottom of canyon. The road crosses the streambed many, many times (over 50) as it winds back and forth across the canyon floor. Some of these crossings are quite rocky and rough, making crossing somewhat difficult for low slung cars. At 9.8 miles from Sand Cyn. Road, bear right at "Y" and continue .2 mile to short spur road on right. Park here and walk up spur road to end, continuing to second ravine. Hike up this ravine to diggings. The biotite mica is in the first ravine at the end of the spur road.

KEY MAP B

PACOIMA CANYON PEGMATITE — CONTINUED

MAP NO. 8 9



KEY MAP B

MAP NO. 9

TICK CANYON HOWLITE

Howlite is a borate mineral and occurred here along with an extensive deposit of borax and colemanite. The Sterling and Pacific Coast Borax companies mined the borax and colemanite from 1908 to 1922 and are said to have recovered over $3,000,000 worth of material. The Howlite was of no use to the miners and so was thrown aside as waste.

TYPE OF MATERIAL FOUND 1) Howlite, 2) Agate

DESCRIPTION OF MATERIAL

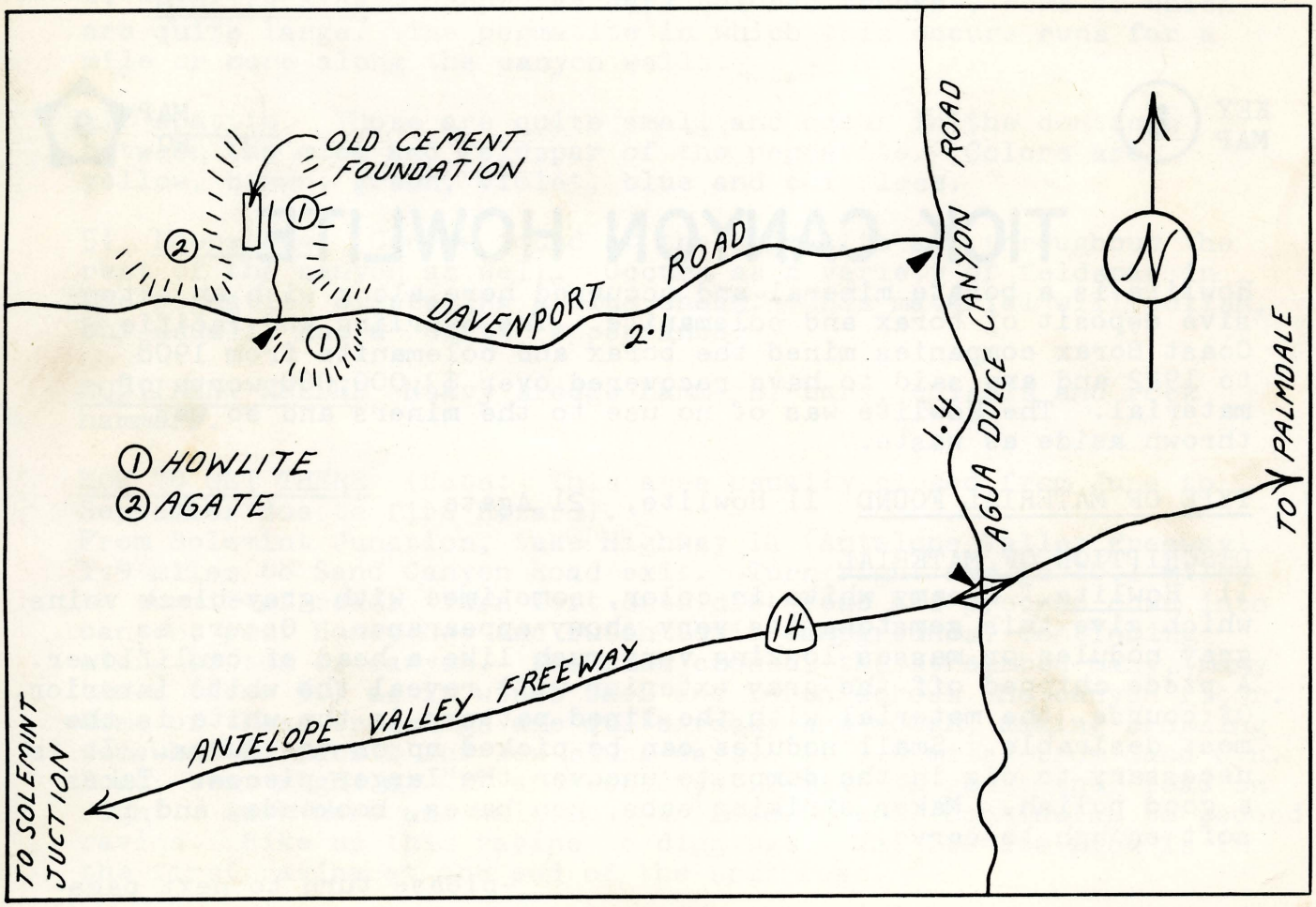
1) Howlite. Creamy white in color, sometimes with gray-black veins which give this gemstone its very showy appearance. Occurs as gray nodules or masses looking very much like a head of cauliflower. A piece chipped off the gray exterior will reveal the white interior. Of course, the material with the lined pattern in the white is the most desirable. Small nodules can be picked up on the dumps. It is necessary to dig in the dumps to uncover the larger pieces. Takes a good polish. Makes striking cabs, pen bases, bookends, and is soft enough to carve.

-please turn to next page-

2) Agate. Good grade of agate, some with green and red moss occurs in veins on the slopes of the hill to the west side of Tick Canyon.

EQUIPMENT NEEDED Rock pick and shovel for digging in the mine dumps. Heavy digging tools and chisels if you plan to dig in the agate veins.

HOW TO GET THERE From Solemint Junction proceed northbound on Antelope Valley Freeway. Exit at Agua Dulce Canyon Road offramp, turn left and proceed up Agua Dulce Canyon 1.4 miles. Turn left onto paved Davenport Road and go 2.1 miles to Tick Canyon. As you approach, you'll note the pink cast to the hills and the dark gray mine dumps on each side of the road. Looking up into the mouth of Tick Canyon, you'll have no trouble identifying it, as it is a singularly distinctive canyon set apart by an awesome play of colors on the canyon walls. A poor dirt road goes into the canyon a short way, but it is best to park along the highway and walk in. The Howlite is found throughout the gray mine dumps opposite the cement foundations of the old Borax mining operations.



KEY MAP (B)

MAP NO. 10

MINT CANYON ACTINOLITE

TYPE OF MATERIAL FOUND 1) Actinolite, 2) Soapstone, 3) Rhodonite

DESCRIPTION OF MATERIAL

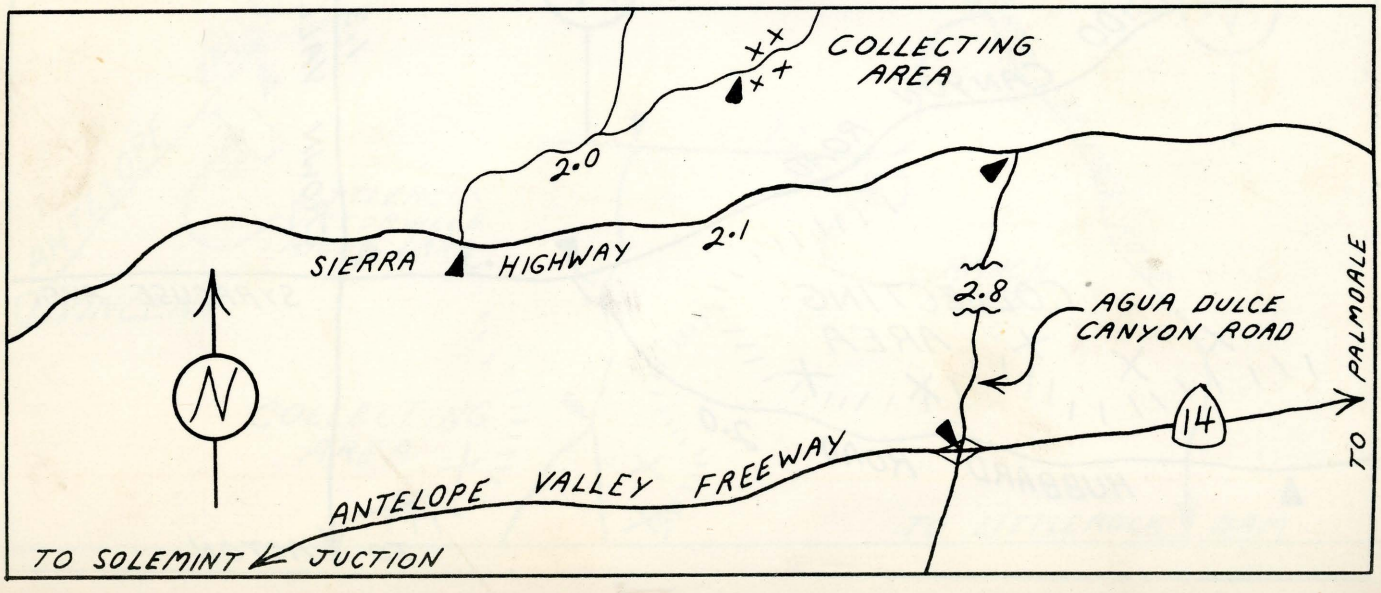
1) Actinolite. Bright emerald green masses displaying prominent crystal growth. Usually the crystals grow as interwoven curved needles. This actinolite is not suitable for cutting but makes excellent specimens. It occurs as float in the streambed in sizes ranging from small 1" diameter nodules to large boulders.

2) Soapstone (Talc). White, water-rounded chunks occurring as float in the streambed. Easily recognized by the definite "soapy" feeling when the rock is rubbed. As this material is quite soft, it is excellent for carving.

3) Rhodonite. Black manganese exterior with the pink rhodonite showing on freshly broken surfaces. Good grade material, good for polishing. Not plentiful. It is necessary to hike back into the small side canyons to find the rhodonite in float.

EQUIPMENT NEEDED A rock pick is all that is necessary, as even the boulders can be easily broken.

HOW TO GET THERE At Solemint Junction, turn right and proceed northbound on Antelope Valley Freeway (Highway 14). (Shortly after passing the Tick Canyon-Soledad Canyon offramp, you can see a little cluster of railroad buildings in the distance to the right near the Southern Pacific mainline. This is Lang Station, where a golden spike was driven on September 5, 1876, in commemoration of the linking of the tracks from San Francisco via the San Joaquin Valley and Los Angeles.) Exit at the Agua Dulce Cyn. offramp and turn left, heading north for 2.8 miles to Sierra Highway. Turn left and proceed 2.1 miles to a dirt road on right marked by a small sign: "Spade Spring Letteau Mwy." Follow this road up bottom of canyon for 2 miles. The actinolite is found in the streambed and on the hillsides from here on up canyon. The soapstone occurs as float in the streambed.



MAP NO. 11

KEY MAP B

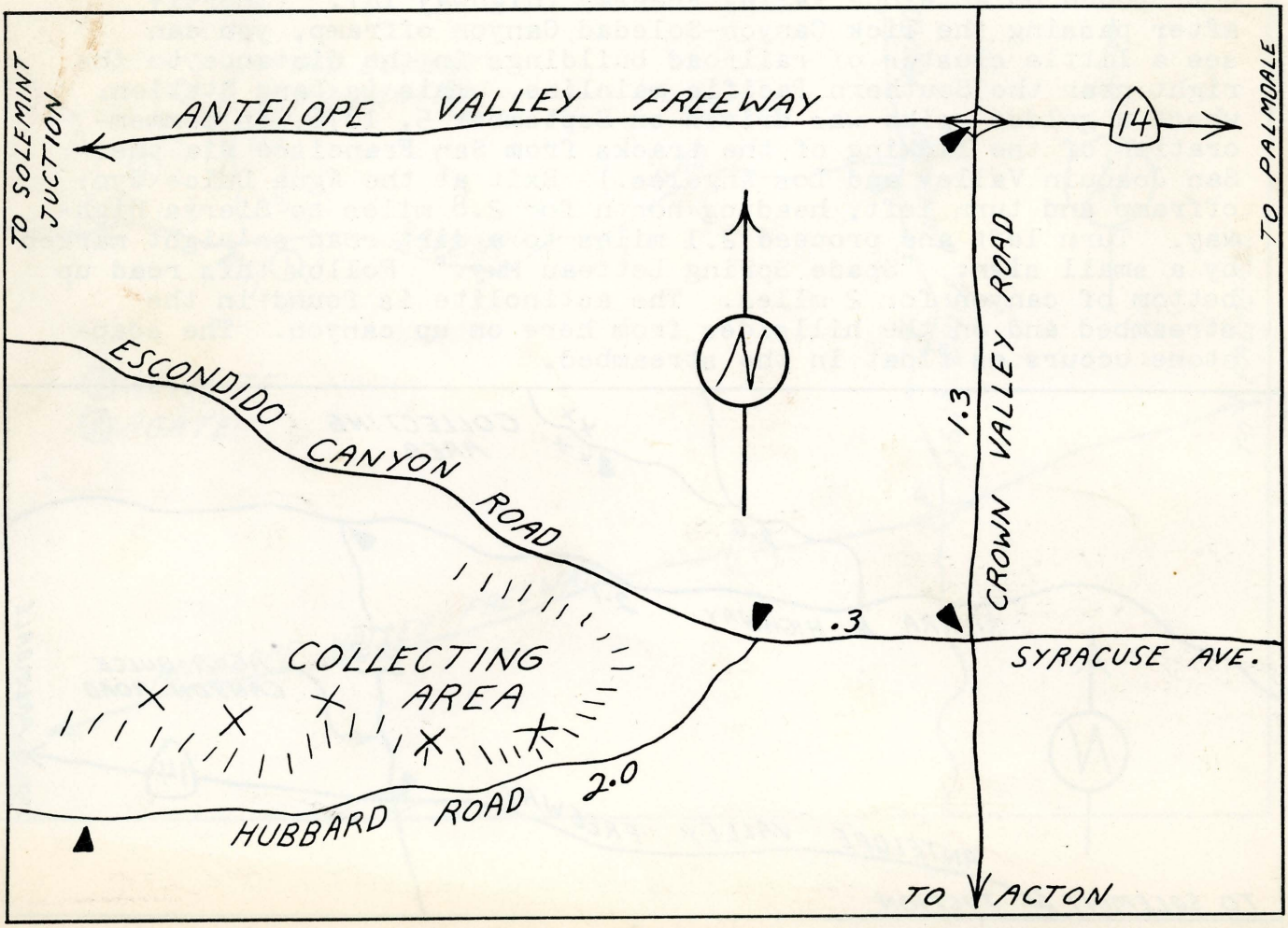
ACTON AGATES

TYPE OF MATERIAL FOUND Agate

DESCRIPTION OF MATERIAL Clear, solid agate nodules, many displaying beautiful banded patterns. If you are lucky, one may turn out to be iris agate, which shows rainbow hues when cut thin and polished. This is caused by the spacing and density of the minute lines in the agate. This material is plentiful, takes a good polish and makes into fine jewelry pieces.

EQUIPMENT NEEDED Rock pick.

HOW TO GET THERE Take Antelope Valley Freeway east from Solemint Junction, passing the weird sandstone formations of Vasquez Rocks, named for the bandit Tiburcio Vasquez who used this natural hiding place to good advantage during his exploits in the 1860's. At 17.8 miles from Solemint Junction, exit on Crown Valley Road, turn right. Proceed 1.3 miles to Escondido Canyon Road, turn right, and go .3 mile to Hubbard Road. Turn left onto this dirt road. The agate is found in float on the right side of the road for the next 2 miles. Hike on the slopes of these hills to find the agates. Be sure to stay out of posted areas and don't leave any litter, as this is one sure way of causing the locality to be closed to future collecting.



KEY MAP B

MAP NO. 12

AGATE VALLEY

TYPE OF MATERIAL FOUND 1) Agate, 2) Green Opal, 3) Botryoidal Chalcedony

DESCRIPTION OF MATERIAL

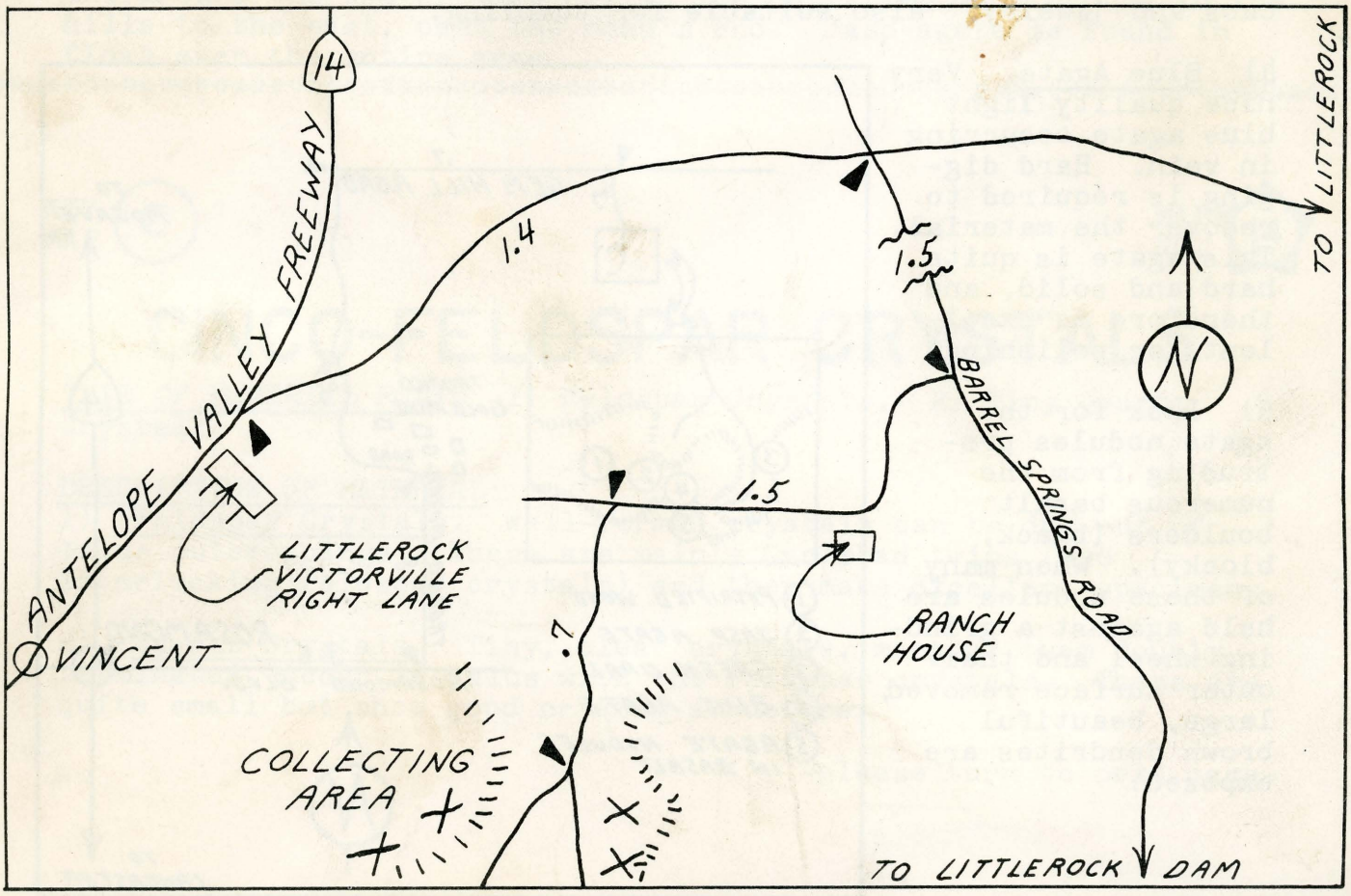
1) Agate. Good, clear agate, some with distinctive banded patterns. Takes a nice polish and is good jewelry material. Occurs as nodules weathering out of the basalt.

2) Green Opal. Fair grade opal. Takes a polish and is suitable for cabbing, etc.

3) Botryoidal Chalcedony. Good examples of this material. Some very closely resembling fire agate.

EQUIPMENT NEEDED Rock pick.

HOW TO GET THERE Proceed on Antelope Valley Freeway (Highway 14) northbound. Take Littlerock-Victorville turnoff and continue 1.4 miles. Turn right onto Barrel Springs Road, a dirt road marked as a route to Littlerock Dam. Go 1.5 miles and turn right. Continue on 1.5 miles and turn left. You are now heading into Agate Valley. About .7 mile farther is a "Y" in the road. You may wish to park here and hunt on the surrounding hills or explore on the dirt roads crisscrossing the area. The agate, opal and chalcedony occur as float on the reddish-brown hills and in some of the narrow canyons.



MAP NO. 13

KEY MAP C

ROSAMOND-GEM HILL

Although this area has been a popular one for many years, a trip here always yields some material, and when you find a good piece of agate or wood, it makes the trip doubly worthwhile. On one trip here, a gorgeous amethyst geode was dug up by yours truly which measured 7" x 5". The amethyst crystals were surrounded by blue banded agate.

TYPE OF MATERIAL FOUND 1) Petrified Wood, 2) Jasp-Agate, 3) Green Opal, 4) Blue Agate, 5) Dendritic agate nodules in basalt

DESCRIPTION OF MATERIAL

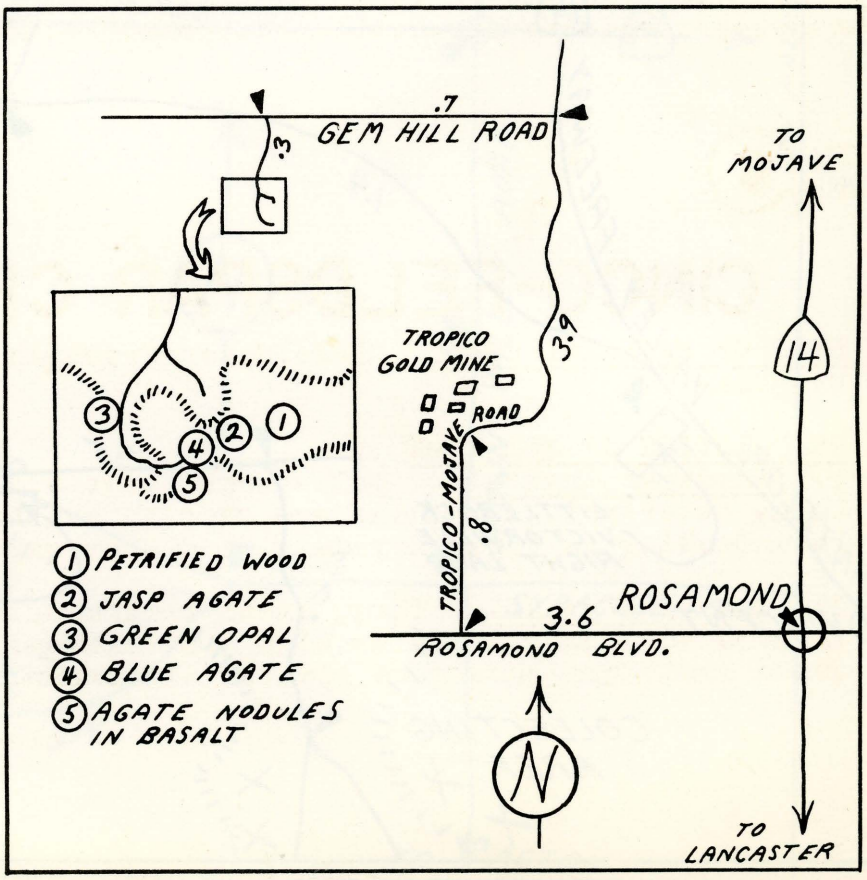
1) Petrified Wood. Brownish-gray exterior giving a rather chalky appearance. White, cream, and brown are the most predominant colors. Fairly good display of wood grain on broken surfaces. Digging is required for this material. Good for tumbling and cabbing.

2) Jasp-agate. Weathered green outside surface. Yellow and green streamers of jasper running through the agate remind one of moss agate. Found mostly in float. Excellent for tumbling and cabs.

3) Green Opal. This material occurs in a vein. Much work has occurred here and the diggings are now beginning to undermine the road. The opal takes a good polish and makes up into attractive cabs and jewelry. Also suitable for tumbling.

4) Blue Agate. Very nice quality light blue agate occurring in vein. Hard digging is required to recover the material. This agate is quite hard and solid, and therefore is excellent for polishing.

5) Look for the agate nodules protruding from the numerous basalt boulders (black, blocky). When many of these nodules are held against a grinding wheel and their outer surface removed, large, beautiful brown dendrites are exposed.



EQUIPMENT NEEDED Rock pick and shovel. Sledge hammer and chisels for the green opal and blue agate. A crow bar is useful if you plan to dig for the blue agate.

HOW TO GET THERE Go north on Highway 14 through Palmdale and Lancaster to the little town of Rosamond. Turn left on Rosamond Blvd. (main cross street) and proceed 3.6 miles to turnoff marked by sign to Tropico Gold Mine. Turn right here for .8 mile to entrance to Burton's Tropico Gold Mine. This can prove to be an interesting side trip. Tours are offered of a gold mine which was in operation until 1958, when it was costing nearly $35 per ounce (the price of gold) to reclaim the gold from the ore. All the mine and processing equipment is still intact and you can tour the mine tunnel, see the "glory hole" and all the machinery used to extract the gold from the ore and make it into gold bullion bars.

From the Tropico, continue on paved road to top of gentle rise. When you reach here, continue on a ways keeping alert for a well-traveled dirt road heading due west (to left). This will be 4.7 miles from Rosamond Blvd. This road is sometimes marked "Gem Hill Road," and sometimes the signs are down. Follow Gem Hill Road .7 mile, turn left and proceed toward hills. Go approximately .3 mile up the road and park, as the road becomes quite rough farther on. Walk up the road to the green opal vein on right. The road continues to the top of the hill where you will find the blue agate vein. The agate-nodule-bearing basalt may be found all around the top of this hill. The petrified wood occurs in the hills to the east, past the road's end. Jasp-agate is found in float over the entire area.

****

KEY MAP C

MAP NO. 14

CINCO-FELDSPAR CRYSTALS

TYPE OF MATERIAL FOUND 1) Feldspar Crystals, 2) Tiny Quartz Crystals

DESCRIPTION OF MATERIAL

1) Feldspar Crystals. Well-formed crystals can be dug out of talus outcroppings. These are mainly Carlsbad twins (two interlocking feldspar crystals) and they make excellent specimens.

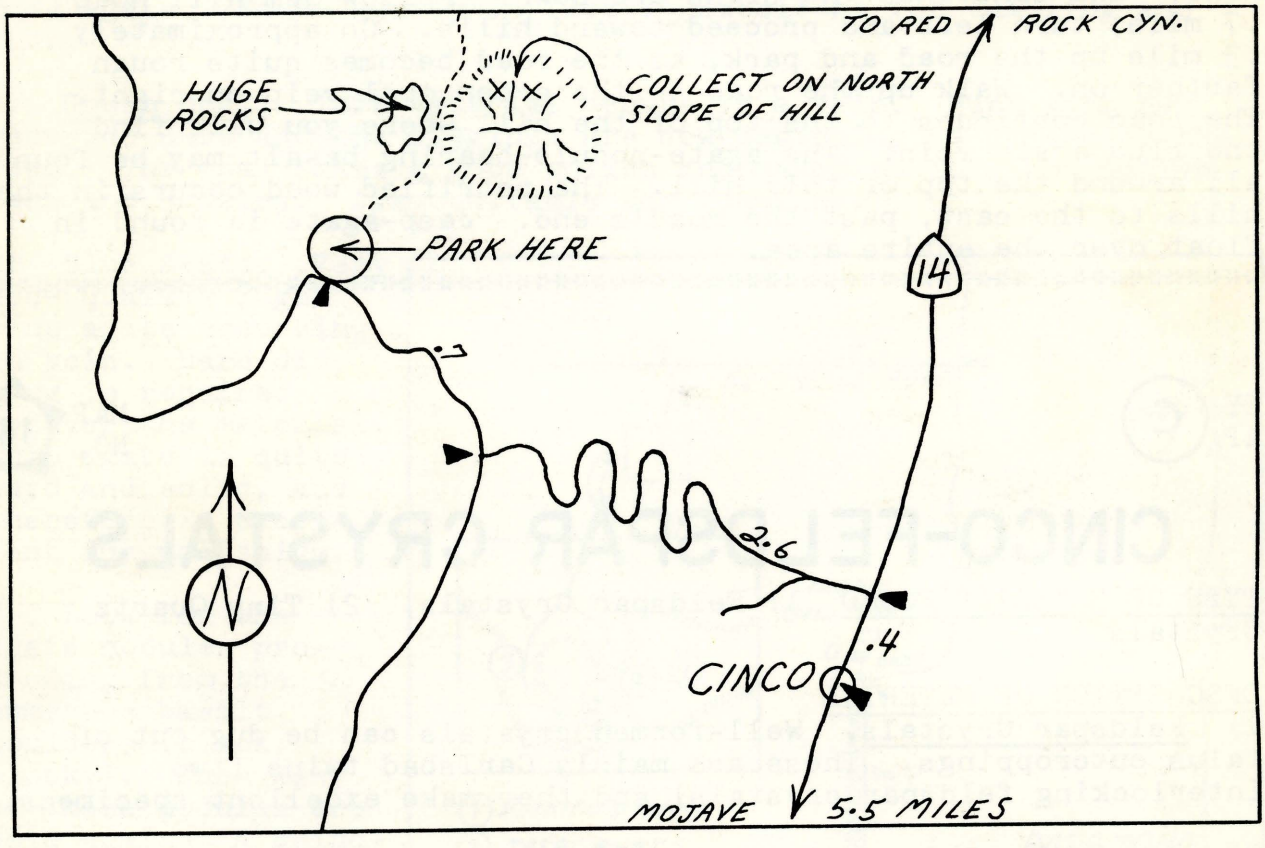
2) Quartz Crystals. Tiny, clear crystals, many of them doubly terminated, occur in talus with the feldspar crystals. These are quite small but show good crystal structure.

-please turn to next page-

EQUIPMENT NEEDED Rock pick. A larger pick is handy for breaking up some of the hard spots in the talus outcropping.

HOW TO GET THERE From Mojave, take Highway 14 northbound over a creosote bush and joshua tree covered alluvial plain. Five and one-half miles from Mojave is the little town of Cinco (consisting of a combination cafe and gas station). At .4 mile north of Cinco, turn left off highway and bear to right onto a well-maintained dirt road. Follow this good dirt road 2.6 miles up into the hills.

As you gain altitude, you'll have an excellent view of the vast Mojave Desert to the north, south and east. When you reach the branch in the road, turn right and continue on .7 mile. Park to right on wide, gentle slope. Follow trail over ridge approximately ¼ mile. Hunt feldspar and quartz crystals on right side of trail, opposite huge boulders overhanging canyon.



KEY MAP C

MAP NO. 15

LAST CHANCE CANYON

Last Chance Canyon, is first of all a gorgeous geological area with its chocolate brown, yellow, pink and red hills; and, second a fantastic gem locality with hunting areas too numerous to mention in this book. The one given here is our favorite, as you can drive to the area and the material is plentiful. There are untold hours of enjoyable exploration in Last Chance Canyon for those who like to "see what they can find."

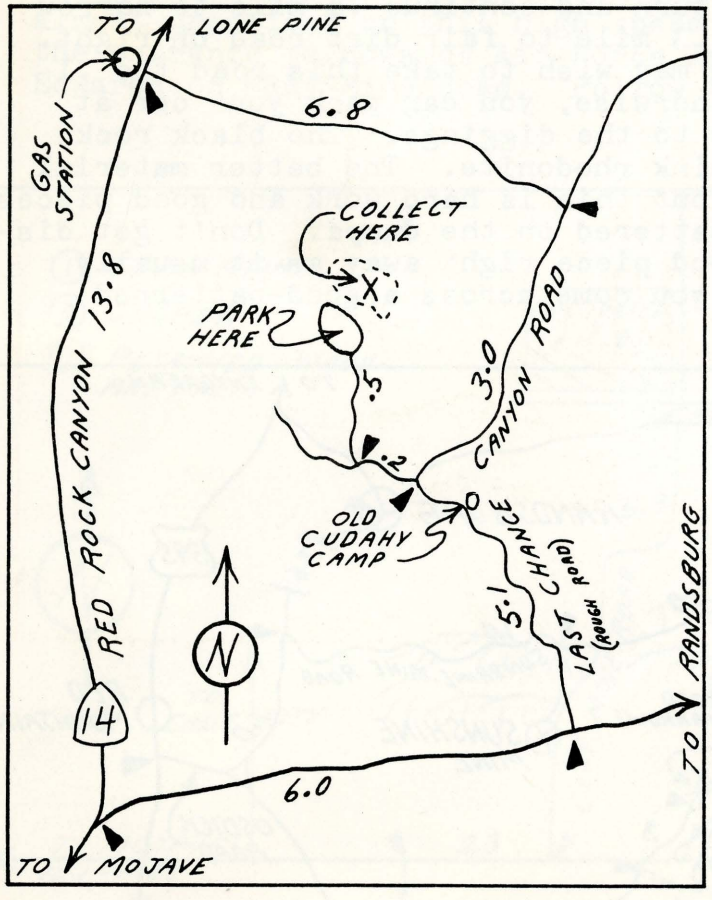
TYPE OF MATERIAL FOUND Petrified Palm Root

DESCRIPTION OF MATERIAL

Mostly dark brown agate containing some blue agate sections. Look closely and you can see the palm root fibers and eyes as contrasting, light colored agate in the brown. Some pieces contain much more of the palm than others. This is a very good grade agate and it takes an excellent polish. Best suited for jewelry.

EQUIPMENT NEEDED Rock pick.

HOW TO GET THERE This area can be reached from Highway 14 or the Randsburg-Johannesburg cutoff to Death Valley. The latter is the rougher road (which should not be attempted with a low-slung stock car), however it is the least confusing approach to the area so it will be described here. (See map for route from Highway 14)



From Mojave, go north on Highway 14 to Randsburg Johannesburg cutoff and turn right. Continue on this paved road 6 miles and turn left onto dirt road (Last Chance Canyon Road). Follow this road 5.1 miles as it winds up into the narrow canyon, crossing the rocky washbed several times (which is what makes it impassable for low cars) and passes the old abandoned site of Cudahy Camp, once a thriving old mining camp. Turn left and proceed .2 mile, turn right. Go .5 mile toward hills to end of road. Park on level area and hike across the narrow wash to slope of hill. The petrified palm will be found in float all over the slope.

MAP NO. 16

KEY MAP C

RANDSBURG RHODONITE

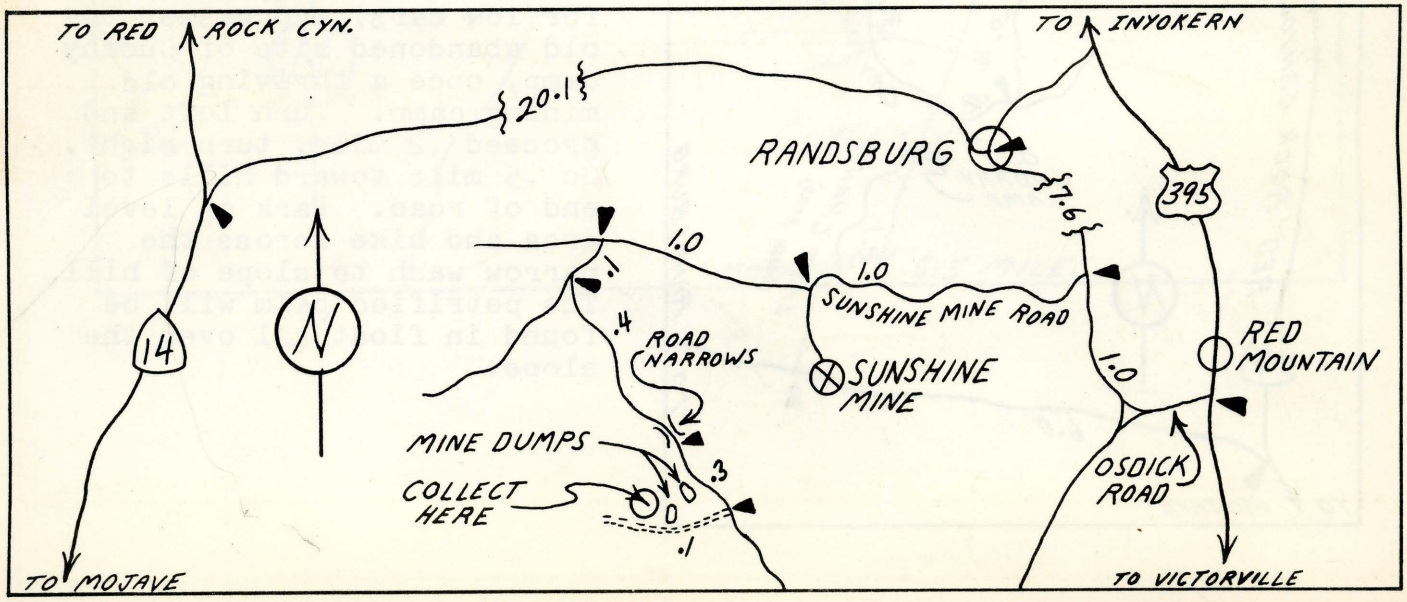
TYPE OF MATERIAL FOUND Pink Rhodonite

DESCRIPTION OF MATERIAL
Shaded from salmon to delicate baby pink, through shocking pinks, occurring in a black manganese matrix. The combination of the pink and black designs makes beautifully patterned pieces. Polishes very well and therefore is good for all lapidary arts.

EQUIPMENT NEEDED Rock pick and heavy digging equipment if you want to dig in the vein.

HOW TO GET THERE This area can be reached from either Highway 395 north from Victorville or from Mojave via the Randsburg-Johannesburg Road. We prefer to go in from Mojave and the directions given here refer to the latter route. (See map for route from Victorville)

From Mojave, take Highway 14 north for 10 miles to Randsburg-Johannesburg cutoff, turn right. Follow this paved road 20.1 miles east to Randsburg, the famed gold mining town of old. Many of the original buildings are still in use and you may wish to stop awhile to visit some of the little shops. At junction with main street of Randsburg, turn right through town and proceed 7.6 miles to paved Sunshine Mine Road. Turn right and go 1 mile. Here the pavement turns left but you should continue straight ahead onto good dirt road for 1 more mile. Turn left onto lesser traveled dirt road and go .1 mile. Make a sharp left turn and continue .4 mile to narrow part of road. From here it is .3 mile to fair dirt road on right. If you use EXTREME caution, you may wish to take this road the .1 mile to the rhodonite vein. Otherwise, you can park your car at the bottom and walk up the road to the diggings. The black rocks must be chipped to expose the pink rhodonite. The better material seems to come out of the vein, but this is hard work and good pieces can be found among the rocks scattered on the dumps. Don't get discouraged if you don't find a good piece right away as it usually takes a lot of chipping before you come across a good-patterned chunk.



KEY MAP C

MAP NO. 17

BORON TRAVERTINE

TYPE OF MATERIAL FOUND 1) Travertine, 2) Jasper, 3) Petrified Wood and Palm

DESCRIPTION OF MATERIAL

1) Travertine. Very fine banded travertine-onyx in a variety of colors ranging from red, golden yellow, white, brown, black and green. Excellent for bookends, spheres, pen bases and cabs. Plentiful. Occurs as float, however the more desirable material is that which hasn't been exposed to the weather. Therefore, some digging is required to expose the unweathered portions of the large boulders.

2) Jasper in red and yellow occurs as float.

3) Petrified Wood and Palm. While not plentiful, this material can be found as float. Watch carefully for the characteristic exterior resembling wood and also the wood grain on chipped surfaces.

EQUIPMENT NEEDED Rock pick and shovel to get down to unweathered material. Also a sledge hammer can be used to break up the huge boulders.

HOW TO GET THERE At Mojave, take Highway 58 east toward Boron. For 16.1 miles the road crosses rolling plains sprouting sage brush and joshua trees. The southern entrance to California City is passed almost unnoticed on this high speed highway. At 2.3 miles east of the entrance to Edwards Air Force Base, turn left toward North Edwards on Clay Mine Road. Follow this paved road 6.3 miles to the

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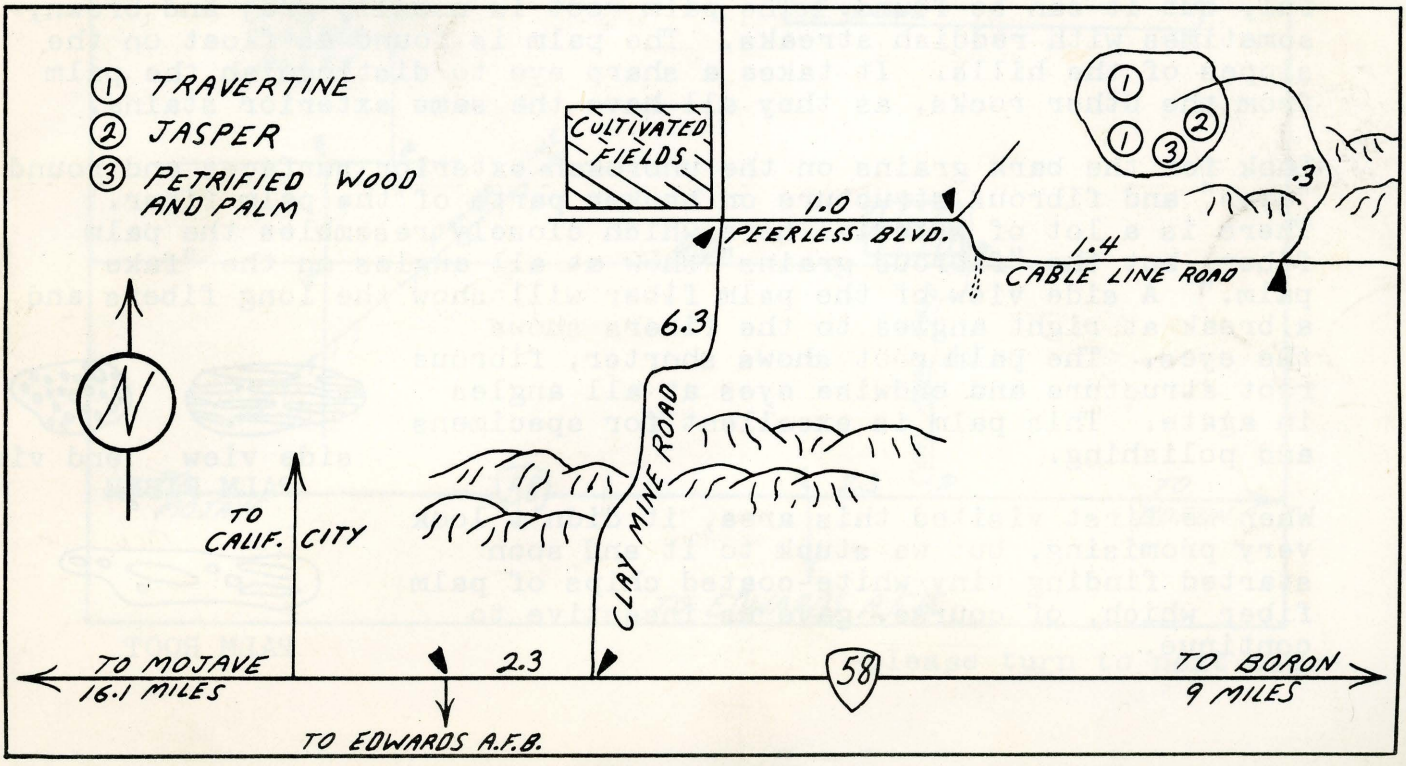


cultivated fields. Turn right on well-traveled dirt road, Peerless Blvd., past a pre-planned desert development with street signs and dirt streets. Follow Peerless Blvd. to end where it continues onto telephone cable road (marked by yellow "WARNING" signs along side). At 2.4 miles east of Clay Mine Road are dirt tracks leading to left. Follow these dirt tracks up over a low rise, to the north and then west for a very short distance. Don't go too far as road is sandy farther on. Due west you can see Castle Butte in the distance. The material is lying in float. A claim has been staked on a portion of this area by the Sierra Pelona Rock Club of Newhall as part of a perpetual effort to hold collecting areas open for rockhounds and protect them from encroaching civilization. All they ask is that you record your presence on the register kept at the western claim marker by signing your name, the date and approximate poundage taken, in order that they can report this information and be allowed to maintain the claim for everyone's use.

****

MAP NO. 18

KEY MAP C

CASTLE BUTTE PETRIFIED PALM

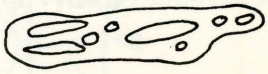
TYPE OF MATERIAL FOUND 1) Petrified Palm Fiber and Wood, 2) Chapinite, 3) Jasper

DESCRIPTION OF MATERIAL

1) Petrified Palm. The palm fiber is gray, brown and red in color, the most desirable being the red. The red palm fiber is less plentiful, but it can be found. The palm root is usually gray and brown, sometimes with reddish streaks. The palm is found as float on the slopes of the hills. It takes a sharp eye to distinguish the palm from the other rocks, as they all have the same exterior stains.

Look for the bark grains on the unbroken exterior surfaces and round "eyes" and fibrous structure on broken parts of the palm fiber. There is a lot of material here which closely resembles the palm fiber, but the "fibrous grains" show at all angles on the "fake palm." A side view of the palm fiber will show the long fibers and a break at right angles to the fibers shows the eyes. The palm root shows shorter, fibrous root structure and endwise eyes at all angles in agate. This palm is excellent for specimens and polishing.

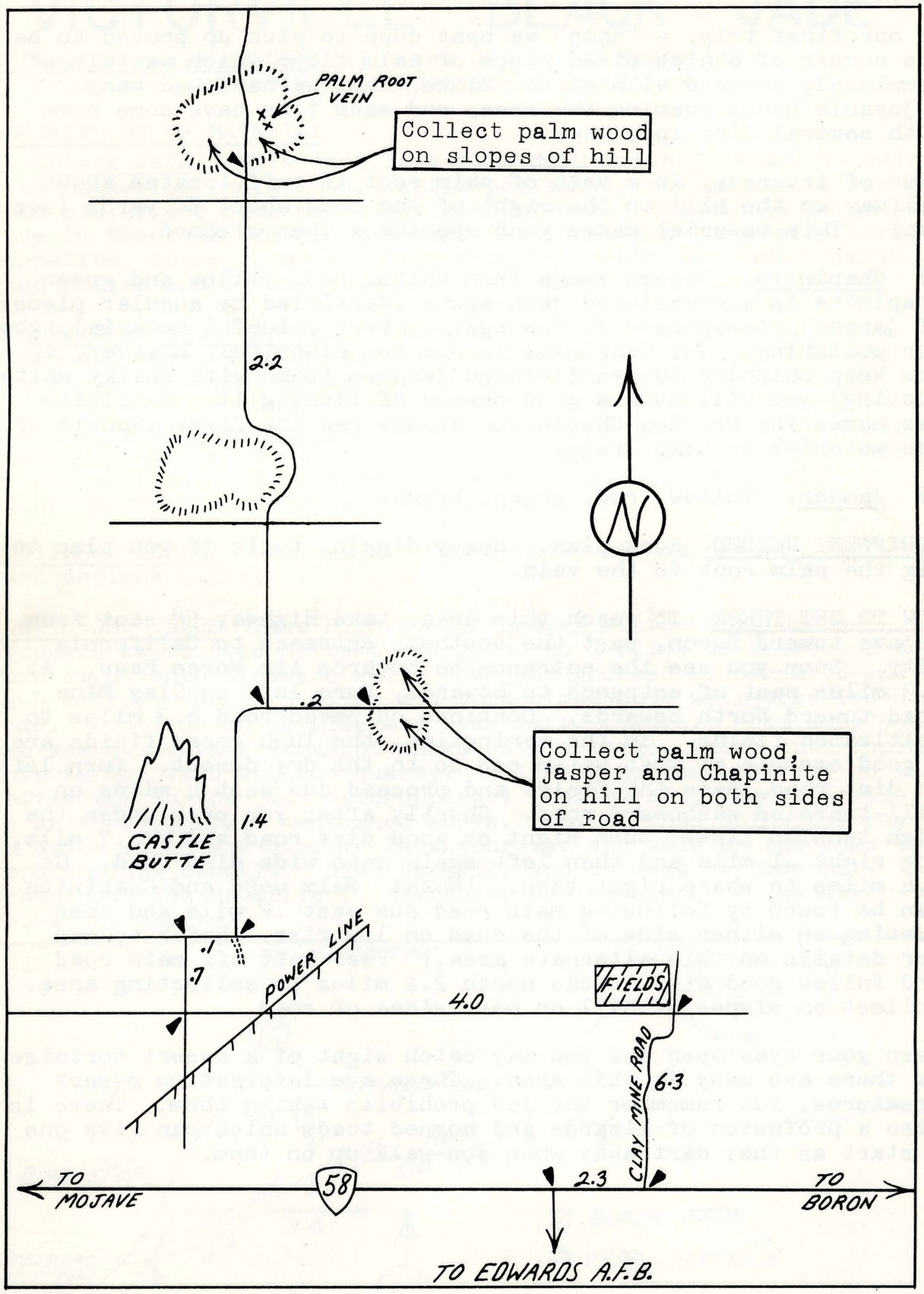
side view end view
PALM FIBER



PALM ROOT

When we first visited this area, it didn't look very promising, but we stuck to it and soon started finding tiny white-coated chips of palm fiber which, of course, gave us incentive to continue.

CASTLE BUTTE PETRIFIED PALM ~ CONTINUED



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On our first trip, a "chip" we bent down to pick up proved to be the corner of a nice sized piece of palm fiber which was almost completely covered with dirt. Since then, we have had many enjoyable hours roaming the area, and each time have come home with several fine specimens.

Also of interest, is a vein of palm root in tuff located about halfway up the hill to the right of the road about 50 yards (see map). This material makes good specimens when slabbed.

2) Chapinite. Colors range from white, red, yellow and green. Chapinite is a brecciated jasp-agate identified by angular pieces of jasper interspersed in the agate. Very colorful material, good for polishing. The Chapinite is not too plentiful, however, if you keep chipping the varicolored jaspers (some with chalky white coating) you will have a good chance of finding it. Chapinite was named for Dr. Roy Chapin who discovered the first deposit of the material on Camp Irwin.

3) Jasper. Yellow, red, green, brown.

EQUIPMENT NEEDED Rock pick. Heavy digging tools if you plan to dig the palm root in the vein.

HOW TO GET THERE To reach this area, take Highway 58 east from Mojave toward Boron, past the southern entrance to California City. Soon you see the entrance to Edwards Air Force Base. At 2.3 miles east of entrance to Edwards, turn left on Clay Mine Road toward North Edwards. Continue on paved road 6.3 miles to cultivated fields. In the springtime, the lush green fields are a good example of what water can do to the dry desert. Turn left on dirt road, pass the fields and proceed due west 4 miles on well-traveled washboard road. Shortly after you pass under the high tension lines, turn right on good dirt road and go .7 mile, jog right .1 mile and then left again onto wide dirt road. Go 1.4 miles to sharp right turn. (Note: Palm wood and Chapinite can be found by following main road due east .2 mile and then hunting on either side of the road on low rise. Refer to map for details on this alternate area.) Veer left off main road and follow good dirt tracks north 2.2 miles to collecting area. Collect on slopes of hill on both sides of road.

Keep your eyes open and you may catch sight of a desert tortoise as there are many in this area. These are interesting desert creatures, but remember the law prohibits taking them. There is also a profusion of lizards and horned toads which can give one a start as they dart away when you walk up on them.

KEY MAP (C)

MAP NO. 19

VICTORVILLE BLACK JADE

TYPE OF MATERIAL FOUND 1) Black Jade with Magnetite, 2) Verd Antique Marble, 3) Spectacular Hematite

DESCRIPTION OF MATERIAL

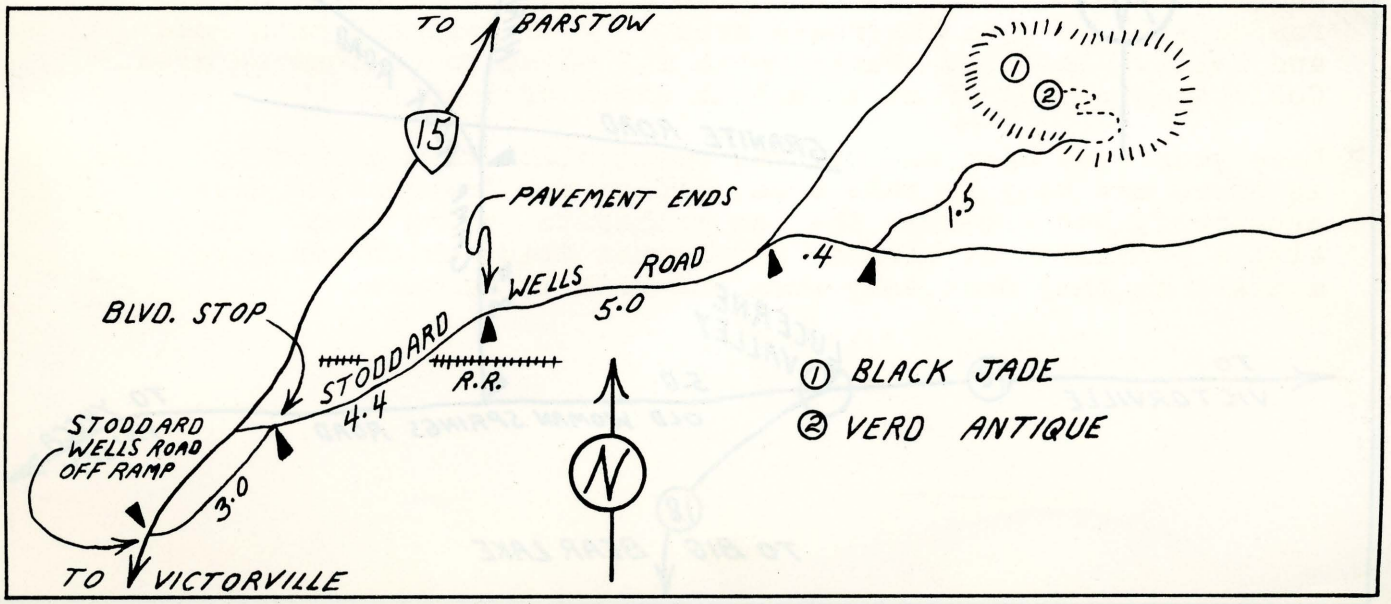
1) Black Jade. This jade is a very dark green or black in color with magnetite inclusions. After polishing, the magnetite can be gold plated and thus makes striking pieces. You should be selective in the rough chunks you take, as some is so saturated with magnetite, there is no contrast between it and the jade. Takes good polish and is suitable for all types of lapidary work.

2) Verd Antique Marble. Colors ranging from yellow to yellow-green and chartreuse green. Takes an excellent polish. Large pieces suitable for bookends, spheres, pen bases and cabs.

3) Spectacular Hematite. Occurs in a greenish matrix as black platelets with a metallic luster. Shows a reddish brown streak on streak plate. Good specimen material can be found on hill below the verd antique quarry.

EQUIPMENT NEEDED Rock pick. Heavy tools if you plan to dig in verd antique quarry.

HOW TO GET THERE Take Highway 15 through Victorville to the Stoddard Wells Road offramp and go north 3 miles to boulevard stop. Turn right onto Stoddard Wells Road and proceed to pavement end (4.4 miles). Go on 5 miles and turn right onto well-traveled dirt road. Continue on .4 mile and bear left. (Note: From here you can see a mountain straight ahead with a large, white outcropping. This is the verd antique quarry. Slightly up the hill and to the left a way is the jade outcropping.) Follow dirt road 1.5 miles to base of mountain mentioned above. Beyond this point the road is quite steep and rough. Park your car and walk up the road to verd antique deposit. Hike up hill, and to west to jade outcropping. The hematite is scattered on the slope of the hill below the quarry.



MAP NO. 20

KEY MAP C

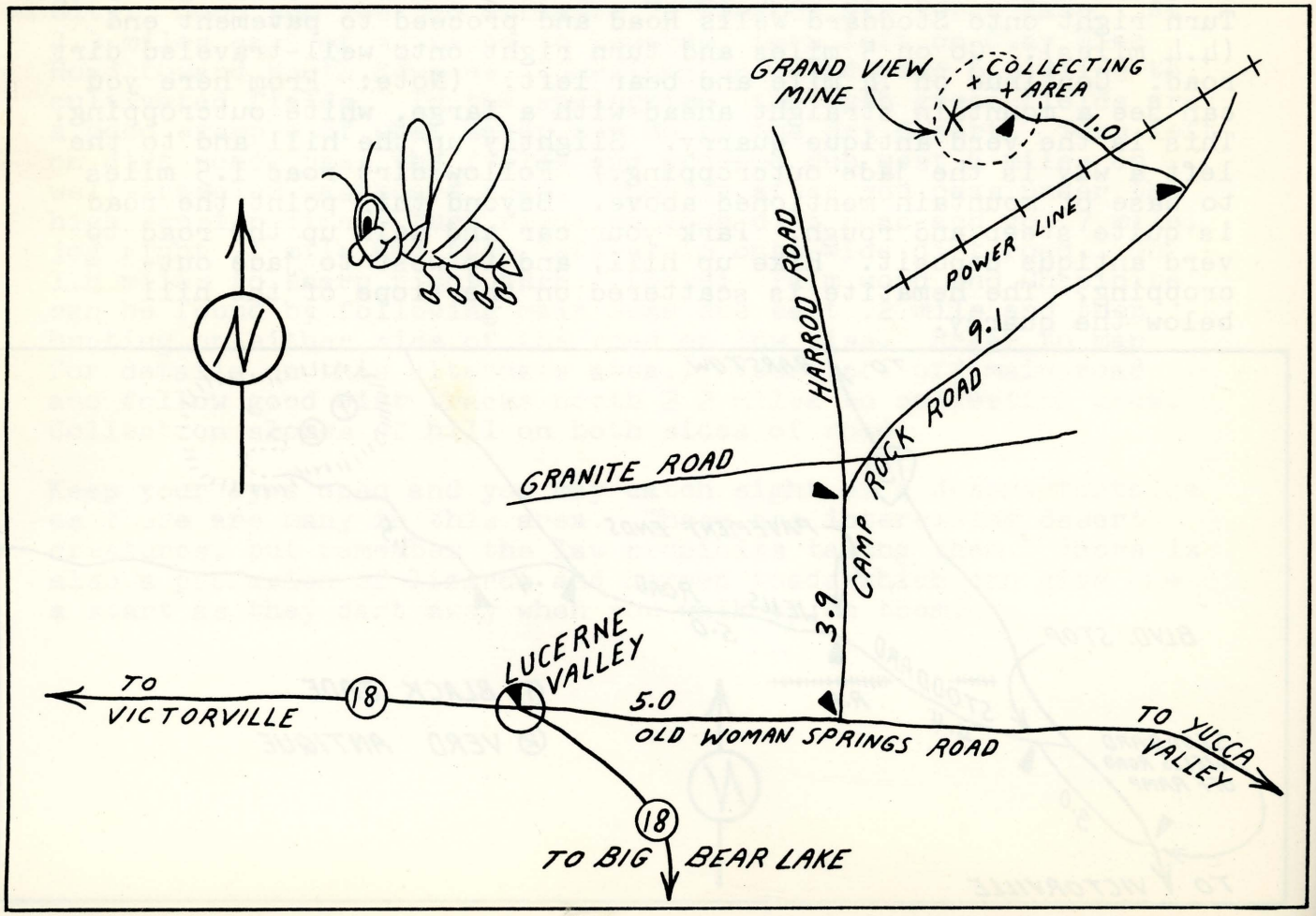
LUCERNE VALLEY "BUGEYE" RHYOLITE

TYPE OF MATERIAL FOUND Rhyolite-Porphyry (Bugeye Rhyolite)

DESCRIPTION OF MATERIAL
Occurs as black, gray, yellow, cream, red and white porphyritic rhyolite. The freckled appearance has caused this material to be called "bugeye" rhyolite. It lies in float and ranges in size from small to good sized chunks. It is quite plentiful, so be selective and take only good quality pieces. Makes excellent bookends, spheres and cabochons.

EQUIPMENT NEEDED Rock pick.

HOW TO GET THERE From Victorville take Highway 18 to Lucerne Valley. Keep right and proceed 5 miles on Old Woman Springs Road (Highway 247). Turn left onto Camp Rock Road and go 3.9 miles, then bear right and continue on graded Camp Rock Road another 9.1 miles. At this point, turn left onto fair dirt road and go about a mile. The rhyolite is found in float over this aluvial fan up to the base of the mountain. It might be interesting to note that at the end of the road is the Grand View Gold Mine, which has been inactive since 1934. Free gold occurred in the silicified rhyolite. With a little luck, you may find a nice specimen of gold by breaking the rhyolite lying on the mine dump and keeping a sharp eye out for the free gold. It has been found!



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