

JEWEL OF THE SOUTHWEST

TURQUOISE

THE NEVADA GEM COLLECTION

ANNIE OSBURN



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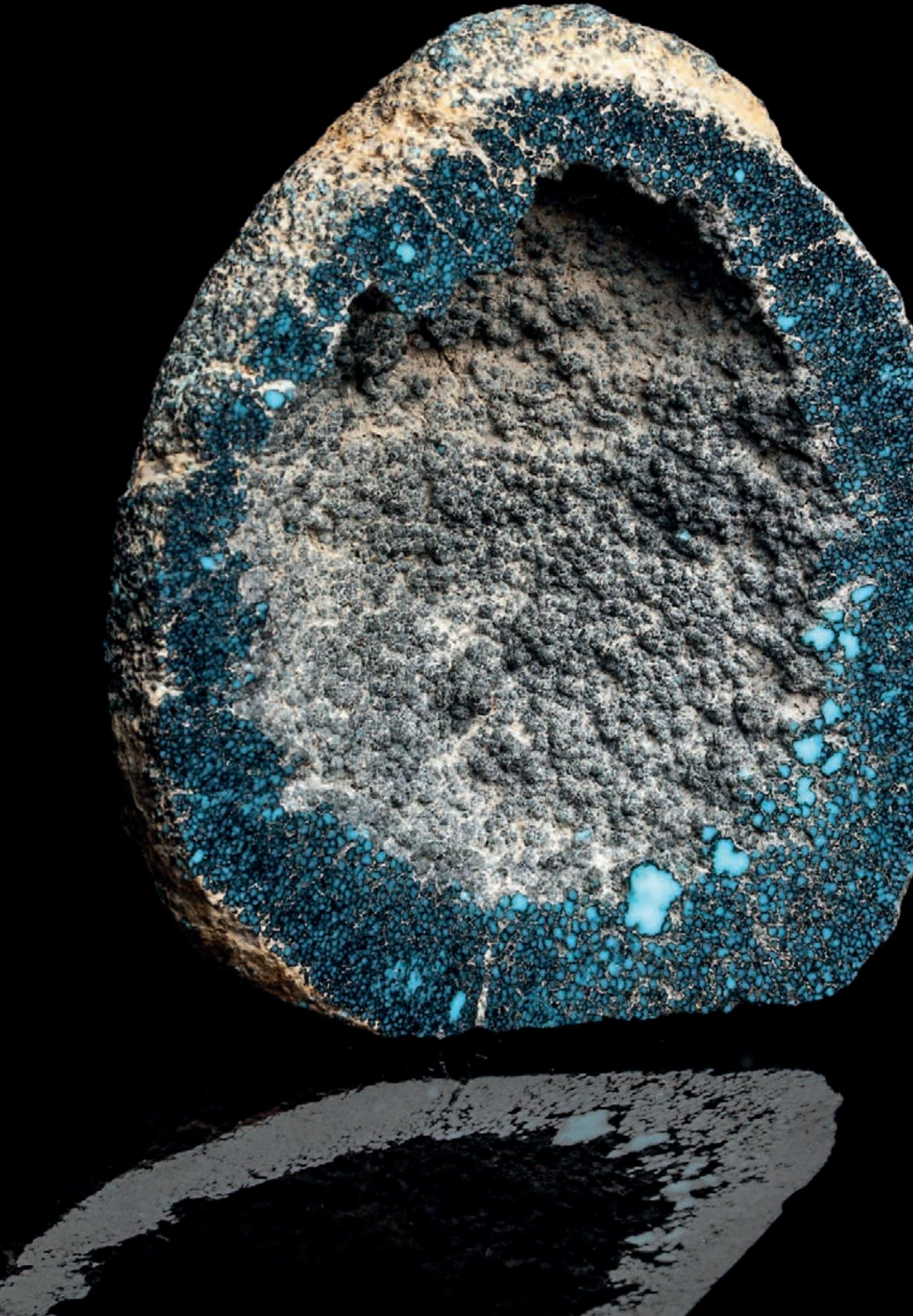
BOB BRUCIA'S
NEVADA GEM COLLECTION

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Lander Blue

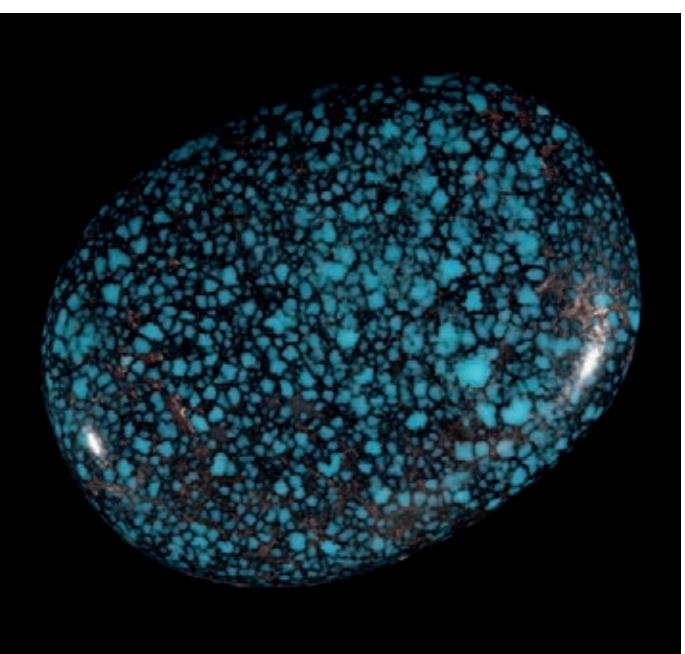


Like all classic turquoise, Lander Blue comes with its own story beginning with Rita Hapgood, a one-time blackjack dealer at the Nevada Club in Battle Mountain, Nevada. One day in 1973, while walking with family, Hapgood happened to find little nuggets on the ground along Indian Creek in the Crescent Valley area. After discovering this deposit of high grade turquoise, which bordered the Lander Ranch, she went on to claim the site as the Mary Louise Lode Mining Claim, named after her mother. The claim was soon sold to Marvin Syme and Henry "Hank" Dorian for \$10,000, who formed the Lander Blue Turquoise Corporation. The pair brought in Bob Johnson, who provided equipment, and the team worked the claim until the deposit ran out.

Located near the towns of Battle Mountain and Tenabo, the Lander Blue turquoise mine has produced some of the most beautiful spider web turquoise ever discovered. Today, Lander Blue is considered the rarest and most valuable turquoise available with its cerulean blues and contrasting black matrix. Lander Blue has been referred to as a "hat mine," a term used to describe floats (surface layers) of turquoise small enough to be covered with a hat. In fact, less than 110 pounds of this spectacular turquoise was mined. With no extensive zones or long veins, the Lander Blue mine offered only one rich pocket.

Among the mine's owners, Marvin Syme eventually owned a number of turquoise mines in Nevada and later retired to Idaho. Hank Dorian operated the Nevada Club for a number of years and Bob Johnson and his wife, Dixie, continued to sell Lander Blue turquoise until the mine was played out. The Lander Blue mine became part of Dowel Ward's large string of mines in 1974, where it stayed until 2008 and its present ownership by Nevada Gem.

FACING PAGE Rare Lander Blue turquoise geode; 266.5 ct. (54mm x 49mm x 20mm). Acquired from early mine owner Marvin Syme's personal collection.

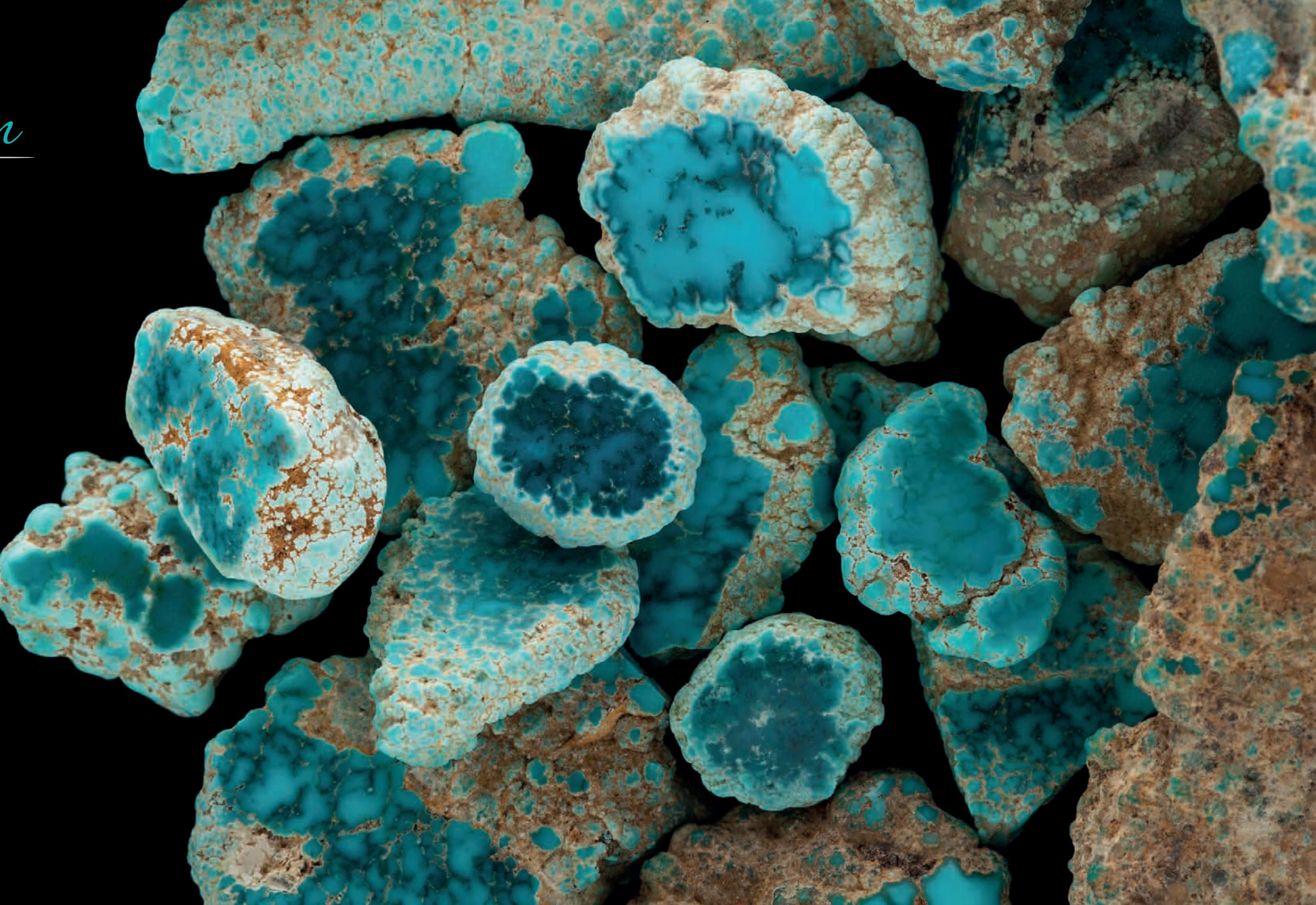


Lone Mountain

One of the great producers of Nevada turquoise, the Lone Mountain mine is located in Esmeralda County, Nevada, not far from the town of Tonopah. Noted for holding its color, Lone Mountain turquoise ranges from a vivid clear blue to a dark blue spider web. To this day, jewelry can be found set with Lone Mountain turquoise from as early as the 1930s and 1940s, its color as blue as when it was made.

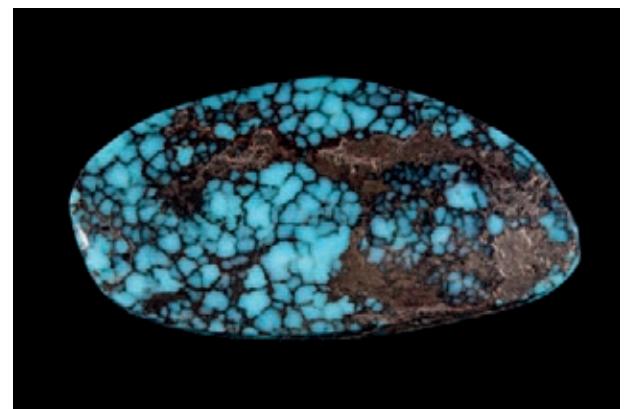
The Lone Mountain mine was claimed by Lee Hand in 1920, originally as the Blue Jay Mining Lode, and later, after seeing several other mines named "Blue Jay," Hand changed the mine's name to Lone Mountain. In 1927, at a depth of about 40 feet, Bert Kopenhaver, who had leased the mine from Hand, found the beautiful spider web turquoise that made Lone Mountain one of the top mines in the Southwest. The mine produced turquoise for decades, with the largest production taking place during the 1970s under the ownership of Menless Winfield.

Today, the beautiful spider web of Lone Mountain still rivals Lander Blue turquoise, which is considered to be the most valuable turquoise in the world. Ownership of the Lone Mountain mine has changed over the years and is currently owned by Chris Lott, who continues to mine small pockets. Of special interest is the rare occurrence of "fossil" turquoise found in the Lone Mountain mine, more accurately known as *pseudomorphs* which remarkably formed from plant fossils or within seashells that dissolved leaving only cavities filled with turquoise deposits.





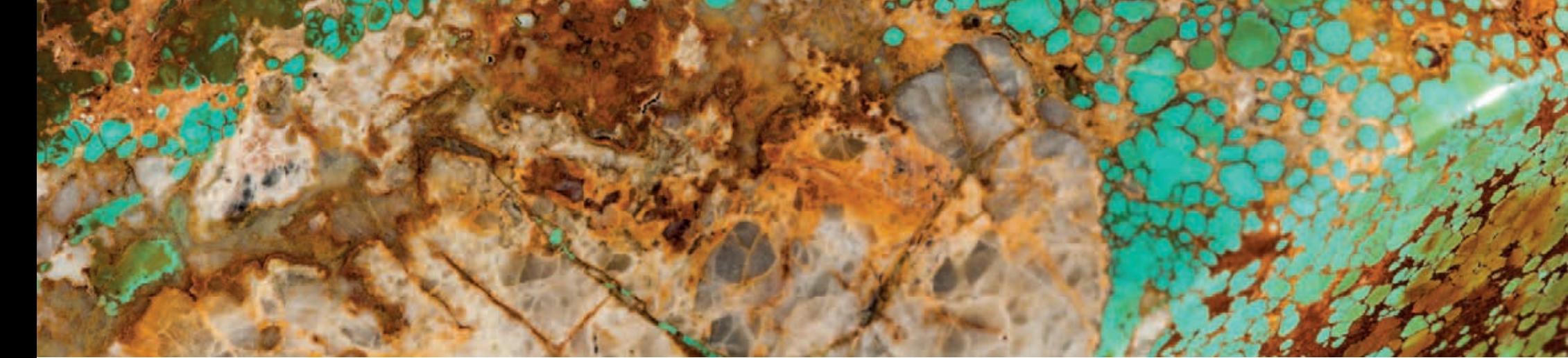
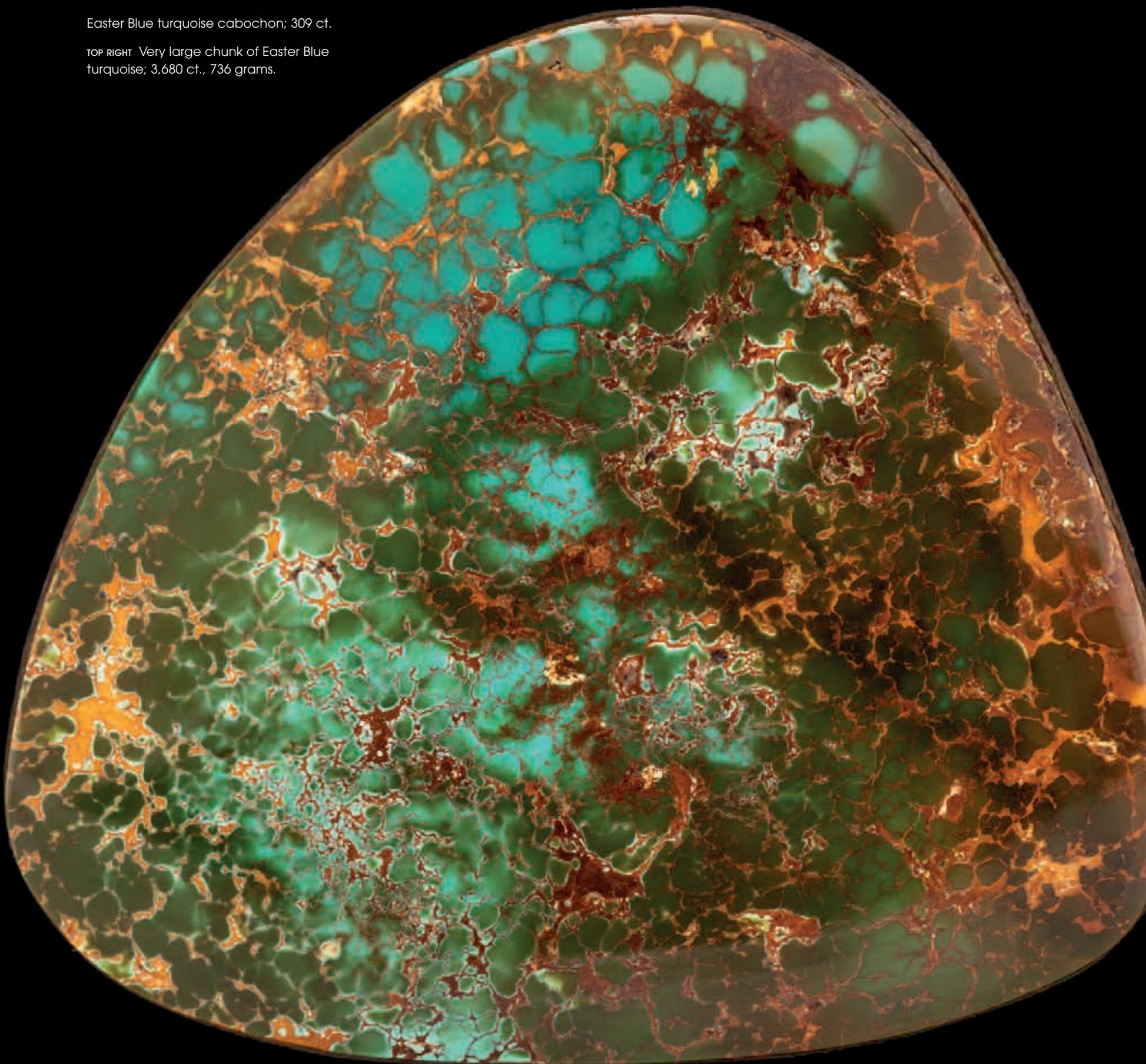
Godber- Burnham



Located northeast of Austin, Nevada, on Dry Creek, the Godber-Burnham mine was discovered in 1932 by Bob Burton and Joe Potts. First claimed under the name Last Chance, the mine was later sold to Frank Burnham, who reportedly removed more than \$100,000 worth of turquoise. In 1934, Burnham sold the mine to Walter Godber. At one time, the mine also was known as the Blue Stone, the Homesite and the Dry Creek, due to its location along Dry Creek which runs through the Damele horse ranch.

The colors of Godber-Burnham turquoise range from medium to dark blue, usually with a beautiful spider web. This turquoise also is known for having a very dark or black mottling that forms blotches and veins throughout the stone. A percentage of Godber-Burnham is found to be in the very light blue-to-white range, due to higher aluminum content, and is often referred to as "Dry Creek" turquoise. Godber-Burnham is considered some of the highest quality and finest collectible turquoise from Nevada.

Easter Blue turquoise cabochon; 309 ct.
TOP RIGHT Very large chunk of Easter Blue
turquoise; 3,680 ct., 736 grams.

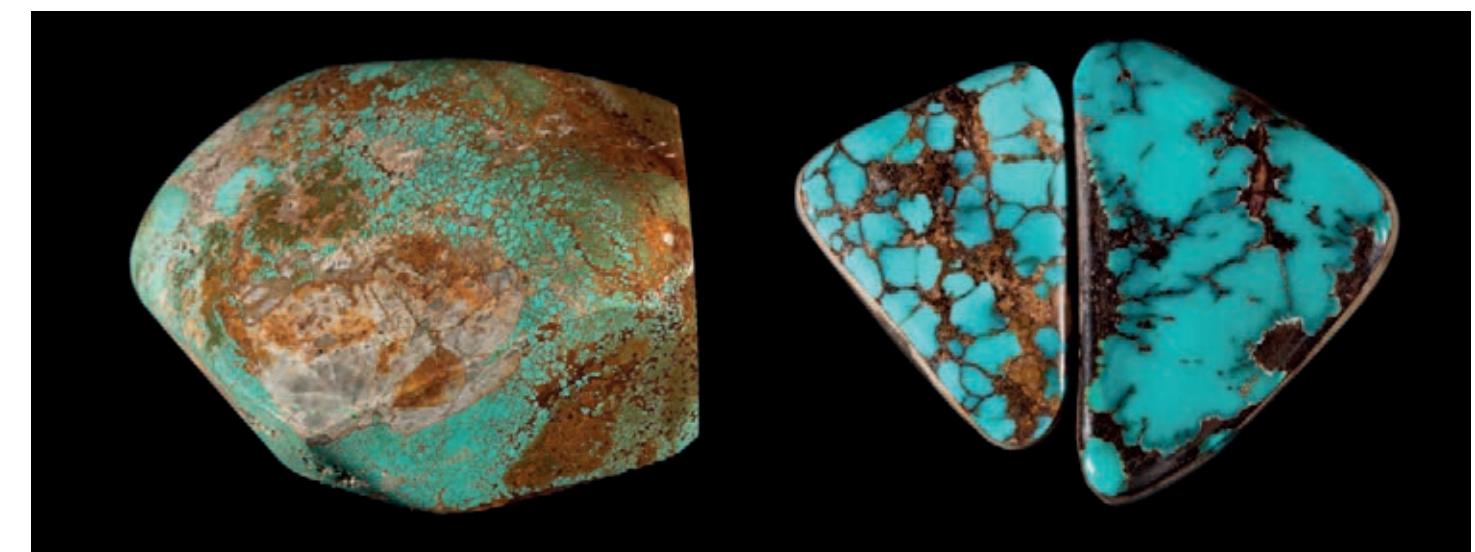


Easter Blue

In 1907, Lew Cirac discovered the Easter Blue deposit. Legend has it that Cirac was kicked out of a bar drunk on Easter morning before finding the deposit, thus the name Easter Blue. The mine is located northwest of Tonopah, Nevada, a few miles from the Royston mining district. Turquoise from this claim also has been called Blue Mountain and Blue Gem.

Compared to other deposits in Nevada, the Easter Blue mine was never considered a large producer and changed hands a number of times.

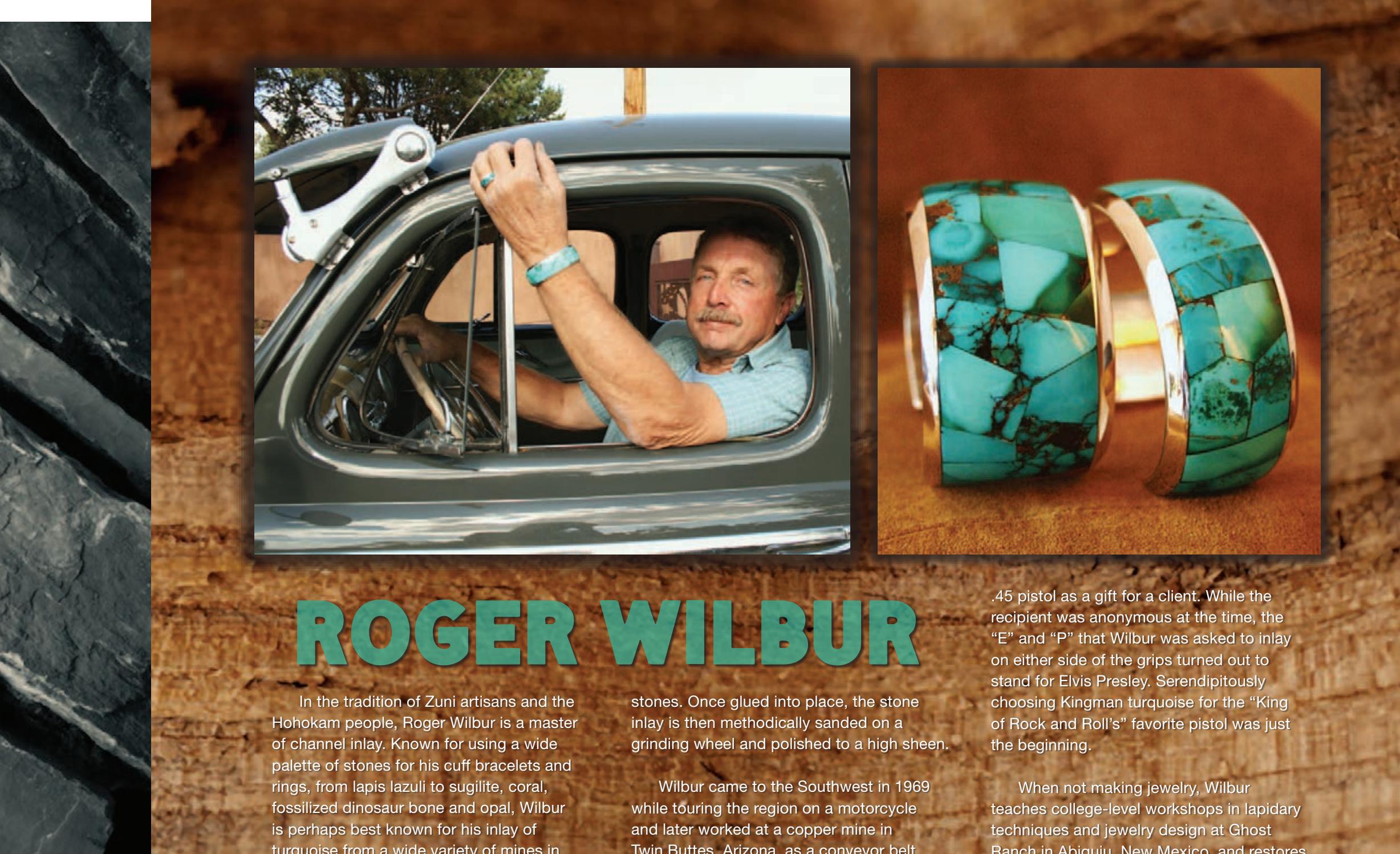
Cirac sold the claim to Lee Hand in 1915. Hand leased the mine to W.R. Gilbert, who produced about 100 pounds of fine turquoise from the surface. A few owners later, the mine produced 300 pounds a month for nearly four years. The mine was later sold to Peter King, of Manassa, Colorado, and was operated once again as the Easter Blue. The first material found was a fine blue color, usually occurring in thin veins. Later, the mine produced a blue green turquoise with a light to dark brown matrix.





Concho Springs

Another small mine, the Concho Springs is located outside of Battle Mountain, Nevada, and was owned by Cutler Edgar, who also owned the Number 8 mine, among others. The Edgars are legendary in Nevada's turquoise mining history, most notably in the 1950s and '60s when various members of the family held dozens of mines and claims. Formerly known as the Antler, the mine's name changed to Concho Springs in the late 1990s. Production from this mine has been limited off and on since the 1980s.



ROGER WILBUR

In the tradition of Zuni artisans and the Hohokam people, Roger Wilbur is a master of channel inlay. Known for using a wide palette of stones for his cuff bracelets and rings, from lapis lazuli to sugilite, coral, fossilized dinosaur bone and opal, Wilbur is perhaps best known for his inlay of turquoise from a wide variety of mines in the American Southwest, as well as Asia. Wilbur's inlay technique is a process of creating a channel, or void, forged from silver or gold, which is filled with stone. The real magic happens when Wilbur creates a mosaic pattern for his inlay, which develops spontaneously as he cuts and grinds the

stones. Once glued into place, the stone inlay is then methodically sanded on a grinding wheel and polished to a high sheen.

Wilbur came to the Southwest in 1969 while touring the region on a motorcycle and later worked at a copper mine in Twin Buttes, Arizona, as a conveyor belt inspector. Quickly, his passion for turquoise, a by-product of the copper mining process, grew. Early training as a ceramicist and sculptor is evident in Wilbur's work, although his mastery of mosaic inlay began in 1975 when he was commissioned by a Denver Cadillac dealer to inlay the grips of a Colt

.45 pistol as a gift for a client. While the recipient was anonymous at the time, the "E" and "P" that Wilbur was asked to inlay on either side of the grips turned out to stand for Elvis Presley. Serendipitously choosing Kingman turquoise for the "King of Rock and Roll's" favorite pistol was just the beginning.

When not making jewelry, Wilbur teaches college-level workshops in lapidary techniques and jewelry design at Ghost Ranch in Abiquiu, New Mexico, and restores and shows classic American cars, such as his 1947 Ford Super Deluxe.

For this series of sterling silver cuff bracelets, Wilbur created inlay using Blue Aztec, Royston and Fox turquoise from the Nevada Gem Collection.

