

CENTRAL MONTANA

GHOST TOWNS



Kendall

Giltedge

Maiden

Fort Maginnis

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Kendall Was A Twentieth Century Gold Camp, 1900-1922	Judith Penkake
Giltedge Was A Typical Gold Camp	Judith Penkake
Maiden Gold Camp in the Judith Mountains	Judith Penkake
Fort Maginnis	Alberta Sparlin

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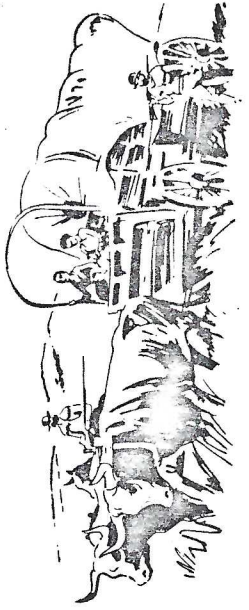
Montana Ghost Town Preservation Society

1975

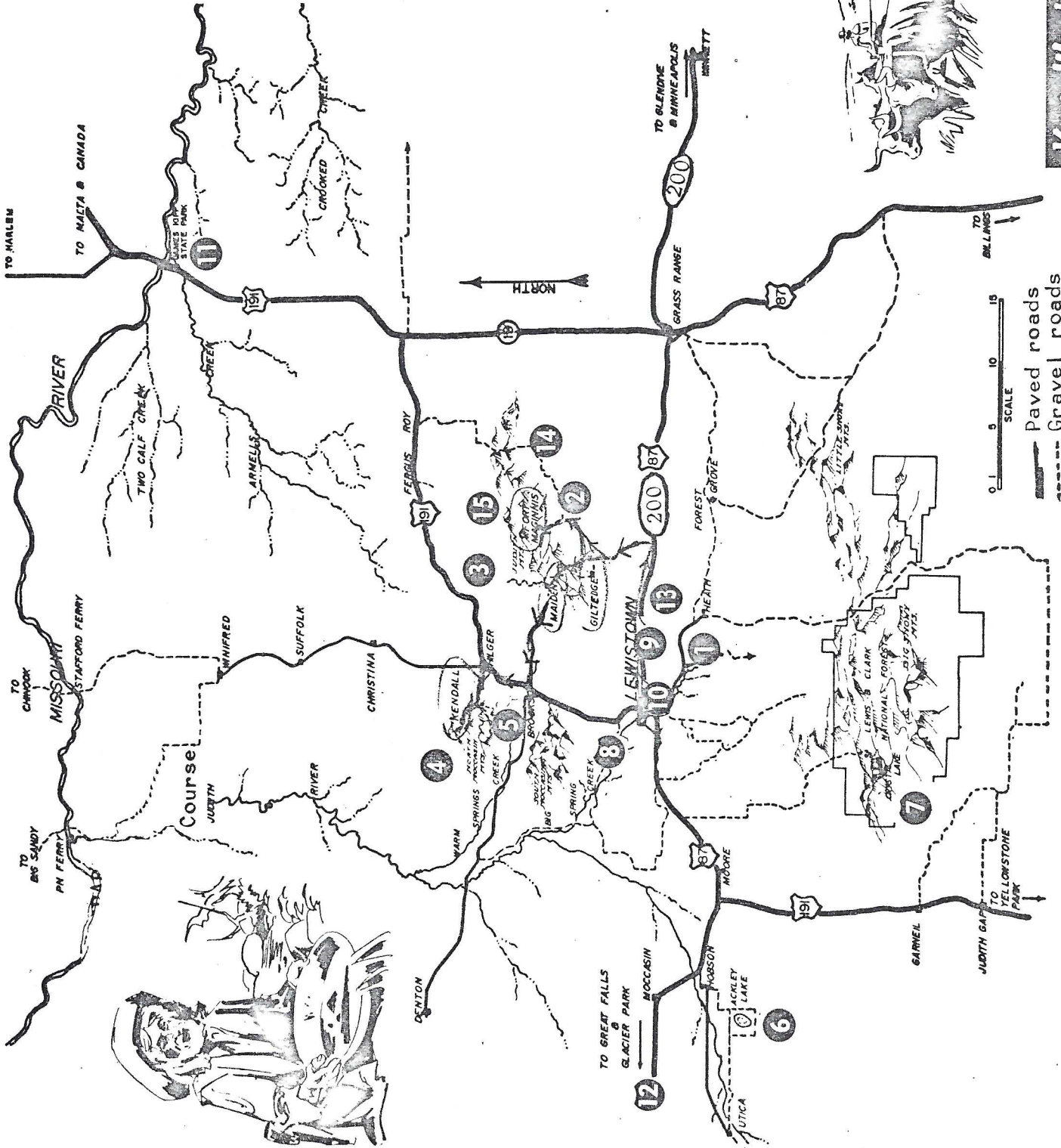
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Cover: John M. Devitt

- 1 **BIG SPRING** Headwaters of Spring Creek, site of State Fish Hatchery, excellent picnic grounds
- 2 **FORT MAGINNIS** Historic site, ruins of 1880 Frontier Post
- 3 **MAIDEN** Historic site of an 1880 gold town
- 4 **KENDALL** 1899 gold mining camp with abandoned mines, State Park
- 5 **WARM SPRINGS** Good swimming, fishing, picnic grounds
- 6 **ACKLEY LAKE** Man-made lake, stocked with good trout
- 7 **CRYSTAL LAKE** Mountain lake, good swimming, and picnic grounds
- 8 **BIG SPRING CREEK** One of nation's best trout streams
- 9 **REST-PICNIC STOPS**
- 10 **CAMP GROUNDS**
- 11 **JAMES KIPP STATE PARK**
- 12 **SOD BUSTERS MUSEUM** History of Central Montana farmers
- 13 **"HANGING TREE" ARCHERY COURSE**
- 14 **STAGE COACH ROUTE**
- 15 **MONTANA INSTITUTE OF THE BIBLE**



Keep Montana clean and beautiful



— Paved roads
- - - Gravel roads

0 1 5 10 15
SCALE

NORTH

KENDALL WAS A TWENTIETH CENTURY GOLD CAMP, 1900-1922

--Prepared by Judith Penkake, 1975

Kendall town began late in 1899 with Harry Kendall's cyanide mill and a residence and boarding house for forty men. It was located in the North Moccasin Mountains and reached a peak of 1400 residents in 1910. Kendall Mill cyanided 100 tons of ore per day averaging \$800 a ton in gold. In five years of operation it turned out \$2,500,000 in bullion. A power plant was established five miles away on Big Warm Spring which supplied electricity to both mills in Kendall and all the businesses.

Business places at Kendall were: two hotels, two churches, blacksmith shop, operahouse, several saloons, several stores, bank-lodge hall, post office, two 4-horse stagecoach lines to Lewistown daily, newspaper, school, lawyer (Fat Jack Wasson, who moved from Maiden). The White House Cafe advertised Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings in 1909 for 25¢ a plate. The first newspaper was the Chronicle, then the Kendall Miner. The Shaules Hotel was a grand 2-story, 26-room stone building, most modern for its day--its ruins remain today.

The cornerstone of the Presbyterian church was laid in November, 1907, with special ceremony. A tin box containing a Bible, a list of church members, trustees, Ladies Aid, workmen, and a copy of the "Kendall Miner", etc. was sealed into the stone.

The main street, by which you enter Kendall, is McKinley Avenue. Left of it and parallel to it are: Lincoln Avenue, Pine Street, High Street, Prospect Street and Clark Street. On the right of McKinley Avenue and parallel to it are: Garfield Avenue, Cedar Street, Spruce Street and Elm Street. Both sides of the road entering Kendall are all grown up with brush now but it used to be a residential district with many streets marked ahead of the business district. First you cross Beech Street, then Kinzie Street, Park Street, Beacon Street, Astor Street, Wood Street before coming to the first business ruins. The main ruin of the bank, hardware store and post office is the corner of Teddy Street and where the King Mill Road leaves McKinley Avenue on the right. The mill road has a fork to the right which leads to the cemetery over the hill. The next street is the old road to the Kendall Mill, which is several miles over the hill, taking off from the left of McKinley mine and the former Silver Mountain ski run. The last street crossing McKinley Avenue is Spring Street.

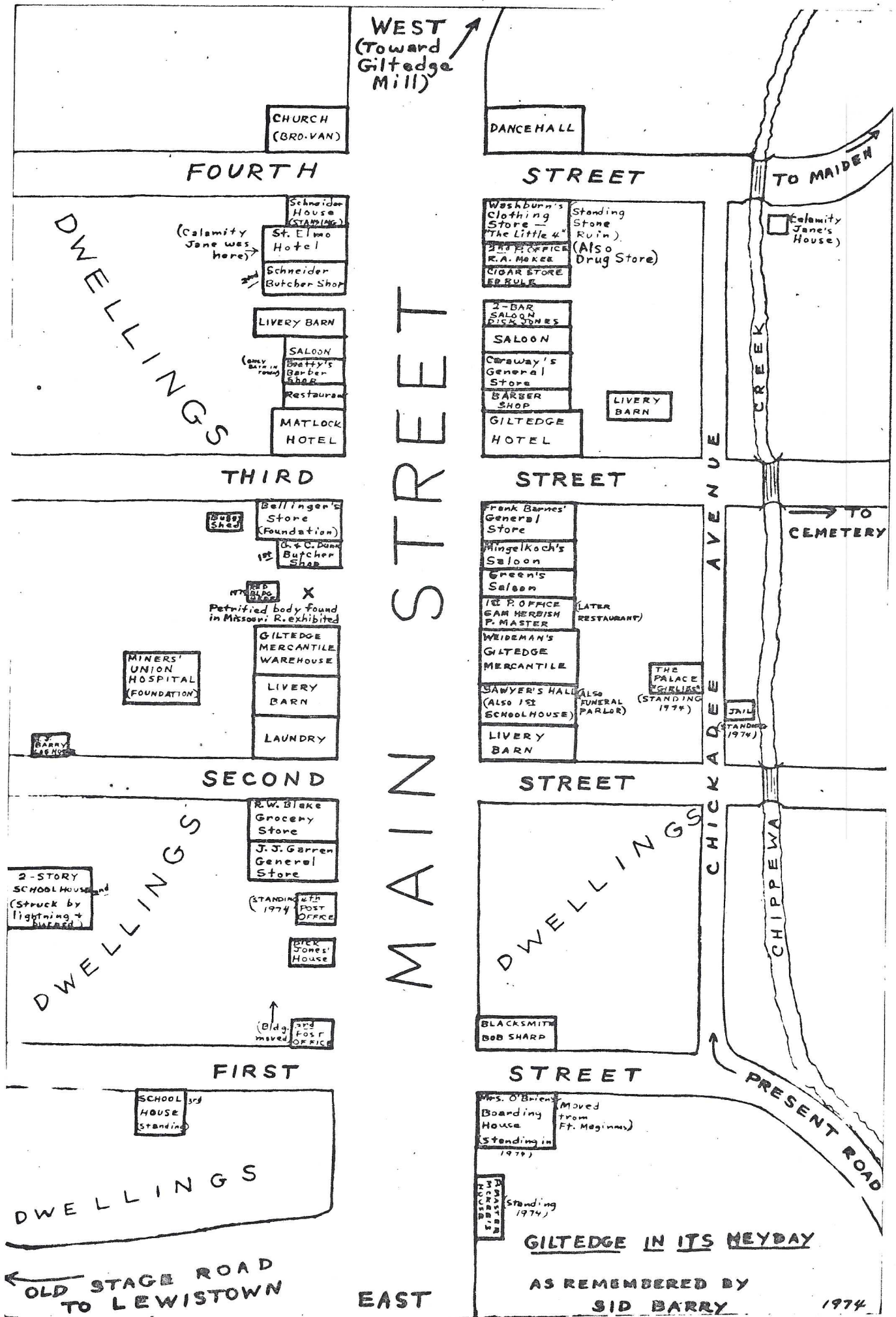
The other large gold mine and mill was located just out of town beyond Spring Street. It was the Barnes-King Development Company. In 1915 it bought the Kendall mine, mill and hydro-electric plant. The mine was leased out until all work closed down in 1923. Over \$20,000,000 in gold was mined at Kendall. Gold shipments were concealed in various ways. Once \$30,000 in gold bricks were a lady's footrest in the stage trip to Lewistown.

By 1909 homesteaders were coming into the surrounding territory. Joe Montgomery, pioneer resident of Lewistown now 99 years of age, became the first Kendall land locator, besides being a bartender and a stage station agent in previous years. In 1910 farmland had doubled in price to a high of \$25 per acre.

The railroad built a branch to Hilger by 1911 and many Kendall businessmen packed up and moved to Hilger, sometimes taking their buildings along, which accounts for the lack of buildings in Kendall today. Miners began taking up homesteads, and houses were moved out on skids to become ranch dwellings or hen houses. Then the Kendall mill quit in 1912. The newspaper "Kendall Miner" moved to Hilger and became the "Hilger Herald".

A story is told about a Greek who lived in the Kendall-Hilger area years ago, raising wheat and turkeys. He was called "Turkey Joe". Somehow he was never hailed out when neighbors on all sides lost their crops. When the clouds looked forbidding and hovered over Turkey Joe's ranch, he went out with a big powerful shotgun and shot into the clouds while he cursed vociferously in his native tongue. He was never hailed out.

In recent years most of the Kendall townsite has been deeded to the Boy Scouts for a camp site. They have been cleaning it up and making improvements--a rebuilt band gazebo, an outdoor chapel near the church ruin, names on the streets, lunch tables provided, etc. It is ironic that the railroad tracks to Hilger which led to the decline of Kendall are now removed. Since Kendall was born in the Twentieth Century, many of its former residents are still living around Lewistown.



WEST
(Toward
Giltedge
Mill)

FOURTH STREET

DANCE HALL

DWELLINGS

Schneider House (STAMING)

St. Elmo Hotel
(Calamity Jane was here)

Schneider Butcher Shop

LIVERY BARN

SALOON
Boatley's Barber Shop
Restaurant

MATLOCK HOTEL

Washburn's Clothing Store
"The Little 4"

STANDING STONE RUIN
(Also Drug Store)

POST OFFICE
R.A. MAKEE

CIGAR STORE
ED RULK

2-BAR SALOON
DICK JONES

SALOON

Caraway's General Store

BARBER SHOP

GILTEDGE HOTEL

LIVERY BARN

TO MAIDEN

Calamity Jane's House

THIRD STREET

STREET

Buggy Shed

Bellinger's Store (Foundation)

D. & C. Dunn Butcher Shop

X
Petrified body found in Missouri; R. exhibited

GILTEDGE MERCANTILE WAREHOUSE

LIVERY BARN

LAUNDRY

MINERS' UNION HOSPITAL (FOUNDATION)

BARRY BROTHERS

Frank Barnes' General Store

Hingelkoch's Saloon

Green's Saloon

I.E.P. OFFICE
SAM HERBISH
P. MASTER (LATER RESTAURANT)

WEIDEMAN'S GILTEDGE MERCANTILE

SAWYER'S HALL (ALSO 1ST SCHOOLHOUSE)

LIVERY BARN

THE PALACE "GIRLIES" (STANDING 1974)

JAIL (STANDING 1974)

TO CEMETERY

SECOND STREET

STREET

DWELLINGS

R.W. Blake Grocery Store

J. J. Garren General Store

(STANDING 1974)

POST OFFICE

Old Jones' House

(Old moved)

POST OFFICE

2-STORY SCHOOLHOUSE (Struck by lightning + burned)

DWELLINGS

BLACKSMITH BOB SHARP

FIRST STREET

STREET

DWELLINGS

SCHOOL HOUSE (STANDING)

Mrs. O'Brien's Boarding House (Standing in 1974)

Moved from Ft. Maginnis

STANDING 1974

PRESENT ROAD

← OLD STAGE ROAD TO LEWISTOWN

EAST

GILTEDGE IN ITS MEYDAY

AS REMEMBERED BY SID BARRY

1974

GILTEDGE WAS A TYPICAL GOLD CAMP

--Prepared by Judith Penkake, 1974

The old stage road connecting Maiden and Giltedge has been reopened in recent years and is a pleasant scenic drive through a canyon past old Spotted Horse Mine, which is now being reworked. Gold was discovered on the east side of the Judith range about the same time as the rush to the west side in 1880 at Maiden, but it was not developed until the cyanide process was introduced at Giltedge in 1893. The ruins of the mill and the dump are just beyond the edge of town.

Giltedge was getting growing pains in 1893 and by 1900 it had several hundred residents. It was at its heyday in 1906 with 1500 people, including neighboring gulches. Now (1974) it is occupied by five persons--Mr. and Mrs. George Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Stillman and Orville Miller.

The Giltedge Mining Company had a prosperous beginning but in a few months they were missing paydays and later issued worthless checks. Finally the Fergus County sheriff seized the plant and closed it down. It was the severe winter of 1893-94 and caused the miners' families much hardship. Some turned to cattle rustling.

The crooked managers of the mining property slipped \$25,000 in gold bullion out of Giltedge in a wagon bed early in the morning on January 24, 1894, and Jack Parr, who was driving the wagon for them, eluded pursuers and got the bullion to Great Falls for cashing. It was never retrieved. Later the sheriff found provisions in the mining company warehouse which he distributed to the needy miners.

The mines were reopened but finally closed down in 1912. The first mill was located near the edge of town and a later mill named the Gold Reef was located on a nearby hill.

Fort Maginnis was seven miles northeast and after it was abandoned in the late 1880's, lumber from it was salvaged to build many houses and stores in Giltedge. The large miners' boarding house (still standing) was moved from Fort Maginnis.

Butch Cassidy and the Curry gang had a camp 100 miles north of Giltedge and they ranged far and wide stealing horses to sell in Canada. They stole some near Giltedge. Finally a vigilante committee was organized and a man was hung about six miles east of Giltedge on a cottonwood tree. The nearby Ford Creek was named after the victim.

Calamity Jane was living in Giltedge in the late 1890's.

In 1900 Dr. Fred Attix opened an office in Giltedge to serve the miners of Whiskey Gulch, Spotted Horse and New Year. He made a call to the New Year Mine in a January blizzard in 1901 and was asked to carry back with him the first run of gold bricks. The doctor's assistant was a Negress from Fort Maginnis known as Old Aunt Fannie. The only bath tub in Giltedge was at Beatty's barber shop, so a lot of people took only annual baths. There was a miners' hospital in Giltedge and travelling dentists came through.

Later Dr. Attix established the Attix Clinic in Lewistown, the building now housing the Montana Central Hotel.

Its large dancehall was a source of pride to Giltedge residents. Then Brother Van established a church across from the dancehall because donated mining property was the only space left.

There were several small schools held in other buildings, and then Giltedge built a splendid two-story one that burned to the ground after lightning struck it in 1950. B. F. Gordon, a long time pioneer of Fergus County, taught the Giltedge School in 1895-96 before the large one was built. Miners' kids, ranchers' kids, Indian kids all sat together on benches at tables.

In its heyday Giltedge had six general stores--Caraway, Barnes, Mercantile, Garren, Foster and Gelanger. There was a candy store, two barber shops, a bakery, two drup stores, a clothing store, a funeral parlor, four livery barns, a butcher shop, six hotels and boarding houses, a restaurant, two blacksmith shops, 13 saloons and a red light district (the house still stands), also a jail still standing. There were two stages daily each way to Lewistown. The Fourth of July and Labor Day were lively with drilling contests between the miners.

Looking at the plot of Giltedge in the Fergus County assessor's office, one sees quite a town laid out with interesting street names, as follows: (south to north) Morning Star Avenue, Armington Avenue, Morango Avenue, Catoctin Avenue, Emma Avenue, Giltedge Avenue, Main Street, Chickadee Avenue, Belt Avenue, Maria Avenue, High Avenue. Today one can walk the street of Giltedge between the foundations and the few buildings still standing and try to imagine the excitement of that bygone day. Central Montana was part of the Last Frontier and one of the few places where pioneers who lived those days are still around.

NORTH
FORD'S CREEK
PRESENT ROAD INTO FORT MAGINNIS

X
GATE
OF RANCH

NON
COM
STAFF
QTRS

BAKERY

STABLES

BARRACKS
BARRACKS
BARRACKS

ADJ
CHAPEL

TRADE
SHED
3 STORES
COL BROADWATER
4 MASNAMARA

PARADE GROUND

GOVT.
EMPLOYEES
QTRS

GUARD
HOUSE
QMSTR
STORE
HOUSE
CIVILIANS

SCHOOL
LIBRARY

OFFICER
QTRS
OFFICER
QTRS
OFFICER
QTRS
OFFICER
QTRS
OFFICER
QTRS
OFFICER
QTRS
OFFICER
QTRS
OFFICER
QTRS

ROOT
CELLAR
WAGON
SHED

FORT MAGINNIS
1880-1890

HOSPITAL

NON
STABLES

NON
COM
STAFF
QTRS

OIL
HOUSE
ICE
HOUSE
QMSTR

EAST

WEST

SOUTH

MAIDEN GOLD CAMP IN THE JUDITH MOUNTAINS

--Prepared by Judith Penkake, 1975

Maiden grew up from gold strikes in the 1880's and reached a peak of 1200 residents in 1888. The first prospectors in the area were "Skookum Joe" Anderson and Dave Jones.

The businesses in 1883 included: three general stores, a drug store, clothing store, two hardware stores, bakery, meat market, a restaurant, blacksmith shop, newspaper, two barbershops, livery stable, thirteen saloons, two hotels, a dance hall and a school. Maiden had law and order from the beginning. The first justice would lay his revolver on the table when he opened court and say, "Now, children, be good." Maiden's business district was supplied entirely by mule and bull team freighting outfits.

Since Maiden was located within the Ft. Maginnis military reservation, only a fence kept possession as there were no deeds. In April, 1883, a military order came out ordering the citizens to completely vacate the military territory within 60 days. A committee drafted a petition of protest and presented it to Captain Durham of the Maginnis Post. As a result, the size of the military reservation was reduced enough to exclude the Maiden area and its mines.

Maiden citizens were determined to have the county seat of the newly created Fergus County in 1885 but the stockmen proved to be more powerful in Helena than the miners, and Lewistown was designated the county seat.

Maiden and Lewistown used to compete for 4th of July celebration crowds. In 1882 the first official celebration of the 4th of July was held in Maiden, then the largest town in Central Montana. David Hilger read the Declaration of Independence and James Fergus gave the oration. In the afternoon there were sporting events like foot races, bag races, blindfolded wheelbarrow races, horse races and boxing matches all for cash prizes. In the evening they wound up with fireworks and a grand ball.

The Spotted Horse Mine, less than a mile from town, was discovered by Skookum Joe. It is still being worked. There is a lovely scenic drive past Spotted Horse through Maiden Canyon on the road to Giltedge.

The Collar Mine was above Spotted Horse and beyond the present Camp Maiden.

Pete Rosseau founded the Cumberland Mine and had a mill, which burned down over fifteen years ago.

George Wieglanda had mining interests and ran an assay office in the former Tom Carr Saloon. Mrs. Wieglanda still has a summer home in Maiden.

In 1888 the Maginnis Mining Company had a stamp mill employing fifty men.

Over \$3,000,000 in gold was mined before Maiden declined. The population was down to 200 in 1896. A fire in 1905 nearly destroyed the town. Anna Hoyt had the hotel that burned in the 1920's. A few people still have homes in Maiden. The new Lucier house is built at the site of the Landt-Ritter brewery just outside of town.

Maiden contributed to business in Lewistown. Their "Mineral Argus" paper was the forerunner of the present Lewistown "News-Argus" paper.

William Culver, a long time photographer in Lewistown, had his third studio in Maiden, previously being in Fort Benton.

The Air Force Radar Base was established three miles below Maiden in 1960 and closed in 1971. Over two years later the base buildings were purchased by the Montana Institute of the Bible, which moved up from Billings. More and more summer homes have been built in the upper valley. Also there is the pleasant Girl Scouts' Camp Maiden nestled in the trees. During the Thirties and Forties Maiden valley was known in far away places through the medium of radio. A local author-rancher, Gunnar Mickelsen, and his sister wrote the script for "Lone Journey", a daily radio drama with its setting in the Maiden valley and Lewistown area, using real locale names.

HILL

MAGINNIS
X MILL

TO MAGINNIS
MINE

MAIDEN GOLDCAMP

TAKEN FROM DIAGRAM
PREPARED BY JAYCEES IN
1938

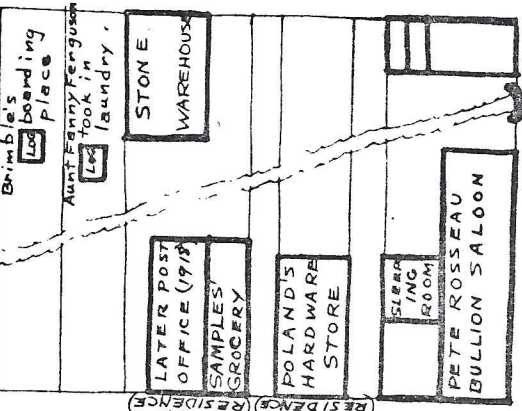
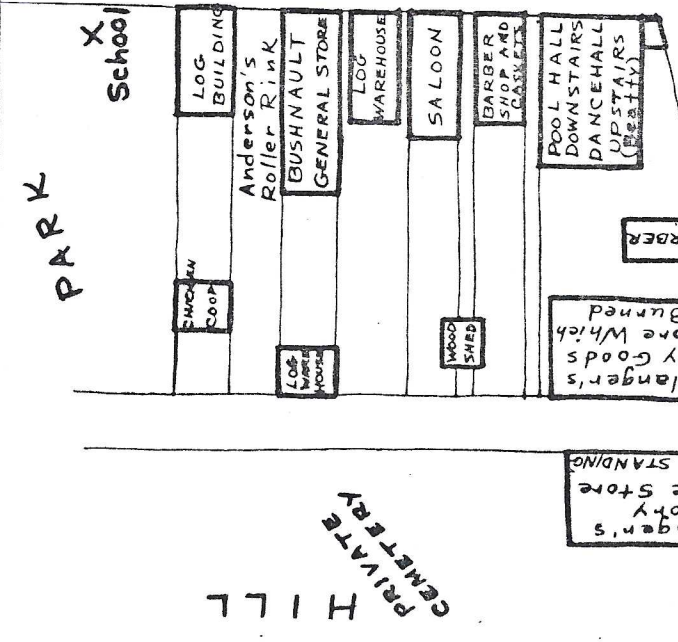
TO SPOTTED
HORSE MINE
AND CUMBERLAND
MINE

MAIN STREET

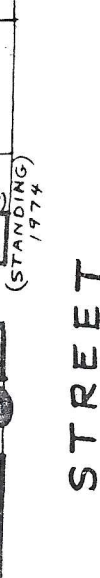
MONTANA STREET

WARM SPRING CREEK

HILL



MONTANA STREET



PRIVATE
CEMETERY
HILL

TO LEWISTOWN

TO LEWISTOWN

FORT MAGINNIS

--Prepared by Alberta Sparlin, 1975
Reference: C.W. Worthen's History
of Central Montana

The stock interests in the Judith Basin needed protection from the roving Indians who, in spite of the fact that they had been allotted reservations, frequently came into Central Montana in search of game.

Through the influence of our territorial delegate in Congress, Martin Maginnis, a military post named after Maginnis, was established in what was then eastern Meagher County in July, 1880, by Captain Dangerfield in command of two companies of the Third Infantry. The reservation, with the mining district withdrawn, was seven by nine miles in size and was located south of the Judith Mountains on Ford's Creek.

For the first few months of construction only infantry were stationed at Fort Maginnis. By 1881 there were two companies of Second Cavalry added to the garrison.

During the ten years of its existence, it served as the headquarters for Patrol activities of the Army against the Blackfoot, Piegan, Cree and Bannock Indians.

The total disappearance of the buffalo, the effective settlement of the Indians on their own reservations, the establishment of regular civil government and greater concentration of military posts, led to General Order Number 43, April 10, 1890, directing withdrawal of troupes and abandonment of the post.

A number of the large buildings were moved as far away as Lewistown and are still occupied. Others were torn down for their lumber, and today only foundations remain of the military post.

HILL

S. W.

TO BARNES-KING MINE

HILL DWELLINGS

HILL

MINERS' DWELLINGS

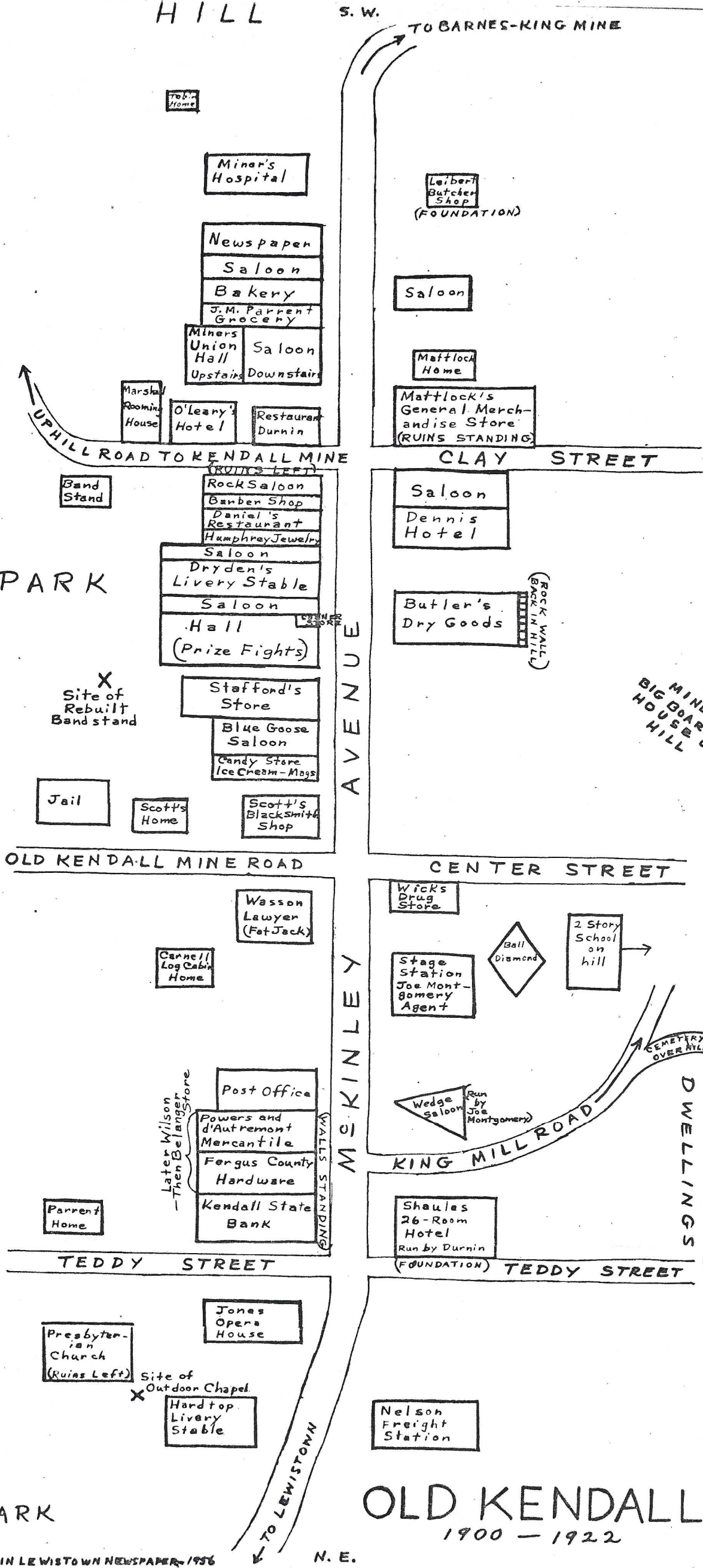
HILL DWELLINGS

DWELLINGS

PARK

PARK

OLD KENDALL
1900 - 1922



Top Home

Minor's Hospital

Newspaper

Saloon

Bakery

J.M. Parrent Grocery

Miners Union Hall
Upstairs Downstairs

Marshall
Rooming
House

O'Leary's
Hotel

Restaurant
Durnin

Leibert
Butcher
Shop
(FOUNDATION)

Saloon

Mattlock
Home

Mattlock's
General Merch-
andise Store
(RUINS STANDING)

UPHILL ROAD TO KENDALL MINE

CLAY STREET

Band
Stand

(RUINS LEFT)
Rock Saloon
Banber Shop
Daniel's
Restaurant
Humphrey Jewelry

Saloon
Dennis
Hotel

PARK

Saloon
Dryden's
Livery Stable
Saloon
Hall
(Prize Fights)

Butler's
Dry Goods
(ROCK WALL
BACK IN HILL)

X
Site of
Rebuilt
Band stand

Stafford's
Store

Blue Goose
Saloon
Candy Store
Ice Cream - Mags

MINERS'
BIG BOARDING
HOUSE ON
HILL

Jail

Scott's
Home

Scott's
Blacksmith
Shop

AVENUE

OLD KENDALL MINE ROAD

CENTER STREET

Wesson
Lawyer
(Fat Jack)

Carnell
Log Cabin
Home

Wicks
Drug
Store

Stage
Station
Joe Mont-
gomery
Agent

Ball
Diamond

2 Story
School
on hill

DWELLINGS

Later Wilson
- Then Belanger
Store

Post Office

Powers and
d'Autremont
Mercantile

Fergus County
Hardware

Kendall State
Bank

(WALLS STANDING)

Parrent
Home

Wedge
Saloon
(Run
by
Joe
Montgomery)

KING MILL ROAD

Shaules
26-Room
Hotel
Run by Durnin
(FOUNDATION)

HILL DWELLINGS

TEDDY STREET

TEDDY STREET

Presbyter-
ian
Church
(Ruins Left)

Jones
Opera
House

X
Site of
Outdoor Chapel

Hardtop
Livery
Stable

Nelson
Freight
Station

TO LEWISTOWN

PARK