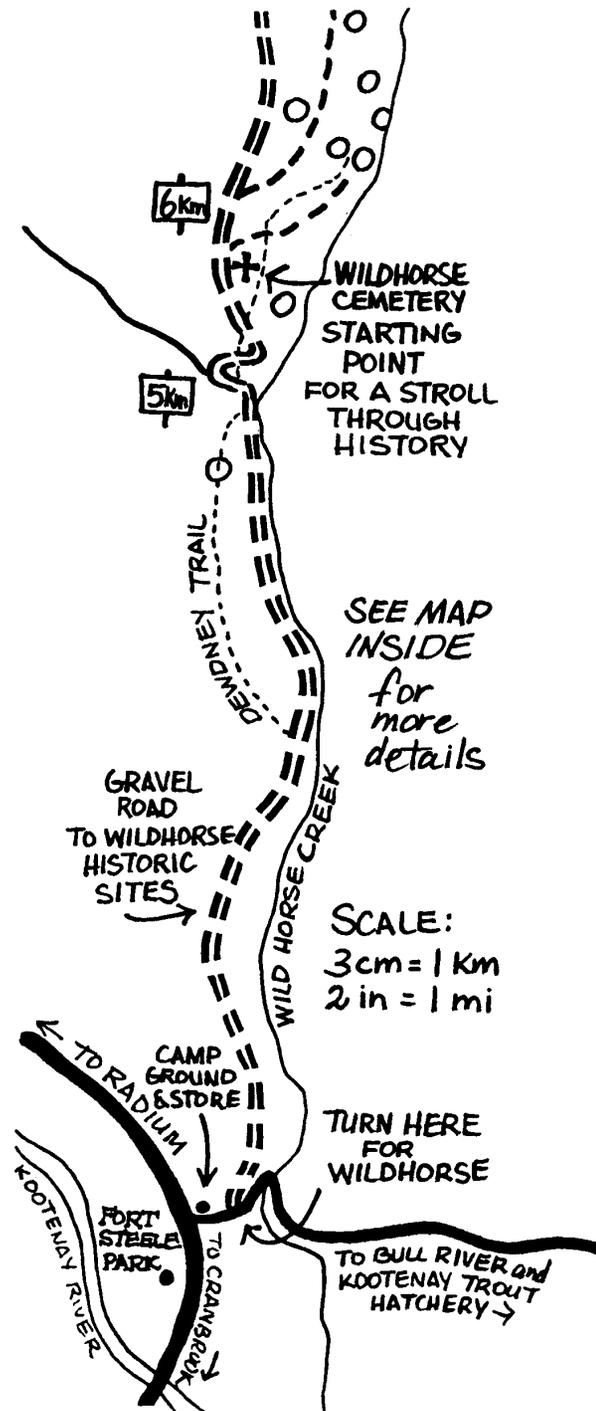


By 1865 there were up to 5,000 miners and their followers at Wild Horse Creek and Fisherville was booming. But when it was discovered that the gravel bench the town was situated on was rich in gold, the buildings were torn down or burnt and the townsite was turned into piles of boulders by the miners in their wild quest for the yellow metal. The town was moved further up the hill and was later renamed Wild Horse.

The year of 1865 saw the first all Canadian route across southern BC, completed. It was called the Dewdney Trail, and it was stretched from Hope, BC to Wild Horse Creek. About 1 ½ miles (2.5 km) of this trail up the Wild Horse Creek including the end at Fisherville is still in good condition and makes an interesting hike along the route where long lines of packhorses and men once toiled.

Plaques telling something of the history of Wild Horse are placed at appropriate places throughout the area outlined by the map. Starting from the Wild Horse cemetery, and easy two-hour hike can take you to most of the sites, but better to take along a lunch and spend an interesting day browsing around. Try panning for gold yourself. Be careful though, that you do not catch that malady called "Gold Fever"!

Pamphlet and guide map courtesy of
The East Kootenay Historical Association



A Guide Map to Wild Horse Creek Diggings

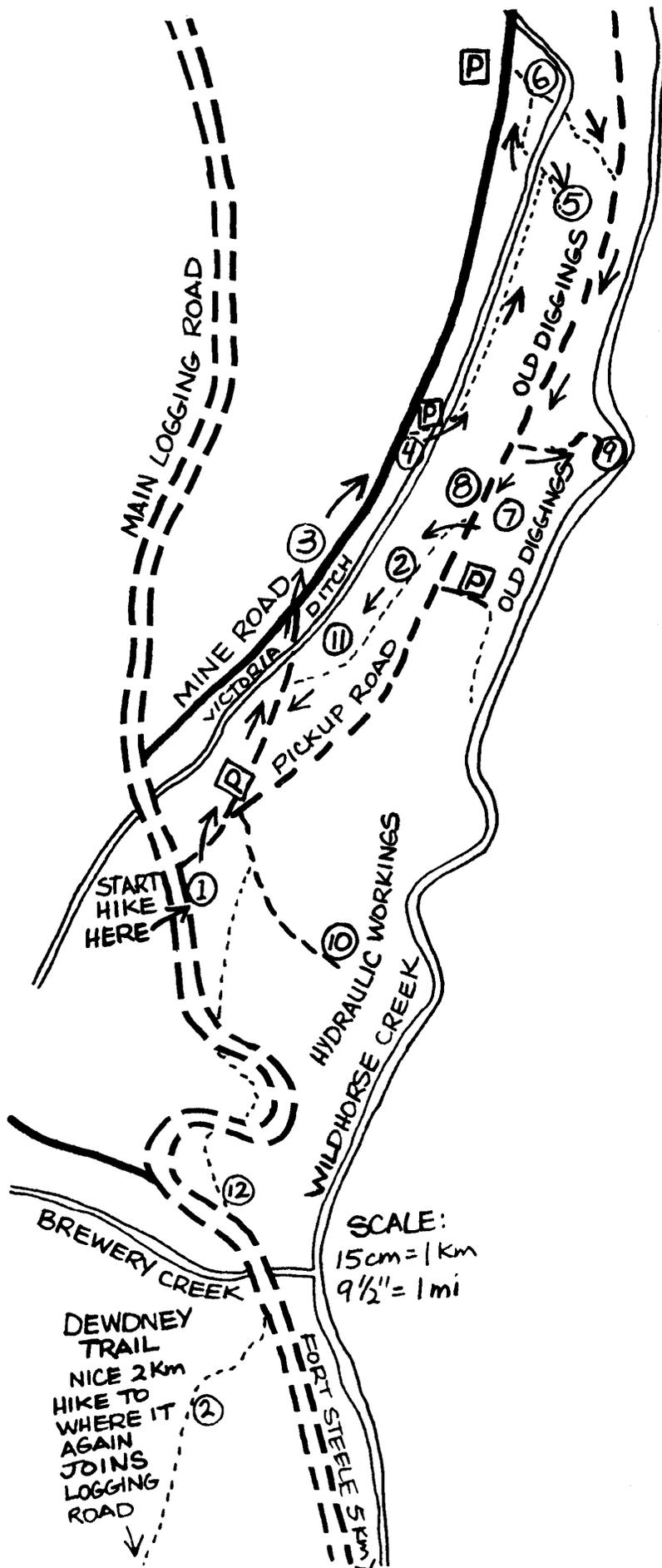
Site of Fisherville

And the Last Mile of the Dewdney Trail

In 1864 placer gold was found on Wild Horse Creek and soon a stampede of placer miners was pouring up this small stream, each one determined to get a share of this new-found wealth.

Before the end of the year, in the middle of this gold filed, the first town in the East Kootenay was flourishing. It was named Fisherville after Jack Fisher, a leader of one of the first groups of miners in the area.

By the end of 1864, Fisherville boasted 6 general stores, 4 saloons, a number of restaurants that also sold liquor, a brewery and hundreds of miners shacks and tents.



Legend

1. Wild Horse Graveyard
 2. Route of last miles of the Dewdney Trail
 3. Chinese burial ground
 4. Trail to Walker's grave along Victoria Ditch
 5. Walker's grave
 6. Site of Griffith's store, home, orchard and Wild Horse Post Office.
 7. Site of Fisherville, the first town in the East Kootenays 1864-65
 8. Site of Kootenay Post Office and Gold Commissioner's office until 1888
 9. Remains of old flume
 10. Lookout over hydraulic workings
 11. Fireplace of Drayton's summer home 1930
 12. Kootenay King mine mill 1940
- P Limited parking

-  Main Logging Road
-  Road suitable for cars
-  Road suitable for pickup trucks/4wd
-  Walking trails
-  Suggested route for a walk through the historic sites, starting from Wild Horse Cemetery