

# Indians Found Forge Pond A Rallying Ground

BY GORDON B SEAVEY

WESTFORD — More bits of history of old Westford are being offered by the town Bicentennial Committee.

For over three centuries it has been recorded that there has been good fishing in Forge Pond, starting with Old Andrew, the Indian who had his "warre (weir) at the outlet at the head of Stony Brook.

The late George W. "Billy" Goode, an ardent sportsman, wrote 40 years ago about the virtues of the pond as a mecca for fishermen. He delighted in pointing out two spots on the eastern shore where the Indians were supposed to have baked their catch in small pockets dug into the banks.

And it is regretted that the Indian name for the 2-2-acre

body of water was never preserved. The term "Lake Matawanakee" is something an overzealous real estate developer concocted. It has absolutely no meaning.

According to Jerry Gingras, when the pond was opened for ice fishing in the 1920's, pickerel nearly 30 inches in length was common. With the aid of the Westford Sportsman Club, the pond now has a goodly supply of small and large-mouth bass. One weighing 7 1/2 lbs. was caught this spring.

And did you know that Boston Road was once known as School Street? This was because Tadmuck No. 1, located near the common, was built in 1874 on this thoroughfare. It is now the home of the Tadmuck Club.