

# Westford wanderings

By Gordon B. Seavey

**WHAT A CATCH!** - It was a big day Sunday for a group of local fisherman, who snared 900 lb. blue fin tuna while aboard the Eloise out of Newburyport. It took over an hour for the group fishing with hand lines, to bring the beauty aboard.

More used to fishing in nearby Forge Pond, the group had gone to sea, hoping to catch a sizeable mess of haddock and cod. All long-time buddies, the aggregation included Postmaster Bob Connell, Bob and Brian Fitzpatrick, Lionel Ricard, Jim Brown and Roger Godfroy.

As proof of their catch, the fishermen brought home the tail piece; the rest of the booty was by rule the property of the skipper, who later sold it ashore for freezing, later to be sent to Japan.

**BIG TREES** - At Westford Center, there is a group of trees of an unusual nature, because of the uncommon species and size. These were planted long ago when the Abbot estate enjoyed a prominent spot at the head of the Common. Now it is the location surrounding the post office building.

Of particular interest there are giants, a ginkgo, a cottonwood or poplar and a horse chestnut. The latter should be of special interest to the young folk, for it is now spewing its fall supply of nuts (seeds) which in some way

resemble a chestnut in color but has a scar which might be taken for a horse's hoof. These large seeds have been living in a spiny, large capsule which is now just opening as fall approaches.

Youngsters liked to pierce this rather large nut, insert a string through the hole, and tying a knot. This would become a simple toy, to be swung around one's head and let fly. Aim and distance was the object.

We were told that the white flesh of the nut was poisonous, but the Indians knew how to prepare the starchy seeds for food by roasting and washing them thoroughly to remove this danger. We never tried it.

**MORE WATER PRESSURE:** Residents along upper Depot Street and the Beaver Dam Drive area are finding that their lawn hoses are pushing out more water than usual. A defective gate valve at about 16 Depot Street has been replaced by the Water Department, bringing the pressure back to normal.

**RESURFACED PATHS** In Fairview Cemetery, work done by the Highway Department have greatly increased the appearance of this three-century old "burying ground." With excellent growing weather and under the care and critical eye of Superintendent Wilfred J. Toussignant, the town's cemeteries have never looked better.