



fishing is great because of the sandy bottom. New Hampshire and Massachusetts both stock the river with trout and other fish. It is easy for fishermen and insects to get their limit in no time.

In the spring the Nissitissit Land Trust clears out the fallen trees for the canoist. The Trust also sponsors many canoe trips down the river. Eldo Fessenden of Brookline, New Hampshire remembers sitting on the bridge by his house one time for half an hour and counted 21 canoes on one of the trips. They also organize a winter snowshoe hike along the river, on the ice or along a tributary brook. The local people also snowshoe, cross country ski, hike, and canoe the river on their own. On hot summer days the deep pools are used for swimming.

#### **Swimming Hole Lot**

We talked to Eldo Fessenden, who has lived along the Nissitissit River for over 80 years, about the river: "Well it means more to me than it does to the average person. Course I'm so darn old I learned to swim up there. We used to use it, well we would go up to the lake (Lake Potanipo) every once in awhile. Stick

*Above: First dam on the river in Pepperell, Mass. near Route 111.*



a hand in. We hit the swimming hole though, pretty often. Had a lot of fun. Right into the deep part of the swimming hole we use to rig a diving board there. It's pretty . . . well right now there ought to be seven or eight feet of water in the deep spot there.

"For awhile the lake got pretty well closed in with No Trespassing signs. You know there was a period when it was difficult for town folk to find a place to go swimming. So, well I have 3½ acres on the river, I call it my swimming hole lot. So, I don't have to ask someone's permission to go down to the swimming hole and so I tell the boys, be my guest when they can't get into the lake because of these No Trespassing signs. I don't put up any. I would put up Welcome signs instead of No Trespassing. I go fishing down there a lot and all over my land. I have fun and don't get tired of it."

#### **Taxes**

Trescott Abele's first experience with the Nissitissit River was when he was chairman of the tax assessors in Pepperell. "I suggested to my colleagues that there were summer camps along the Nissitissit River that were pretty hard to get at wading in through the snow when we assess in March.

"I suggested why not assess them by canoe, and these fellows were ten years older than I was. So along in March when the snow first started to melt we put in up there at West Hollis and started down. We got along fine the first mile or so, then we came around a sharp corner and just as we came around the corner