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Japan Screen Topics

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BONSAI-MINIATURE TREES

89 feet 2 min. 28 sec.

1. TREE BEING WATERED (3 feet - 20 feet)

The popularity of bonsai appears to be ever growing. The gentle hobby of cultivating dwarf trees and tiny forests is said to date as far back as the 11th Century among the Japanese people.

Bonsai is a profession for some people like this specialist in Omiya City near Tokyo, where many bonsai nurseries are concentrated.

For very many other Japanese... including large numbers of young people... bonsai is a fascinating hobby.

In recent years, the bonsai art has also won a host of new followers in America and Europe.

2. EXHIBIT HALL (20 - 33)

This exhibit of some of Japan's finest bonsai specimens was held recently in Tokyo. It commemorated the 50th year of the reign of His Majesty The Emperor.

At first glance, this looks like a natural forest of Japanese cypress trees. Actually, they are miniturized bonsai, a little more than seven years old.

3. SUGI BONSAI (33 - 40)

Here's a bonsai specimen of a sugi, the largest tree that grows in Japan. Its English name is cryptomeria. This one is 25 years old. A bonsai master limited its size by clipping the roots.

4. SINGLE MATSU (40 - 47)

An Ezo Matsu... a species of Japanese pine. A bonsai expert has trained it to grow in esthetic harmony with a rock.

5. BRANCH OF PINE (47 - 55)

This bonsai features a Goyo pine. It won the Prime Minister's Prize as the outstanding entry in the exhibit.

6. WHITE TRUNK (55 - 61)

Another pine... the tree is a century old but only 80 centimeters tall.

7. RECTANGULAR POT (61 - 68)

By guiding the tree's branches with wires as it grows, its shape can be controlled. This vine-like bonsai is 150 years old. Some bonsai have lived up to 600 years.

8. PLUM (PINK AND BLACK) (68 - 79)

Here's a bonsai specimen shaped from a Japanese flowering plum tree. A gifted artist laid out its pattern of future growth 100 years ago.

9. HOLLY (UMEMODOKI) (79 - 89)

Many kinds of berry trees also lend themselves to bonsai cultivation.

A Japanese hobby that originated centuries ago is more popular than ever today and charms garden lovers all over the world.

SUPER TRAIN OF THE '80S

56 feet 1 min. 33 sec.

1. MODEL (3 feet - 21 feet)

An entirely new kind of train without wheels designed to run at speeds up to 300 kilometers an hour is being developed by Japan Air Lines.

The aim is to crack one of the biggest bottlenecks of modern air travel... the time lost by travelers from central cities to outlying airports.

Powerful magnets suspend the train cars two centimeters above track level, eliminating friction. A linear electric motor provides the forward thrust.

Japan Air Lines engineers call the project HSST... the initials for High Speed Surface Transport.

2. TEST TRACK (21 - 33)

The prototype of the HSST train now is undergoing tests on a 190-meter track near Yokohama.

Passengers could be whisked the 17 kilometers from Tokyo international airport at Haneda to the center of the city in four minutes.

3. HANDS ON CONTROLS (33 - 53)

The HSST train is easy to operate. With a flick of the controls the engineer turns on the magnets that raise the car from the tracks, and awaits the dispatcher's signal to go.

The prototype begins a run down the test track in a recent display for newsmen. Reporters were astonished to find that at a distance of only 25 meters the train's motor could not be heard.

The HSST creates no exhaust nor any other form of air pollution.

Tests with this prototype will be completed in 1976. Then may come tests with a larger HSST car over a longer track.

Japan Air Lines engineers say HSST trains could be operated at a fraction of the cost of contemporary electric trains.

4. ELEVATED MODEL (53 - 56)

With HSST, Japan's engineers tackle the challenge of upgrading urban trains for the 1980s.

SNOW SCULPTURE OF SAPPORO

73 feet 2 min. 02 sec.

1. CARVING STATUES (3 feet - 9 feet)

Children in cold places everywhere build snowmen. On Japan's northern island of Hokkaido, snowmen are for grownups, too. Here the winters are long and snow is plentiful. It becomes a medium for amateur artists.

2. SHOVEL SNOW (9 - 13)

Snow sculptures highlight the winter festival at Sapporo, Hokkaido's capital. Sprayed with water, the snow quickly turns to a sticky slush with which the various forms are outlined. Then, with tools, the fine details are carved.

This year many of the sculptures have American themes, a tribute to the United States Bicentennial.

3. U.S. SERVICEMEN (13 - 24)

The American eagle, carved by United States servicemen stationed in Japan.

4. BEARDED MAN (24 - 33)

Nowdays many foreigners living in Japan have come to take part in shaping their own sculptures, like this Australian artist.

(Indonesian) Indonesia is represented.

(Canadians) Canada, itself a land of snow, also has a team taking part.

5. SAPPORO STREET (33 - 51)

The last chips of ice fall from the statues and Sapporo is ready for the snow festival.

Today, it's a little hard to tell Sapporo from Washington D.C. The American capitol is the centerpiece of a Bicentennial exhibit carved by Japanese servicemen.

(Sitting man) George Washington; the first American president, and the White House as it stands today.

6. DRAGON GATE (51 - 57)

The Gate of the Dragon, which stood under the sea in the old fairy story of Urashima Taro, a Japanese Rip van Winkle.

7. KABUKI SCENE (57 - 73)

Tugging an elephant... an episode from a play in Japan's Kabuki theater.

(Slides) Ice also makes excellent playground slides. The children enjoying this one are called unidentified flying objects... or UFOs.

(Night) Sapporo's icy sculptures are just as beautiful at night as by daylight.

Japan's northern island exploits its winter weather to offer a civic festival attracting thousands of visitors.