

# PBA NEWSLETTER

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## TREE OF THE MONTH

### Shimpaku (木會木白)

シシパク

by Jules Koetsch

Shimpaku is a favorite bonsai material of the Japanese. According to the author of the Japanese article from which much of this was copied and which appeared in "Preparation of Pines and Conifers With Illustrated Explanatory Notes": "Shimpaku is, above all, considered to be the 'gold and silver' material of the Bonsai World". Its delicate foliage, when mature, is scale-like - contrary to the spinelike leaves found on other mature junipers such as the San Jose and the Robusta Green. (Note that most junipers have an adult as well as a juvenile growth form; the shimpaku's adult form merely starts much earlier and is more complete than the others.)

The shimpaku is rarely found in nurseries in this country; when it is, it is usually found under the name "Shimpaku juniper", and not under its technically correct name "Sargent's juniper", which, in this country, seem to be reserved for other forms of Chinese juniper. The shimpaku, *Juniperus chinensis Sargentii*, has color variance from a deep green to a bluish-green to a whitish color, but the latter cultivars are rare.

As many a bonsaiist knows, the Japanese bonsaiists in California graft the shimpaku branches to California junipers collected in the wild. Thereby they create the beautiful 'sharikan', or peeled bark trunk, junipers which are sold for \$1000 or more.

Here are some cultural suggestions:  
Fertilizing: see the "tree of the month" articles on Hinoki in the November 1978 PBA newsletter. If you don't have a copy, the PBA library does.

The only additional comment is that Jerry Stowell, in his "The Beginner's Guide to American Bonsai, in listing recommended soil pH's, or acidity level, suggests a pH range of 4.5 to 5.5 for most conifers.

Exposure: full sun all day is the recommended exposure. However, I've watched my junipers bravely survive under full shade. Currently I'm trying to decrease the amount of shade.

Styling: The following illustrations are taken from the above mentioned Japanese publication and depict the styling of a shimpaku. Note that the process takes a minimum of three years. The most probable way you'll acquire a shimpaku is at a nursery in a plastic

text continued on page 6

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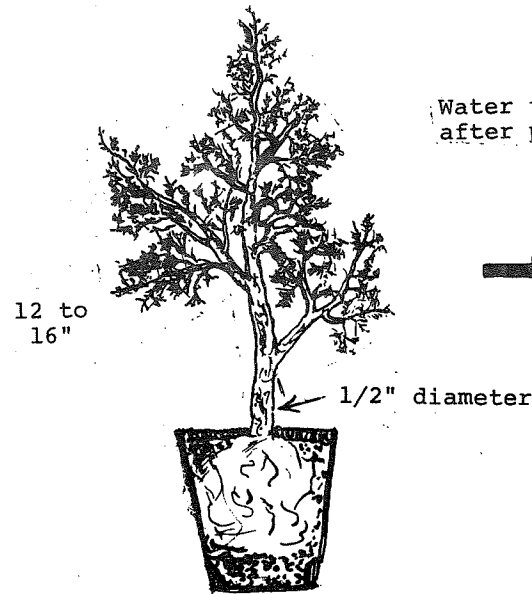
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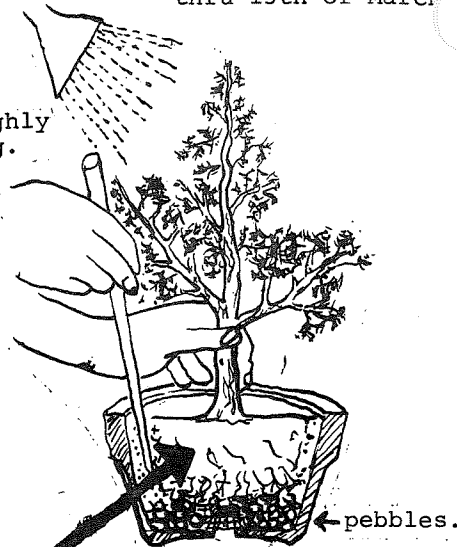
# FIRST YEAR

Purchase material between 10th and 15th Days of March.



Water thoroughly after potting.

Potting during 10th thru 15th of March



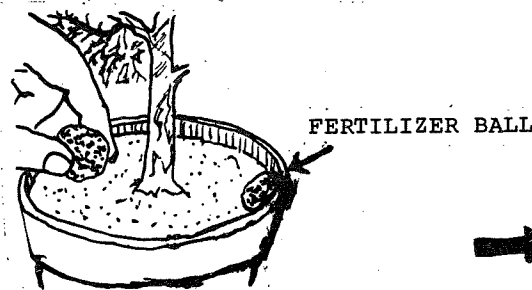
7 parts Terra-green  
3 parts grower (chicken) grit.

Purchase 3 to 5 year old tree with an upright trunk and many branches

Use an inexpensive pot. Pot with the soil-surface below the rim of the pot so that during watering there will be no run off.

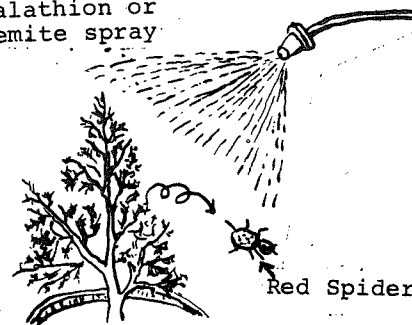
Apply fertilizer April, July, October, during first 10 days of month.

PEST CONTROL April to August



FERTILIZER BALL

Malathion or Demite spray

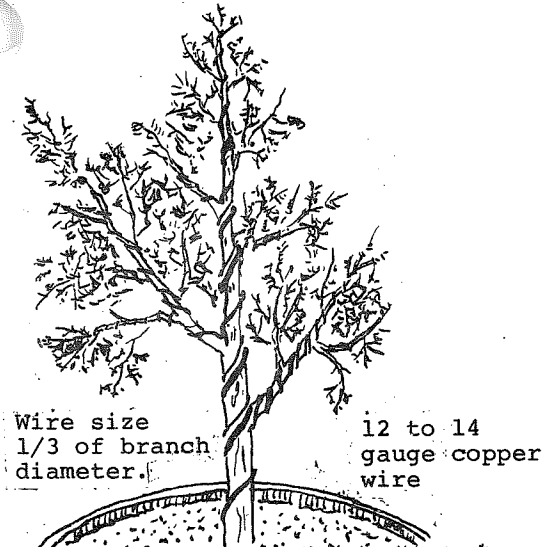


Red Spider

Polish pot with vegetable oil during first 10 days of April, July, October. Water when face of soil appears dry. Standard is to let pot lose about 70% of water.

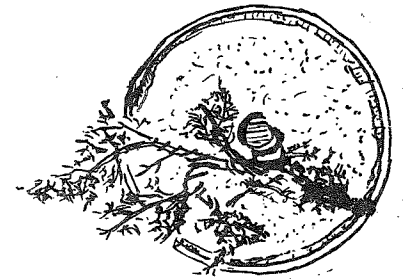
Spray thoroughly with half-strength solution once in Mid-May, mid-July and mid-August.

Leave wire on tree October to March.

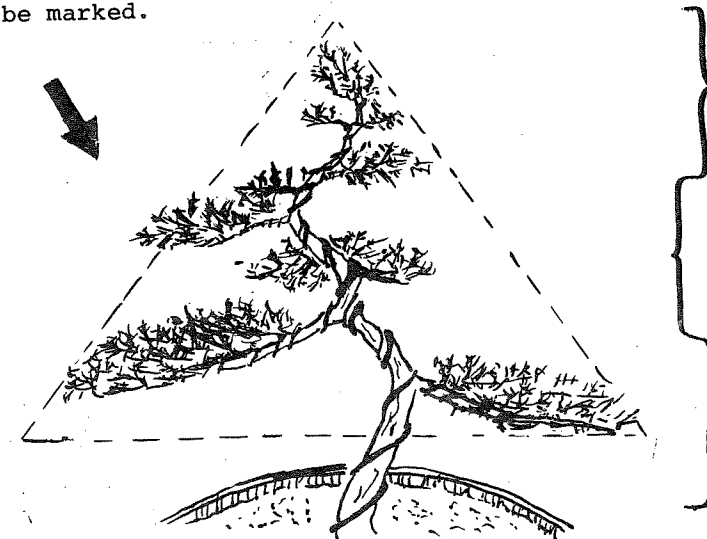


Wire branches and trunk. Wire is on tree from October to March so that bark will not be marked.

Pot



Top view of pot, trunk branches and wiring.



upper third

middle third

lower third

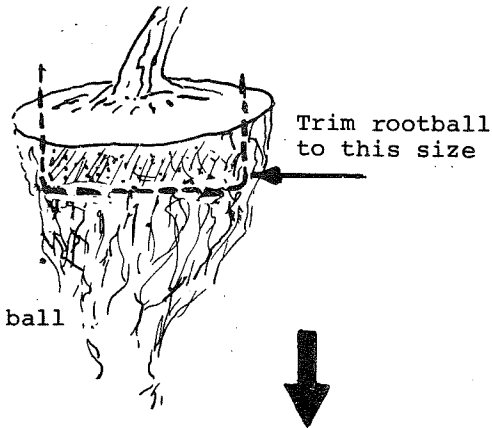
SHAPING OF TREE

The upper third branches are angled slightly upward--the middle branched are horizontal, and the lower branches are slanting downward.

## SECOND YEAR

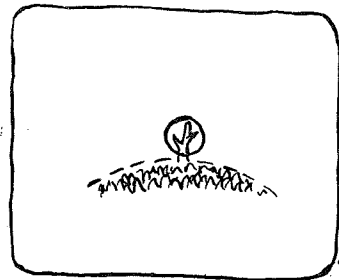
Repot last  
10 days of March

Pluck sprouts  
May to October

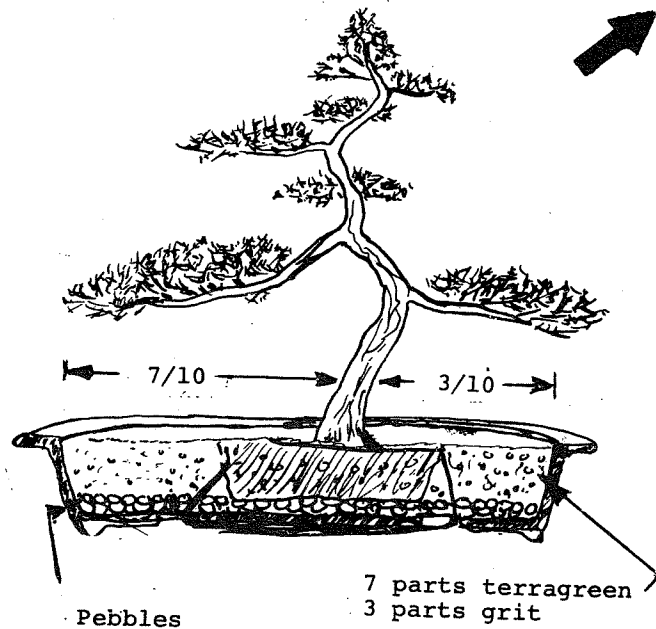


Root ball

Do not pluck sprouts  
with single shoots.  
Pluck sprouts with  
two shoots.



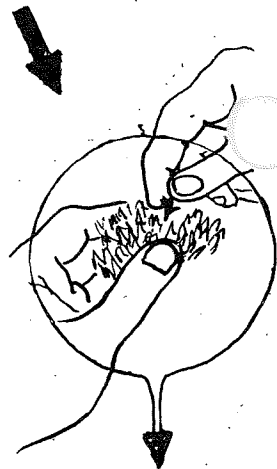
Pluck sprouts so that  
the foliage surface  
makes a smooth arc.



Pebbles

7 parts terragreen  
3 parts grit

Use a medium-depth, oval pot

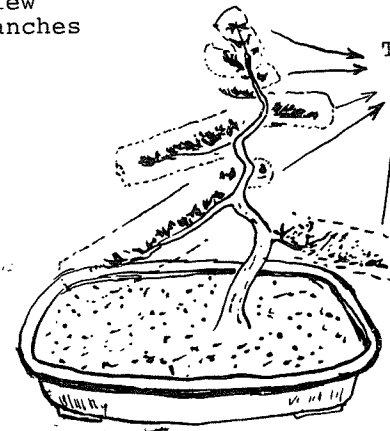


Pluck sprouts with  
fingers and do not  
cut them

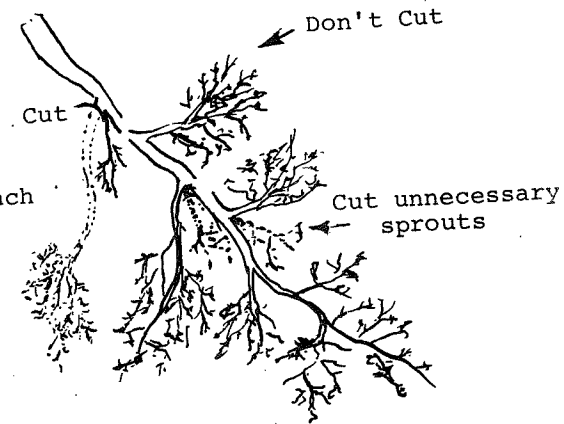
## THIRD YEAR

Control Sprouts  
May thru October

Side view  
of branches



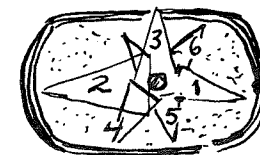
Top View  
of a branch



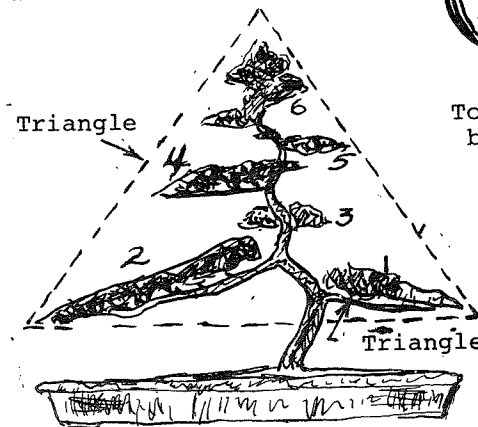
Remove the unnecessary  
sprouts so that the  
branches/leaves don't  
resemble a cryptomeria

## FOURTH YEAR

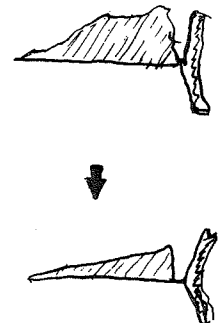
COMPLETING THE EFFORT



Top view of ideal  
branch placement



Grow the tree and  
branches to a tri-  
angular pattern.



Branch Trimming-  
endeavor to pinch out  
weak sprouts of Summer  
growth to develop thinner  
triangle

Shimpaku text, continued from page 1

container. I prefer to repot the plants from plastic pots to slightly larger clay or plastic pots so that a drainage layer of pebbles can be placed in the bottom of the pot. Also the nursery soil has such poor drainage characteristics that placing soil with better drainage around the root ball should help overall growth as well.

SHIMPAKU  
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

PERIOD OF MONTH	FIRST YEAR	SECOND YEAR	THIRD YEAR
March 10-20	Purchase shimpaku; prepare pot; place outdoors.		
March 20-31		repot; place outdoors.	place outdoors.
April 1-10	Apply fertilizer	apply fertilizer	apply fertilizer
May 1-10		commence pruning	commence pruning
May 10-20	Apply insecticide	apply insecticide	apply insecticide
July 1-10	Apply fertilizer	apply fertilizer	apply fertilizer
July 10-20	Apply insecticide	apply insecticide	apply insecticide
August 10-20	Apply insecticide	apply insecticide	apply insecticide
Oct. 1-10	Apply fertilizer	apply fertilizer; finish pruning; wire	apply fertilizer; finish pruning; wire
Oct. 10-20	Wire		
Dec. 1-10	Winterize	winterize	winterize

For the fourth and subsequent years, repeat the third year's schedule. Repot every third year.

PRIMARY SECONDARIES

by Tory Pottberg

(Ed. note - As a continuation of her article in the June newsletter, Tory Pottberg has begun writing out a list of secondaries which would be especially useful and complimentary to the Tree of the Month. This month the Tree of the Month is Shimpaku and Tory's list is found below.)


PUSSY TOES	ANTENNARIA NEGLECTA	3" - 6"
WILD COLUMBINE	AQUILEGIA CANADENSIS	1' - 2'
ASTER	ASTER LINARIIFOLIUS	6" - 18"
BEARBERRY	ARCTOSTAPHYLLOS UVA-URSI	trailing 3"
MOUNTAIN SANDWORT	ARENARIA GROENLANDICA	2" - 5"
WINTERGREEN	GAULTHERIA PROCUMBENS	2" - 5"
DWARF BAMBOO	SASA PYGMAEA	3" - 18"
VARIEGATED BAMBOO	SASA VARIEGATA	6" - 24"
EARLY SAXIFRAGE	SAXIFRAGA VIRGINIENSIS	4" - 12"
GOLDEN FERN	SELAGINELLA CAULESCENS	2" - 8"
MT. GOLDEN ROD	SOLIDAGO CUTLERI	2" - 12"
EARLY GOLDEN ROD	SOLIDAGO JUNCEA	18" - 4'

WORLD'S LARGEST SPECIES  
OF TREES

Do you know which species of trees outnumber all the others in the world? This question even stumps the experts who may hazard a guess that it's pinus (pine) or acer (maple) or quercus (oak), etcetera. People in the know around the world can give you the answer when asked, "What is that tree?" Actually you should have encountered it on past collecting trips when someone has identified a tree for you as the "donazemi" which in Japanese can be recognized

as: ドンアゼミ

Note: "Donazemi" has a long form "Don't ask me".



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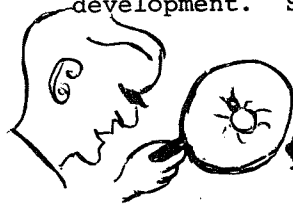
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Do you have a bonsai or two on which you would like a second opinion? Would you like a photograph of that same tree(s)? Well, pack a lunch (beverages will be provided) and bring your trees (limit 3) to the first annual spring critique and photographic session at the National Arboretum on August 11, 1979, 10:00 AM to (if necessary) 4:00PM.

A panel of styling experts (Cliff Pottberg and Richard Meszler had already agreed at press time, and others have indicated an interest), and photographers Morse, Morell and Clark from the PBA newsletter photography staff will be in attendance to lead a discussion, give written helpful hints, and a photographic record of your tree(s) taken in a formal classic display environment. The audience's participation will be encouraged and styling tips will fill the air.

This affair, which we hope will become an annual event, was originally planned for spring, but PBA has had such a busy spring, that it was moved forward to this time. Its purpose is to give PBA members an annual pictorial and written progress record of their bonsai's development. Perhaps more properly called a "tree analysis session", the program will emphasize constructive comments and ideas to aid the tree's development. See you there.



## SPIDER MITES

Readers may remember that a call went out last month requesting a cure for spider mites. Fortunately someone was listening. Charles Staines, head of the Baltimore County nursery inspection division of the Maryland Department of Agriculture, and a subscriber to the Newsletter, gave us the complete answer:

In this area there are three common species of spider mite: the twospotted mite (Tetranychus urticae) - yellowish body color with two reddish spots; the Southern red spider mite (Oligonychus ilicis) - red body color; and the spruce spider mite (O. ununguis) - dark green to black in body color. The southern red and two spotted mites attack most deciduous plants while the spruce spider mite attacks most conifers.

Chemical control of these pests is possible with kelthane, morestan, or cygon. Be sure to check the label before applying these chemicals. None of these materials totally-eliminate the mites, there will always be a few individuals which are not killed so repeat applications are necessary.

Washing plants with water tends to wash the adult and immature mites off the plant but the eggs are not affected, yielding another population build-up in about a month.

There are several groups in California which sell predacious mites which feed on these three mites. I don't have the addresses but watch Organic Gardening for their ads. One caution if you wish to go this route - be very careful using any pesticide around the plants after releasing the predators. These mites are very sensitive to many chemicals and can be wiped out very easily.

### NEWSLETTER ORGANIZATION STILL CHANGING

Under the direction of Jules Koetsch, more changes in the Newsletter are being undertaken. One of the large changes to date is the development of a large staff of people to work on the Newsletter. An art and photography staff are being developed also.

The new lower cost format continues to bring cost benefits and allows further changes. The new format is similar to the one used in PBA's early years when Jim Newton was editor. Now, enough monies are being saved to reinstitute photography in the Newsletter. Also, the Newsletter can institute expanded coverage when desired or necessary without going over budget.

As much more can be done as there are volunteers to do, so the editor would be glad to hear from any interested members.

Further expansion is planned, including:

- A series of articles covering both (or all) sides of controversial questions, done by 2 (or more) people;
- Frequent, or even regular, photographic essays;
- A special Symposium Issue in October;
- Reprints being made available in booklet form of the earlier "Tree of the Month" Articles;
- More news coverage, including notice of events related to, but not directly involved with, bonsai in this area.

Even if you cannot volunteer your time, your editor would like to hear what you think of the proposed changes. For example, what about the format: is it easy enough to read? Is it interesting? Are we overlooking something? What other articles should be being written? In short, what do you want your Newsletter to be?

**DO YOU KNOW?**



If your water is sweetened? Bob Dreschler observed that the water used for the National Bonsai Collection has recently been indicating a pH of 8.0 which is in the alkaline range. In the Washington, D.C., water system, they add lime to the finished water to "sweeten" it. Bob prefers water at the neutral pH of 7.0. To achieve this he puts spagnum moss into chozubachis (water-basins) to decrease the pH.

Other water districts report the following: Potomac (Montgomery) pH of 7.7, Patuxent (Prince Georges) 8 to 8.5 and Occoquan (Northern Virginia) 7.5 to 8.0.

Harvey Everett

# CLUB CALENDAR

- August 2, 3&4 Seventh Annual Metropolitan Horticultural Show at Tyson's Corner Shopping Mall, McLean, Virginia. Many horticultural displays, including bonsai.
- August 11 PBA annual "spring" meeting (see article on p. 8). Tree analysis and photography session. National Arboretum, from 10 A.M. until (if needed) 4 P.M.
- NOTE-** Since Northern Virginia's meeting was originally scheduled for the same time, and included a tree critique and general discussion of members' better trees, it was decided to combine Northern Virginia's meeting with PBA's. Members should bring trees they are interested in displaying in Northern Virginia's later Fall exhibition. Northern Virginia members also have the option of having pictures taken of their trees as the beginning of an annual record and their trees critiqued if desired. How to groom trees for a show will also be discussed. Members without trees to bring and beginners are also encouraged to come; this will be an excellent opportunity to learn. P. B. A. and NORTHERN VIRGINIA
- August 14 Tuesday The regular meeting for August for the Annapolis Club has been canceled. ANNAPOLIS
- August 19 Sunday Charter tree workshop: Tree of the Year, using Shimpaku juniper (see this month's "Tree of the Month" article on p.1). Members are reminded to bring any prior Charter trees they may still have, and requested to bring good examples of junipers (any variety), in training or finished bonsai. 3 P.M. at Cylburn Park BALTIMORE
- August The Brookside Gardens Club will not hold a meeting during August BROOKSIDE
- August members will be alerted about time, place and subject matter of the August meeting. WASHINGTON
- August MEMBERS WILL BE ALER members will be alerted about time, place and subject matter of the August meeting. KIYOMIZU
- September 8 Saturday Lecture, discussion and workshop of root-over and root-on rock styles, by Cliff Pottberg. Bring your rocks or slabs and plant material. Meeting place to be announced ANNAPOLIS
- September 8 Saturday Refer to Aug. 11 above. Outdoor display/show of members' trees, open to the public, at Gulf Branch Nature Center at 10 A.M. Rain date is 15 Sept. NORTHERN VIRG.
- September 16 Sunday A three ring circus: 3 people will be styling 3 pieces of material at the same time. 3 P.M. Cylburn. BALTIMORE
- September Sat. & Sun. Date to be announced. Bonsai exhibition by Brookside at the Brookside Botanic Gardens. BROOKSIDE
- October 6&7 Sat. & Sun. ANNUAL FALL SYMPOSIUM OF PBA. Dates were announced incorrectly in last month's calendar. P. B. A.

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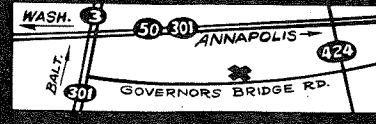
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