

1995 PBA FALL SYMPOSIUM

OCTOBER 7th and 8th

AT THE WILDLIFE FEDERATION IN TYSON VIRGINIA

For only \$50.00 you can enjoy the PBA Fall Symposium at the National Wildlife Federation in Tyson's Corner, VA. This is the most reasonable price in the USA. If you need a break, you can walk the beautiful grounds. If you want your spouse or friends to come along, and they are not interested in bonsai, they can spend days in the Tyson's Corner area finding things to do. Within 10 minutes of the symposium and the hotel there are great restaurants, shopping, movie theaters, and other entertainments.

There will be lectures, workshops and tree critiques. Arschel's workshop will feature dwarf Norway Spruce 12"-18" tall in 2-gal-

lon containers. Steve's workshop will use Japanese Black Pines selected by Steve. PBA will furnish wire for the workshops.

You bring your tools. The beginner's workshop will furnish tree, pot, wire, and soil, and you bring tools if you have them.

There will be 5-7 vendors there. This is one of the best times to purchase tools, pots, and the tree you just cannot live without.

The Comfort Inn will be providing rooms to PBA registrants either a double or a single for only \$59.00. This price also includes breakfast. WOW, what a deal. So bring the whole family and make a weekend of it.

This is a fun time to get with your fellow bonsaiists to learn, listen and maybe get a few tips that will be just the thing to fix that one problem branch that just won't do.

So Come One, Come All to Share the Experience.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS:

PBA Member Clubs/Societies: Annual subscription is included in the membership dues paid to the PBA Club or Society of your choice. Telephone numbers of points of contact for information about any member club or society and its annual dues, are listed on the last page of this newsletter.

NON-MEMBER SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Individuals residing within the Baltimore, Washington, D.C., Philadelphia or Richmond metropolitan areas are encouraged to become members of a club to receive the newsletter. Annual subscription for 12 issues of the PBA Clippings only is US \$15.00 (US \$35 for International Mail) which should be made payable to the Potomac Bonsai Association and sent to Jeff Stephanic, 1305 Bayliss Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302.

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Please send ad copy/articles to the editor: J. F. Koetsch, 6709 Caneel Ct., Springfield, VA 22152; (703) 569-9378.

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FROM THE EDITOR:

For a time, it seemed everyone I talked to had spent some part of their life either visiting or living in Colorado. Last July, my wife and I finally spent 12 days in Colorado. The first week involved going to and coming from a cabin that was situated slightly above 10,000 feet elevation. Our hostess had a pocket-sized booklet with the title "ROCKY MOUNTAIN TREE FINDER a pocket manual for identifying Rocky Mountain Trees" by Mr. Tom Watts. This booklet informed me that the cabin was on the upper edge of the Montane Zone and just below the Subalpine Zone. In other words, we were damn close to the tree line. According to the booklet, spruces and firs lived at these elevations in these parts (e.g., Douglas fir, Engelmann spruce and Subalpine fir). Furthermore, the booklet provided clues for identifying these trees, my experience being limited to deciduous trees (such as the Sycamore growing up through the sidewalk in front of my boyhood home in Brooklyn, and the oaks, maples, and the like needed to pass Boy Scout tests). The breathtaking view from the cabin overlooked the Sangre de Cristo Range (Blood of Christ) so named by the Spanish explorers because the mountains glowed red in the sunset. There was an endless expanse of conifers, and I kept thinking that somewhere out there must be a good candidate for a bonsai. So I brushed up on tree recognition. One of the other house guests said that a ranger gave her the following maxim: Fir is friendly, spruce is piney. Needles on a fir have rounded tips, while those on a spruce are pointed. Alas, time and energy did not allow me to search out the spots where stunted trees were growing. Furthermore, I now know what is meant by Rocky Mountain high - it's the light-headed, woozy feeling and short breath one gets at altitudes above 5,000 feet. After all, combat pilots go on oxygen when they climb above 10,000 feet. *With all those trees, it seems one more or less would not make a difference. But one can argue the ethical aspects of it being wrong to take a tree from where it is growing in the wild. Conversely, when in a bonsai pot, the tree will be lavished with the best of what we see as its needs and desires. So by not collecting any trees, I consoled myself with what the American Indian might say--that the Great Spirit put the trees where they are for a specific purpose. Moving them will disturb their role in the pattern of life. But if I did take a tree from the wild, I would have to provide an offering of purple corn to the Great Spirit for the tree.* I tried tugging on a few Douglas firs that were under 12 inches high. Experienced tree collectors tell of finding weather-worn, stunted trees, each with their root mass balled in a pocket of rock. I tried wiggling the trees. They did not wiggle. Their tap roots must have driven well down into the rocky soil. Remember the name - Rocky Mountains? So much for my wimpy try at collecting. However, the scenery was so impressive that I am now looking at Toshio Kawamoto's book "Saikei: Living Landscapes in Miniature." It has the best collection of trayscapes resembling the scenes found in the mountain ranges of the West. All I need to do is find some Cryptomeria or similar trees and try to duplicate one of his trayscapes.

As a person said after a mule ride down into and up from the bottom of the Grand Canyon, "I am left with mixed feelings of tenderness and awe but they're not in the same place." As for my trip to Colorado, the feelings of tenderness and awe are in the same place.

SEPTEMBER

Meeting location and club contact number for additional information is as listed unless otherwise noted in calendar listing. A member of any one club is eligible to participate in any PBA or PBA member club event.

- BALTIMORE BONSAI CLUB**
Cylburn Arboretum, Baltimore, MD.
3rd Sunday, 1 PM
(410) 668-1868
- BOWIE BONSAI CLUB**
Bowie Community Center, Bowie, MD
Last Monday, 7 PM
(301) 350-3586
(202) 667-1016
- BROOKSIDE BONSAI SOCIETY**
North Chevy Chase Recreation Center, Chevy Chase, MD
3rd Thursday, 7:30 PM
(301) 365-7621
- GREATER PHILADELPHIA BONSAI SOCIETY**
Pennypack Watershed, Willow Grove, PA
4th Thursday, eve.
(215) 663-1678
- KIYOMIZU BONSAI CLUB**
Clearwater Nature Center, Clinton, MD
3rd Saturday, 2 PM
(301) 645-3519
- LANCASTER BONSAI SOCIETY**
Lancaster Farm and Home Center, Lancaster, PA
2nd or 3rd Wednesday, 7 PM
(717) 394-0845
- MEI-HWA PENJING SOCIETY**
(Chinese language spoken)
Bowie Community Center, Bowie, MD
2nd Sunday, 1 PM
(301) 390-6687
- NORTHERN VIRGINIA BONSAI SOCIETY**
Greenspring Horticultural Center, Annandale, VA
2nd Saturday, 10 AM
(202) 554-3045
- RICHMOND BONSAI SOCIETY**
Imperial Plaza, 1717 Bellevue Ave., Richmond, VA
4th Monday, 7 PM
(804) 353-6674
- WASHINGTON BONSAI CLUB**
U. S. National Arboretum, Washington, D.C.
3rd Saturday, 2 PM
(202) 543-7433

Organizations sponsoring regular events of interest to PBA members:

U.S. Botanical Gardens
(202) 226-4082

U.S. National Arboretum
(202) 475-4857

OCTOBER

Saturday 9
Northern Virginia Bonsai Society
PLANT SALE to be held at Green Springs Park at 10:00 am. Now is a good time of year to start thinking about winter storage.

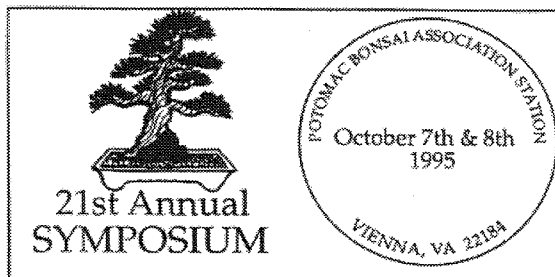
Saturday 16
Washington Bonsai Club
Bill Spencer will conduct a styling workshop focusing on trees for the 1996 Spring Show.

Sunday 24
Kiyomizu Bonsai Club.
Planting the slabs made in June. Please bring the supplies (soil, "muck," and trees). The meeting is at 10:30 am at Clearwater Nature Center.

Sunday 22
Washington Bonsai Club
Dan Chiplis on Winter preparation in the Yoshimura Center. Please note day change from Saturday to Sunday.

ETCETERA

Golden State Bonsai Federation presents "Bonsai: The Art of Dedication" on November 2-5, 1995



A contest was held to select the tree to be used on the stamp cancellation for the 21st PBA symposium. Entries were received from Janet Lanman, (Brookside), Arschel Morell, (Baltimore) and Jack Cardon, (Brookside). The judges picked the entry of Jack Cardon.

The winning tree is a Scots Pine from nursery stock purchased in 1984. The design of the cancellation was done by Steve McCarthy, (Northern Virginia) with liaison provided by Bill Merritt, (Northern Virginia).

Many thanks to all the above for making this a successful contest.

With Apologies To Sarah by Ed Zipeto

For those of us who have worked on bonsai for a considerable period of time, the experience seems to be a point of reference for everything else in our environment.

Case in point is a newborn introduced to a couple who immediately create what is now called a family. Considerable attention is now given to its root stock, including the parent plants which are more closely scrutinized than ever.

Before any re-potty training can be attempted, one must stress the style by which this child will be forever known. Feeding schedules offer no end of debate and concern.

Can we be pleased with scraggly limbs and less than a perfect form even at this tender stage? ...patience. There is time to "fill out" and develop a formal upright life-style. It just takes training...and patience.

When this living work of art is being prepared for transplant, there are various considerations which must be made. Will the right amount of mycorrhizae be found in the new community? Is there enough sunshine to sustain life even

after the move is made? Can the quantity and quality of nourishment in the formative years prove adequate enough for such a move? How is it possible to offer protection from all the aphids of the world?

This gives rise to the genetic passage of time when the parent plant has long since turned into a cascade, more out of necessity than design. Have we succeeded in leaving our message, our imprint, on this whip? Time will tell....and time to change the baby.

MONTHLY CARE TIPS FOR SEPTEMBER

Coniferous:

Check old wire or wire initially.
Prune sprouts on Hinoki Cypress and Larch.
Prune unwanted branches on Black Pine.
Repot if required: Hinoki Cypress, Blue Moss Cypress, Black Pine, Red Pine, Spruce and Yew.

Deciduous, Flowering and Fruiting:

Remove wire on Beech, Cotoneaster, Elm, Gardenia, Pomegranate, Winter Jasmine and Wisteria.
Apply insecticides where insect damage is evident.

Fertilizers: Apply at the rate one has been using but switch from a high nitrogen (N_2) to one high on Phosphorous (Ph). Remember the primary markings on a fertilizer always indicate in order the amount of N_2 , Ph, and K (Potassium). For example: Peters 5-50-17 "Root 'n' Bloom" is read as 5 parts N_2 , 50 parts Ph, and 17 parts K. The high Ph content is supposed to encourage root growth prior to winter dormancy, as opposed to N_2 which stimulates foliage, trunk and branch growth.

TREE OF THE MONTH

As you can see there is no Tree of the Month in this issue. It was the Editor's hope that the editorial which appeared in the January '95 issue of Clippings would result in a deluge of Tree of the Month articles. To date there have been 2 Tree of the Month articles submitted by

each of the following clubs: Baltimore, Brookside, Bowie, and Northern Virginia.

With 11 clubs in PBA it, seemed that if each club submitted one article per year, it would almost round out a year's worth of Tree of the Month articles. Each club displays its beauties

at the National Arboretum during the year. Certainly there's more than one specimen from those displays eligible for Tree of the Month. How about some entries from the clubs not listed above? Everyone is encouraged to submit more articles even if your club has already submitted one. The more the merrier.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

PREPARING FOR IBC '96

From the 3rd to the 7th of July 1996, the Potomac Bonsai Association will be hosting the International Convention here in Washington, DC. This will be the third time PBA has been the host club - previous years having been 1976 and 1986. However, it is the hope and expectation of your Convention Committee that 1996 will outshine our two previous efforts. To this end, we expect a great number of registrants, more vendors, an outstanding exhibit, more varied workshops, and a dazzling array of demonstrations.

An all-star cast from Japan, Europe, Great Britain, South America, and the United States has been recruited, and an exciting and fruitful time should be in store for all. In future messages, I shall go into detail about our demonstrators and some of our programs.

The success of this upcoming Convention, as with the two prior ones, depends on careful and thoughtful attention to detail - and this can only be achieved by considerable contributions of time and effort by our members. Bob Sitnick and Bill Spencer are overseeing the organization of the Convention as a whole - and many other individuals chair various committees to assure the smooth coordination of all activities. Our annual Fall Symposium for next year is being supplemented by IBC '96, so that the focus of our attention for the next ten months will be the Convention.

The planning and preparation for IBC '96 began as far back as 1991 - so, much work has already been accomplished. Much more fine tuning will be coming up, and any and all who can con-

tribute their time and effort are asked to contact Bob or Bill. For those of you who live some distance away - you too can contribute by growing fine moss for the workshops, annealing copper wire (if you can build fire), volunteering to help pack trees and pots, etc.. for our out-of-town registrants, helping with soil mixes, helping to set up and take down exhibits - and so on and on..... This is and must be a team effort as it has been in the past - and think of all the new friends and acquaintances you'll be making!

To the entire membership, keep the first week of July reserved for IBC '96 - plan on being in here in Washington - and most of all, plan on being actively involved in what should be an unforgettable experience for all.

Joseph E. Gutierrez, M.D.

Maple over rock, continued from last month

Last month the topics of how to select your tree, pot, and attach it to a rock were discussed. This month the article will cover the rest from leaf pruning to the 4th and 5th year results.

Pruning, Leaf Clipping: Once begun, fertilize once per month and water generously so that leaf clipping and pruning can be done in June to carefully maintain minuteness in the twisted branches and leaves.

Circumstances whereby pruning in March is required are the deliberate removal of one of a pair of branches to eliminate bar branching, and the removal of one of two seasons of growth.

During leaf clipping, cut every leaf from the stem as shown, if the tree is healthy. If the tree is not in good health, cut away three parts of each leaf, as shown, thereby leaving a single part. That is what leaf clipping involves.

Fertilize once per month using rape seed oil dumplings and always water adequately during summer and autumn. Stop fertilizing in the winter.

4TH - 5TH YEAR AND RESULTS

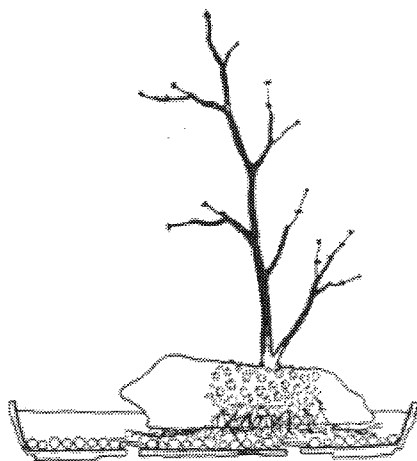
It is possible to have a tree with a satisfactory trunk, large branches, and small branches in the 4th and 5th years due to pruning between February 20th and March 10th; leaf plucking during

April - May; leaf clipping and pruning during June - July; fertilizing from April - October; and adequate watering.

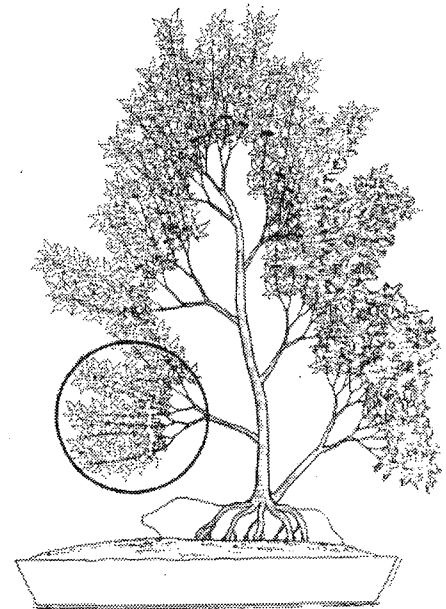
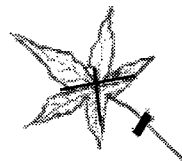
During the 6th year, the overall styling of the bonsai can be finished by following the same procedures as in the 4th and 5th years for leaf clipping and pruning.

Continue the procedures for another 4 to 5 years, during the time periods cited above, and a fine bonsai will be produced.

The above article was adapted from the Japanese article authored by Mr. Takenma Takenai which appeared in "Ways to Create Deciduous Bonsai with Illustrations."



Cut away to leave the dark branches.



Transplant in bonsai pot around March 27th. Cover the Nanking hemp with soil. The hemp will decay. Spread the moss over the top, down to the soil line in the pot.

Place on the rock a thin coat by parts of: 5 sphagnum moss, 3 red sand, 2 river sand, kneaded with water,

The potting soil mixture is: 7 parts of red clay, 3 parts of river sand, along with large red clay pellets lining the bottom of the pot for extra drainage.

If the tree is healthy, cut the leaf back to the line on the stem of the leaf. If the tree is unhealthy, cut at the line on the leaf itself.

Cut away branches leaving only 2 to 3 segments. This diagram attempts to simplify on the surface of the paper, in a single dimension, what is to be done in three dimensions.

The sprout pruning and leaf clipping is done April to June. This picture is in the 4th year.

Continued on page 11.

1995 Fall Symposium

October 7th & 8th

Tyson's Corner, Virginia

Registration Information Supplement

1995 21st Annual Potomac Bonsai Association Symposium

October 7th and 8th, 1995

National Wildlife Federation, Tysons Corner, VA

Preliminary Program:

Saturday, October 7

8:00-9:00 Registration
 8:00-5:00 Bazaar Open
 9:00-12:00 Demonstration by
 Arschel Morell and Steve Pilacik
 12:00-1:00 Lunch (included with
 registration)
 1:00-4:00 Arschel Morell and
 Steve Pilacik continue
 4:00 Raffle of demo trees

Sunday, October 8

9:00 Bazaar Opens
 9:00-11:00 Arschel Morell Tree
 Critique
 11:00-1:00 Steve Pilacik Tree
 Critique
 1:00-2:00 Lunch On Your Own
 2:00-5:30 Workshops (Extra Fee
 to participate)
 1. Beginner - Spencer
 2. Dwarf Spruce - Morell
 3. Japanese Black Pine - Pilacik

Note: Workshops require
 symposium registration.

The 1995 PBA Symposium is just that - a complete PBA event. All speakers will be PBA bonsaiists. It is going to be fun and inexpensive

EVENT.

Saturday will feature all-day lecture/demonstrations by PBA's Arschel Morell and Steve Pilacik. Arschel runs Bonsai Associates in Baltimore, MD. He will be working on a spruce which was grown from seed and is about 35 years old. Arschel says it does not look interesting, but he will make it interesting. Steve, who runs Matsu-Momiji Nursery in Philadelphia, PA, will work on two trees. First, he is going to create a 3- to 5-tree group or clump style using Japanese Black Pine. Last, he will work on one of his "finished" Japanese Black Pines. He will be doing the "fine detail" work required to achieve a quality tree.

Sunday will feature a 2-hour tree critique by Arschel, and then another 2 hours by Steve. Sunday will finish up with 3 workshops in the afternoon. The beginners workshop, will be lead by Bill Spencer, who, I have been told by more than one person, is an excellent teacher for beginners.

LOW COST.

We will keep the symposium registration fee at \$50 for the weekend. This is still the most reasonable symposium

in the USA! Workshop fees will only pay for our expenses. The fee will include coffee breaks and lunch on Saturday; and the fifth annual PBA sponsored bonsai stamp cancellation, a real collector's item.

WORKSHOPS. Arschel's workshop will feature a dwarf Norway Spruce 12"-18" tall in 2-gallon containers. Steve's workshop will use Japanese Black Pines selected by Steve. PBA will furnish wire for the workshops.

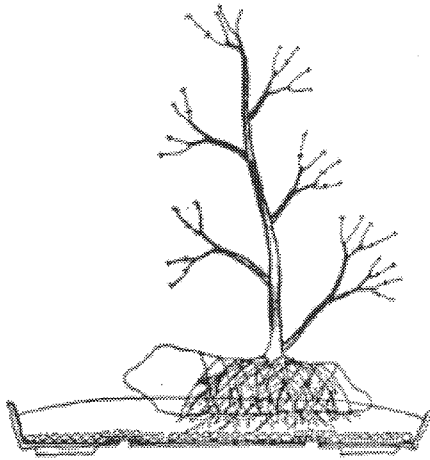
You bring your tools. The beginner's workshop will furnish tree, pot, wire, and soil, and you bring tools if you have them.

LOCATION. The symposium will be held at the National Wildlife Federation in Tyson's Corner, VA. If you need a break, you can walk the beautiful grounds. If you want your spouses or friends to come along, and they are not interested in bonsai, they can spend days in the Tyson's Corner area finding things to do. Within 10 minutes of the symposium and the hotel there are Great restaurants, shopping, movie theaters, and other entertainments.

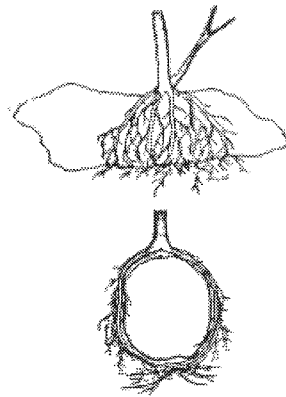
SATURDAY DINNER.

A dinner banquet (at additional charge) is being arranged. We will notify you as soon as possible, which might be after registration, if necessary.

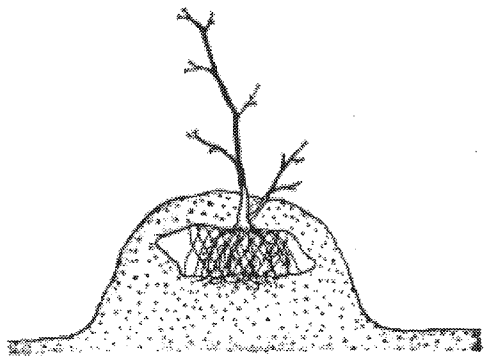
Maple over rock, continued from page 6



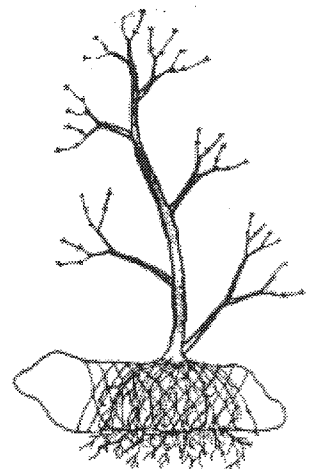
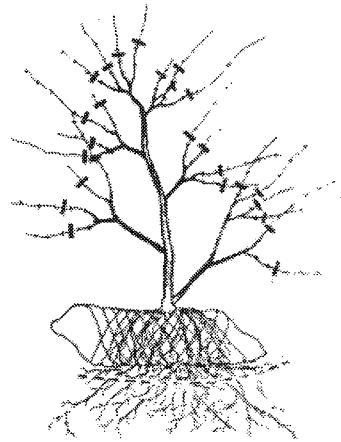
Appearance After 4th Year Pruning.



The top figure is of the front view and the bottom figure is a side view to show the roots are growing around the rock.



If you want to thicken the roots more quickly, then plant the tree attached to the rock as shown. The roots will thicken in 2 to 3 years this way--to the size it would have taken 3 to 4 years to attain if potted in a bonsai pot.



In the fourth year, the tree is ready to be planted in a bonsai pot. The tree will need to be pruned as shown. The small solid lines are for pruning the limbs, and the dotted lines show where the roots need to be trimmed. The figure on the right shows the tree after pruning, ready to be potted.

Maple Over Rock Quick Reference Guide

DATE	1st	2nd	YEAR 3rd	4th	5th
FEB. 10-20		Light pruning			
MAR. 10-20			Prune	Root prune and put in a bonsai pot.	
MAR. 20-31			Attach plant to stone. Put in Bonsai pot. OR Plant in Field & Water adequately.	Put in a bonsai pot for field grown	
APR. 1-10		Place outdoors on a shelf Start fertilizing , - apply once per month Water adequately			
JUNE	Select tree shape		Clip leaves Prune		
AUGUST	Air - layer. Cut from host if ready Pot tree and water.				
AUG. 20-31	Fertilize (begin once per month)				
OCT 20-31	Apply fertilizer for the last time.				
DEC 10-20	Protect from frost and cold				

PBA Gallery of Trees: A Blast from the Past (1973)

