

THE HISTORY OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN BONSAI SOCIETY

by Jim Robinson

I have been fortunate to have received papers about the bonsai clubs and will begin with the paper below.

Col. Robert Krueger wrote to me about how he learned about bonsai. He wrote:

"I had just retired from the US Air Force and returned from a three year tour of duty in Japan with my family. While there I had to learn Japanese as part of my duty, so I spoke Japanese. I had also studied bonsai for three years with a renowned sensai (teacher).

I learned of the Denver Bonsai Club where Japanese was the only language spoken, so I attended a number of their meetings. Ben Yamakishi was an original member of the now, Denver Bonsai Club, which was composed of 8 Japanese men. They were born in Japan, but migrated to the United States in the San Francisco area. After detention in camps during World War II in Wyoming, they became interested in our native fir, pine and juniper trees,

