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Ames Forestry Club

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The Holst State Forest

DEVELOPMENT of the Holst State Forest took a big step last spring with the reconstruction of the only road on the Tract—that leading from the gate in the southeast corner to the creek well toward the northwest corner. It was a remnant of an old logging road and was usable only in the best of weather. Its entire length, approximately $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles, is now ditched, cindered and servicable to two lane traffic except in some steeper parts near its northern limits. Two conveniently located parking areas were also cleared so that visitors can park their cars and do some exploring on foot.

Eighteen different species of coniferous trees were planted last spring ranging from native Iowa species to Swiss and Short-leaf Pine. Each species was planted in a $\frac{1}{5}$ acre plot and was part of a survival and growth experiment for the Extension Service. Owing to adverse weather conditions last spring, the mortality rate was quite high for all species except Red Pine.

With the cruise finished, Charles Barnes and Gaylord Robertson compiled the data needed for the drawing up of a management plan. This consisted of growth data and volume tallies according to species and also the complete history of the tract.

Something new was initiated on the Holst Tract this fall to discourage Christmas tree hunters who annually ruin many of our pines by cutting out the tops. By Russian pruning these pines it is hoped that they will become useless as ornaments for this purpose. Many of our Douglas Fir seedlings were lost, presumably to someone's yard, so these got the Russian pruning treatment also.

This past year the Holst State Forest Advisory Committee was under the chairmanship of Ollie Sapousek. The remainder of the committee consists of Don Clay, Senior representative; Albert Taube and Dick Posekany, Junior representatives; Floyd Lodge and Jim Dale, Sophomore representatives; and the newly elected representatives from the Freshman class are Bob Connor and Dick Chance.