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Christmas Tree Sales
by Al Wimmer

As December rolled around, preparations for the Christmas holidays, and the Forestry Club's Annual Christmas Tree Sales, were well under way. Sales started on Friday, December 5 and in just five short days, it was all over.

We purchased 407 Scotch and White pine trees, ranging from 2 to 8 feet, from Eldon and Muriel Weber's "Christmas Forest" in Genesco, Illinois. We had hoped to purchase these trees from Iowa producers, but the supplies were very limited and the demand was high. I was very pleased with the quality of the Christmas trees and I am sure this contributed to the success of the sales. A big "thanks" to the Webers for their continued support and service to our club.

The weather during the sales, as typical of this year's winter (??), was mild with an occasional rain. Hardly the type of weather to spark the Christmas spirit. However, this did not stop the people from buying or the sellers from showing up to work. All but \(\frac{1}{4}\) of one tree was sold this year. The tree had definite problems and a little "surgery" was needed. The public finally realized the tree's potential and the last tree was carried away.

As in every great event, there are moments that live in the minds of people forever. One of the more memorable moments of this year was the trip to Illinois to pick up the trees.

It started at 4:00 a.m. in the cab of Bob Collin's semi-truck and ended about 7:30 p.m. at the state nursery. Another memorable event occurred when a customer was curious about the "brown stuff" caught between the branches of a particular tree. One of the sales persons, who shall remain nameless (just ask Mike), replied that the trees had been hauled in a cattle truck. It took awhile to convince the lady that it was really just needles, cobwebs, dust, and pollen. However, she did finally buy a tree and we all had a good laugh. And finally, who will forget the night that we all went out for a lasagna dinner. The club paid $5 for each person that had contributed more than 4 hours of work as an incentive and the results were super. It was a most enjoyable evening with good food, good friends, and a few awards to recognize the people who had worked extra hard.

This was an exceptionally good year for the Forestry Club from Christmas tree sales. We recovered the largest profit since the club started selling trees and everyone who helped deserves a big pat on the back. These funds will support various club activities and scholarships for the coming year. A special thanks to all those people that pitched-in to help set up and sell trees, to Gall Hall and Bob Collins for the use of their trucks and to Jerry Grebasch for allowing us the use of the nursery's facilities for the storage of our trees. Here's to a bigger and better success for next year's sales.