

The Holst Tract

WITH THE use of much sweat and blood, and a large number of cuss words, a considerable amount of improvement has been made on the 333 acre Holst Tract.

The Holst Tract is a student managed piece of rugged, forested land a few miles north of Boone, Iowa. Forestry students provide the brain and brawn behind the project of managing this timberland.

One of the big projects during the past year was erosion control. This was a major problem along the steep and winding road, which runs through the forest. A rail retaining wall made of native wood was put along the sandy cut to catch the loose soil. Black locust trees were planted along this wall to further hold the soil. This has proven very successful. Locusts planted on a test project two years ago are already ten feet high and doing an effective job of controlling erosion.

Early in the year a promising market for railway car stakes developed. The stakes were produced from thinnings in the extensive groves of young oak. The preliminary work of cruising and marking for thinning was completed in the fall and the cutting was done during the winter, with the aid of a new 24 inch McCulloch chain saw which was recently given to the Holst Tract committee by the state conservation commission.

Much brush was cleared and burned during the winter of 1951 to provide space for a new plantation which will be planted to red pine. This planting, along with some erosion control plantings, is to be made in the spring of 1952 by the forestry planting classes.

Floyd Lodge and Hank Haskell have headed up the Holst State Forest committee during the past year. Floyd acted as chairman during the fall and winter quarters, and Hank took over in the spring.

The junior representatives on the committee are Robert Connor, in charge of maintenance, and Dick Chance, in charge of utilization. Sophomore members are Alvin Barden, responsible for protection, and Charles Miller, secretary. Lyle Jack, in charge of recreation, and Ben Jeffries, in charge of food and water, are the newly appointed freshman representatives.