

# Disturbing peace of Wild Basin

The Wild Basin Wilderness is the creation not only of nature but of thousands and thousands of Austinites and other residents. Money for its purchase has been raised in *dribblets and torrents, from school children and movers and shakers, from little people and the federal government.*

But there may be a disturbing element — noise from the nearby Loop 360, now under construction. Janet Poage, executive director of Wild Basin, has brought concern about noise pollution before the state highway commission.

Two worries were presented last Nov. 30 — the anticipated noise problem and the washing of sediment from the highway fill *into the Bee Creek bed.* The commission responded promptly to the sediment problem by having barriers built on the drainage paths for runoff. The remedy hasn't been perfect, but the effort is being made. Commissioners suggested with regard to traffic noise, that it would naturally be dissipated in the near vicinity of the loop.

Monday, Poage again approached the commission about her concern with noise. She cited some evidence there may be a problem when the loop is completed. A transportation planner has predicted noise disturbance is probable outside of the loop right-of-way and suggested a review by highway department environmental specialists. That's a sound idea.

Paving will be completed in a few months, but the bridge over the lake won't be finished for another 18 months or so. So it may be a while before studies of actual noise generated by heavy traffic can be conducted. But it is prudent to be prepared, to anticipate the problem noise might cause.