

Mount Bonnell Road Top Near Base All Fixed, Rain Now Awaited

Topping of the new Mount Bonnell road and the construction of several new scenic highways in the lake region west of Austin are improvements projected by the county commissioners' court during the fall of 1939.

The base of the Mount Bonnell road, leading from the Bull creek road to Mount Bonnell and around its eastern slope to loop into State street back into Austin has been completed, according to Commr. Warren S. Freund, but this road has not been opened to traffic. Mr. Freund said this road will be topped after several good rains have fallen on the base and give it a firm setting.

Park Improved

During the summer Mr. Freund has been supervising also the improvement of the new Mount Bonnell park atop Mount Bonnell which is within the seven-acre tract of land deeded to the county and dedicated by Frank Covert, Sr., as a park. The area, he said, has been improved with the construction of six picnic units, consisting of a barbecue pit, a table and some benches all fashioned from stone. A rock stairway has been constructed from the Mount Bonnell scenic road to the top of Mount Bonnell to provide access to the park.

Mr. Freund also revealed that the work of grading and placing caliche topping on a new road along the river from three miles east of Marshall Ford dam to the Selma Hughes and Mary Quinlan parks is now in progress and that two and one-half miles of this road have already been completed. He said this road will be about seven and one-half miles in length and about two and one-half miles will parallel the Colorado river shore line.

A crew also is now locating a new road from Cedar Park on the Burnett highway to swing in south-westerly direction to intersect an old mountain road west of Sandy creek, Mr. Freund announced. This road is being built to replace one in which a section will be inundated by the waters of Lake Travis created by the Marshall Ford dam. The lake water, he said, will back up in Sandy creek for a distance of about eight miles.

Meanwhile, Commr. John E. Shelton, Jr., in precinct 3, south and west of the Colorado river, has been planning the construction of a new scenic route which will be some seven or eight miles in length. A party on location is now busy working out the best route for the road, which is intended as a county road for the property owners in the area and at the same time a scenic loop.

Mr. Shelton said this road will leave the Bee Cave road near Beard's store and swing along the river west of the Tom Miller dam, crossing Bee creek over a proposed 160-foot bridge, and will be constructed around the canyons and lead out again on the Bee Cave road between the Rob. Roy ranch and Cedar Crest lodge.