



**The ideals and sacrifice of each person pursuing a dream inspired the works of those following in their footprints.**

The meaning of beating adversity in this barren and bypassed place is seen in the series of journeys of its everyday heroes.

**The paths of native people following the tracks of wildlife were the first routes around this bypassed place.**

Local tribes migrated on foot along their Salt Song Trail annually following a perpetual harvest of hunting and gathering.

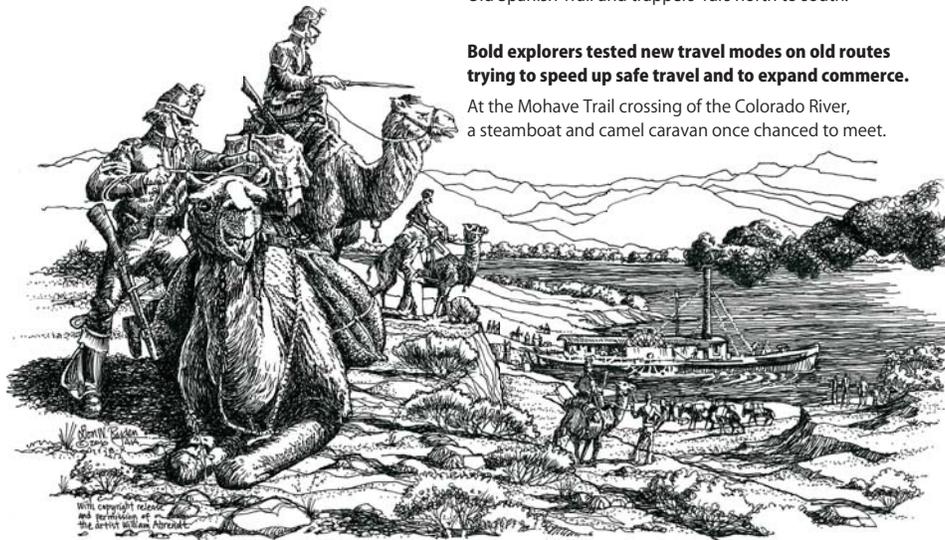
**Linking Indian paths into trails, mountain men and merchants blazed the first trade routes around this bypassed place.**

Pack trains could haul merchants' goods east to west on the Old Spanish Trail and trappers' furs north to south.

**Bold explorers tested new travel modes on old routes trying to speed up safe travel and to expand commerce.**

At the Mohave Trail crossing of the Colorado River, a steamboat and camel caravan once chanced to meet.

During 1857 and 1858 explorer Edward F. Beale led an experimental camel caravan from Texas to California to test their hardiness for Army service in the Southwest. Simultaneously, Captain George A. Johnson had been seeking the farthest navigable point on the Colorado River in his steamboat, General Jesup. At a remote crossing of the river the explorers' camels and steamboat accidentally converged on 23 January 1858 to create one of the strangest scenes in Western history.



# FOLLOW FOOTSTEPS of Everyday Heroes



**Early wagon trains and later railroad trains stopped along their routes for water at Las Vegas Springs.**

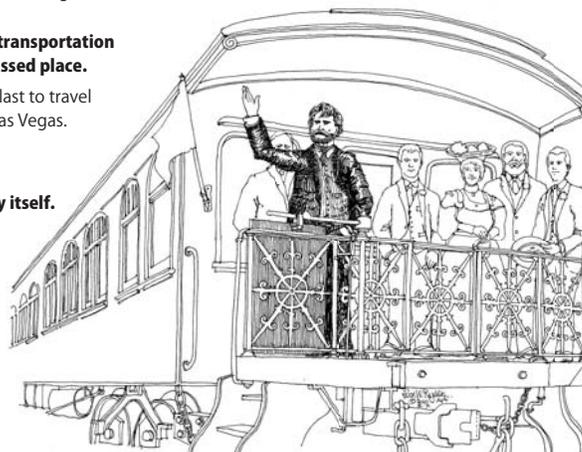
Building one upon the other, a Mormon fort, a cattle ranch, and a railroad town grew to be today's "Fabulous Las Vegas."

**The growth of Western cities and advances in transportation created the need and means to cross this bypassed place.**

In the 1930s, this bypassed place was opened at last to travel by Hoover Dam's highway and by air routes to Las Vegas.

**See how the solution to a problem may later become a challenge and opportunity itself.**

William A. Clark, senator from Montana and mining magnate, built the San Pedro, Los Angeles & Salt Lake Railroad to open new mines in Utah and to shorten the distance between his Montana mines and a seaport by 663 miles. In 1905, he founded the townsite of Las Vegas as an important stop for fuel and water for the locomotives.



In 1855, Brigham Young, president of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, sent William Bringhamurst and thirty pioneers to construct an adobe-walled fort and mission near Las Vegas Springs. The fort was meant to protect the water source and travelers along the wagon trail from Salt Lake City to Los Angeles. The Mormon fort was occupied until 1857 when the colonists were called back to Salt Lake City. The abandoned fort was adapted by Octavius D. Gass in 1865 as the Las Vegas Ranch, which was acquired and expanded by Archibald and Helen Stewart in 1880.