



DAM TRAFFIC JAM

from Bonus to Bottleneck

To those people with vision and spirit, obvious obstacles provided unseen opportunities.

Most saw an impassable canyon; a few envisioned building an impossible dam.

At last, Hoover Dam and a paved highway conquered canyon and wilderness.

The once bypassed place had become a destination.



Hoover Dam was built for water management and power generation but as a bonus provided recreation and highway transportation.

The ideas of a few visionaries and the labors of many everyday heroes created an artistic engineering landmark to serve many purposes.

Over time, highway traffic grew so great and fast that the dam crest crossing proved too narrow and slow.

At first acclaimed as a major new thoroughfare, the dam later became criticized as a bottleneck.

So the crossing that first conquered the bypassed place eventually had to be bypassed as well.

