

READING THIS BOOK MAY SAVE YOUR LIFE!



More Proficient Motorcycling
256 pages, \$24.95

David L. Hough, legendary writer of the "Proficient Motorcycling" column in Motorcycle Consumer News, publishes his third book MORE PROFICIENT MOTORCYCLING. Filled with new situations, anecdotes, and diagrams, Hough teaches riders, new and seasoned alike, how to ride their bikes safer and smarter. MORE PROFICIENT MOTORCYCLING encourages riders to use their mental and physical abilities to maneuver their bikes safely.

Also available: *Proficient Motorcycling* and *Street Strategies*.

Available wherever fine books are sold.
Motorcycle instructors and dealers receive a special discount.
Inquiries welcome. Please call 866-888-5526 for details.

BQW TIE
PRESS

Street Strategy

Wet Deserts

FOR YEARS, YOU'VE been reading about Route 66, that famous old highway that connected Chicago to Los Angeles. Finally, here you are in the deserts of California and Arizona, actually riding sections of the old road. But you're curious about so many signs warning about flooding. How can there be floods out in the desert under a bright blue sky and a blazing sun? Are these signs a joke erected by some California prankster?

But, a few miles later, as you crest a rise, you're shocked to see a brown river churning across the road ahead, 40 feet wide, and several feet deep. You get on the brakes as quickly as you can, and manage to stop with your front wheel in a few inches of muddy water. You quickly hop off to pull the bike back to dry land. You can't believe your eyes. Here's a muddy river in the desert under a blue sky, roaring along so swiftly that it would easily have carried your motorcycle away.

Those signs about flooding are no joke. Thunderstorms deluge the hardpacked earth, and the water can drain across the desert for many miles, carving channels ("washes"). It's just not practical to attempt to build bridges across all the possible washes along a secondary highway. It's much easier to simply pave across the wash, and repair or replace the road after a flash flood occurs.

You were fortunate to see the flooded wash ahead in time to stop. More than a few hapless motorists have lost their lives when vehicles have roared into flooded washes and been carried away by the surging water. When you see a sign such as "Subject To Flooding," it's smart to slow down approaching the next dip in the road, to ensure that it's still dry, even if there are no thunderclouds in sight.

