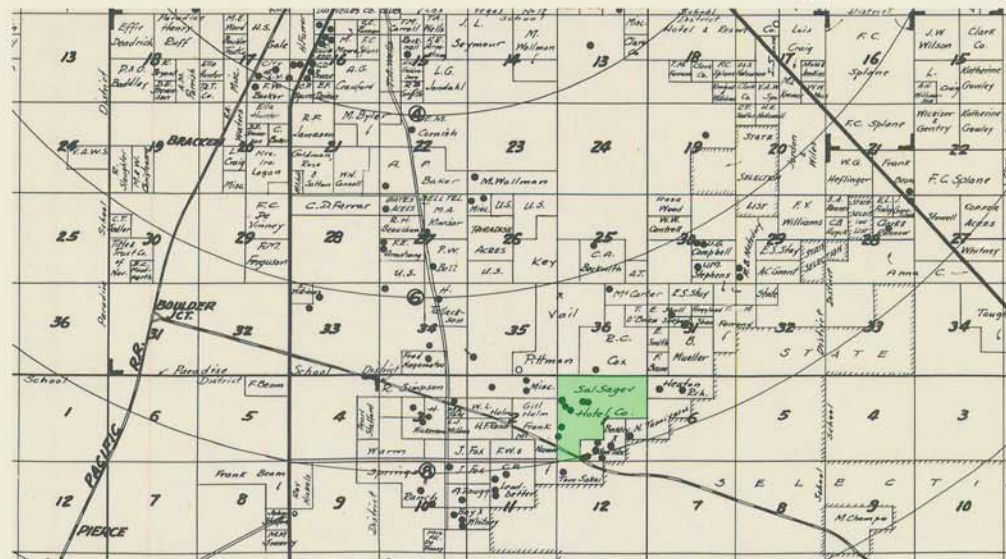


# Sunset Regional Park



Map of Las Vegas, Clark County, Nevada, compiled by C.D. Baker October 1, 1940, when John F. Miller's Sal Sage Hotel owned the ranch. The Boulder Branch Railroad crossed its south end.  
 - Special Collections, Lied Library, UNLV

## Boulder Branch Railroad

Black Canyon was a perfect site for a dam on the Colorado River. It was also deep in rugged, broken country and far from the sources of supplies and equipment needed to build the massive project. The Union Pacific Railroad took the first step in constructing Hoover Dam when it built a 19-mile long spur from its main line to the Boulder City townsite.

The track left the main line about six miles south of Las Vegas and angled across Paradise Valley to Railroad Pass. The beginning of this project was celebrated nationally and locally. Secretary of Interior Ray Lyman Wilbur traveled to Las Vegas to drive home the silver spike that joined the first rails at a special ceremony held along the tracks.



Secretary of Interior Ray Lyman Wilbur drives home the silver spike to begin construction of the Boulder Branch Railroad to Boulder City townsite, September 17, 1930.  
 - Special Collections, Lied Library, UNLV



A worker looks toward Sunset Park and Railroad Pass from the junction of the Boulder Branch Railroad and the Union Pacific main line.  
 - Boulder City Museum and Historical Association, Elton and Madelaine Garrett Collection

Construction of the spur began in September 1930 and was completed to Boulder City in February 1931. The branch cut through the undeveloped southwest corner of John Miller's ranch, a portion covered with mesquites and sand dunes. Today, Sunset Park's ball diamonds fill up the corner cut off by the rails, but the area just north is still covered by dunes.



A train steams from Las Vegas toward the Boulder Dam railroad spur, just under construction. The sedan belongs to photographer G.W. Ulfom.  
 - Boulder City Museum and Historical Association, Elton and Madelaine Garrett Collection

A worker with mules and a Fresno scraper prepares the bed of the Boulder Branch Railroad toward Sunset Park. Today this spur crosses I-15 just south of Russell Road and extends across Paradise Valley. It isolates the baseball diamonds from the rest of the park.  
 - Boulder City Museum and Historical Association, Elton and Madelaine Garrett Collection

