

Sunset Regional Park

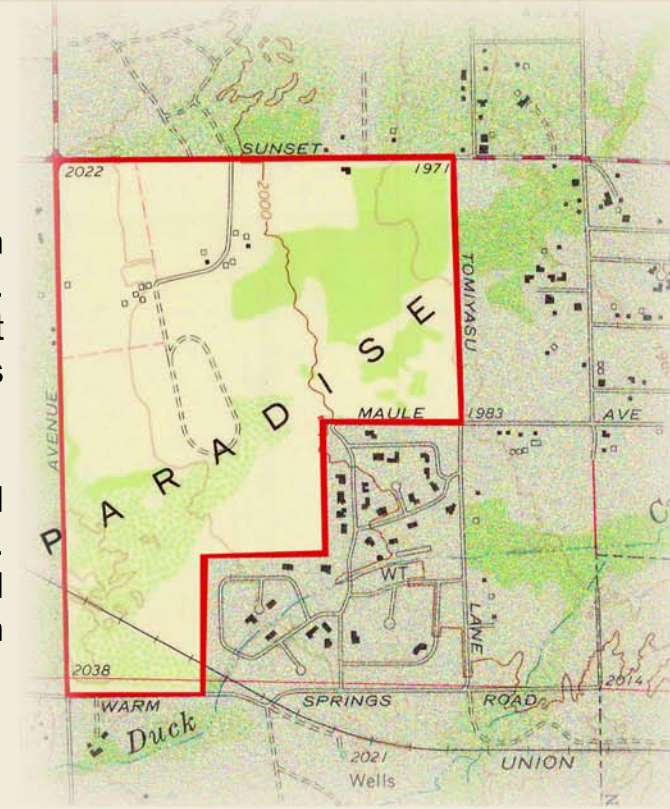


J. Kell Houssels, Sr.
Ranch Owner from 1939 to 1963

J. Kell Houssels arrived in Las Vegas in 1930 and invested in the Overland Hotel, later named the Las Vegas Club. Eventually, Houssels became general manager and part owner of the Tropicana Hotel, but his lifelong passion was thoroughbred horse racing.

Houssels purchased the Miller Ranch in 1939 and developed the Vegas Stock Farm, a horse breeding and training facility. His stables produced the 1941 Santa Anita Derby winner and a pair of colts that won a record parlay at Hollywood Park in 1962.

J. Kell Houssels, Sr., was a force in Las Vegas gambling from its beginning and bred champion race horses at his ranch, the future Sunset Park.



This 1967 map shows the layout of Houssels Ranch at the time the county acquired it. J. Kell Houssels' racetrack was located where the lake is today.
- U.S.G.S. Las Vegas S.E. Quadrangle, 1967



J. Kell Houssels' Overland Hotel sat across from John Miller's Sal Sagev on Fremont Street.
- Special Collections, Lied Library, UNLV

In 1961 Houssels attempted to turn the ranch into a golf resort, but the state would not grant water rights. He later sold the ranch to a group of investors that included Desert Inn owner Wilbur Clark.



This is the only remaining ranch building on site.
- Patrick Gaffey

