

# Drag Racing At DeLand Airport Wins Approval

By KAY VANDERVOORT

From Our West Volusia Bureau  
DELAND — Despite vigorous objections from residents of DeLand Highlands, a subdivision near the DeLand Airport, City Commissioners yesterday unanimously approved the use of part of an airport runway for NASCAR drag racing next Feb. 17-26.

The decision came in a spe-

cial session called for the purpose of considering the controversial issue.

Earlier it had been determined that the Federal Aviation Agency would approve the proposal for the one time provided two runways remained open to aviation traffic and any resultant revenue would accrue to aviation.

NASCAR had offered \$2,000 for the nine day use of the strip.

### Opposition Heard

Opposition to the project was led by George Leeper, president of the DeLand Highlands Betterment League, who presented a petition containing 100 signatures. Leeper said the League was "violently opposed" to drag racing at the airport primarily because of the noise.

John Bearden, chairman of both the city's Airport Advisory Board and the Chamber of Commerce Aviation Committee, reported that a majority of the members agreed the races would be "a boon to DeLand."

Bearden argued the noise factor was outweighed by the publicity gained, and could be endured for the short time involved for the sake of the economic benefit.

He said it had been estimated that at least \$25,000 would be spent in DeLand during the race week.

### Half Million Dollars

NASCAR Pres. Bill France

upped the estimate to "close to a half million dollars," and commented: "This isn't a \$25,000 proposition . . . There's that much in prize money." He repeated that about 300 contestants nationwide were expected to participate in the annual NASCAR event.

Then he added: "We hope to build a permanent facility in this area next year."

Ray Hague, another DeLand Highlands resident, opposed the NASCAR racing on grounds it would create an objectionable traffic problem on Old Daytona Road.

France replied that this road easily could be closed during the races.

At this point Mayor Sidney Smith commented: "It's our (Commission) wish that those who aren't residents but who we hope will be will bear with us in the minor inconveniences of this matter." He added: "It won't be a continual thing and this board is interested in the financial benefit to the airport and the city, which we assume also benefits the surrounding area."

### WJBS Highlights

Coffee Time at 8:30 a.m.

Gilmore & Crumleigh 3

p.m.

Football — DHS vs Seabreeze at 7:45 p.m.

World News & Sports

Wrap-up at 10:55 p.m.

## Pierson Man Reelected By Farm Bureau

From Our West Volusia Bureau  
DELAND—Eral Ziebarth, Pierson, has been reelected president of the Volusia County Farm Bureau.

Elected to serve with Ziebarth at Tuesday's meeting were Albert Pell, Osteen, vice president; Tommy Lawrence, DeLand, second vice president; John Martin, DeLand, secretary; Elvin Daugharty, DeLand, treasurer.

Also named were delegates to the annual meeting of the State Farm Bureau Federation in Clearwater Sunday through Tuesday.

The delegates are Ziebarth, J. B. Nordman, DeLand; Walter Dobbins, Daytona Beach; Henry Johnson, Seville.

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