

The CONTINENTAL NEWS



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Walkers gather to say goodbye to Delmar Martin and his family in Argonia

photo by Nanci Bower

Walk Passes Through Oklahoma

The stretch of country in the eastern panhandle of Texas and western Oklahoma between Amarillo and Oklahoma City was a long and isolated one for the long distance walkers. There were several encounters with local police despite clearance by the State Highway Patrol, and few communities to offer support and encouragement. Showers were in very short supply and walkers wondered if those more populated areas were ever going to come. But come they did in a very successful and activity-filled three days in Oklahoma City.

Walkers walked into Oklahoma City Tuesday, June 15, and were met by a blue grass band being hauled on a flat bed truck and about 25 to 30 community people, including many small children and a determined veteran peace walker in her late sixties. The local police went out of their way to assure the

Walk's safe arrival in Oklahoma City. A rally was held at the state capitol where media coverage was quite good. That evening a pot luck supper was held and the walkers were delighted to find Dave Dellinger had joined them for a few days. Taking advantage of Dave's expertise, the walkers had two workshops on June 16, their rest day: one on the link between sexism and militarism, and one on disarmament and the link to social justice issues. Both were quite well received by walkers and community people alike.

On June 17, the walkers stood at the gates of Tinker Air Force Base and leafletted cars coming in to work. From there the Walk made its way back into Oklahoma City through a poor, predominantly Black section of town. In one encouraging conversation, a Black man taking with Charlotte Smith, a long

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Chicago Organizers' Meeting

On June 12-13 about 50 people met in Chicago at the 57th Street Friends Meeting House. Organizers from 16 states, 7 long distance walkers (including Rev. Sato from Japan), and national representatives of AFSC, FOR, WRL, CPF, SP, SCLC spent the two days discussing the Washington, D.C., finale on October 16-18, activities on July 4, ideas and problems of Walk organizing.

Saturday began with a slide show put together by long distance walkers Larry Johnson, Alison Metcalf, and Nanci Bower, and then a super-8 film of the Walk when it was near Santa Barbara. This was followed by Bernard Lee's report of the Southern route, Bobby Slovak's report of the Texas route, and a report of the main route given by Tom MacLean and Nanci Bower.

William Douthard and David McReynolds raised the idea of issuing a call to Washington for October 16-18. The call would be given a mass distribution encouraging people to join the walkers in Washington. Discussion on that centered around the format and the politics. A brainstorming session on the demands to be included in the call reflected everyone's favorite social justice issue and anti-military priority. David McReynolds agreed to draft a call reflecting the comments and suggestions.

A proposed scenario for the Washington, D.C., actions drawn up by Gail Pressberg and Mike Jendrzeyczyk (from an earlier coordinating committee meeting) was circulated as well as a list of suggestions from the Texas region presented by Bobby Slovak. Tom MacLean related several suggestions proposed by the long distance walkers. After some additional ideas were thrown out, the meeting broke down into

smaller groups to discuss the proposed scenarios. The following is a rough attempt to reflect the input from the small groups:

October 16 (Saturday). People from at least four routes (the West, the South, the North, and the poor area of Washington) will converge on the Washington Monument (or Lincoln Memorial) at 2 pm. Each line of march will be carrying symbols representing people or things that have died as a result of government priorities. A rally will be held at the Sylvan Outdoor Theater addressed by 5 to 6 speakers. A concert will be held in the evening.

October 17 (Sunday). There will be a morning ecumenical service celebrating the vision of a just disarmed world. Simultaneously people will go through the community to leaflet, particularly at churches, inviting them to attend the Walk activities. In the afternoon workshops and caucuses will be held, films shown, and nonviolent training for Monday's activities. In addition, participating groups will be invited to set up booths at a peace and justice fair.

October 18 (Monday). There may be one or more lines of march to different locations, e.g., the Pentagon, White House, and Congress. Marchers will carry the symbols of people and things which have died, in coffins shaped like B-1 bombers, Trident submarines, etc. There will be an attempt to bury these coffins at the Pentagon, Congress, etc. At the same time we will be planting food, trees, constructing a replica of a hospital, etc. An additional scenario might be a mock nuclear attack dramatized by a "die-in", black balloons, and air raid siren. Simultaneously, task forces would visit various foreign embassies. In the evening, a rally or vigil would be held at jails holding those arrested in the day's activities.

The scenario should be finalized at the July 5
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Break at Chicago meeting, June 13



photo by Ed Hedemann

Laura Shirley Pennel, Joanne Sheehan (in back), and Gail Pressberg, Vickie Leonard (in front) at Chicago meeting.

coordinating committee meeting in New York City.

It was reported that ABC-TV was interested covering the Walk's activities on July 4 if the walkers were planning something other than just walking along the highway. The long distance walkers brainstormed a number of ideas, which were presented to the meeting. After a brief discussion the subject was tabled until Sunday so that there was time to think about other possibilities.

Saturday evening a benefit for the Walk was performed starring some local folk singing talent.

On Sunday the meeting was shifted to a nearby YMCA (because of the worship service at the Friends Meeting). William Douthard began the discussion of fund raising - the needs, ideas, and difficulties. Brainstorming followed about how money could be raised to support local activities and national organizing efforts.

There followed extensive discussion on organizing ideas, suggestions, and problems. Organizers were strongly urged to visit the Walk before it reaches their area to get a feel for the Walk, fill in walkers on plans for the upcoming area, and to find out the needs of the walkers. Organizers were encouraged to do up neat, colorful signs and banners to be carried in their region. One of the problems on the Walk has been the imprecise mileage calculation and ambiguity of the route. All regional organizers were encouraged to go over in detail the route in their region and send a copy to the national office for distribution.

A discussion on national and local publicity focussed on press releases, p.s.a.'s on radio and even TV spots. There was alot of interest in using pre-recorded radio tapes on the Continental Walk.

A women's caucus on the Walk met to discuss problems on the Walk with sexism among walkers and to develop ways to increase the feminist consciousness among walkers.

For the final sessions the group split in two with

one group brainstorming ideas for July 4th actions, and the other group discussing local and national ideas for follow up at the Walk's end. Among the follow up ideas most accepted was a nationwide decentralized effort at nonviolent arms shipment blockades, and a boycott of a consumer product of a top Defense contractor.

WALK SCHEDULE THROUGH KANSAS

Wichita	Newton	6/29-6/30
Newton	Moundridge	7/1
Moundridge	McPherson	7/2
McPherson	Lindsberg	7/3
Lindsberg	Salina	7/4-7/5
Salina	Abilene	7/6-7/7
Abilene	REST DAY	7/8
Abilene	Junction City	7/9
Junction City	Manhattan	7/10
Manhattan	Wamego	7/11
Wamego	Rossville	7/12
Rossville	Topeka	7/13
Topeka	Lawrence	7/14
Lawrence	REST DAY	7/15
Lawrence	DeSoto	7/16
DeSoto	Overland Park	7/17
Overland Park	Kansas City	7/18-7/19
KANSAS-MISSOURI BORDER		

SPONSORS NEEDED FOR LONG DISTANCE WALKERS

The walkers on the main route are still making their way through sparsely populated areas of the country and receiving few contributions. There are several long distance walkers who could really use a sponsor. Thus, your sponsorship of a LDW now would be timely and greatly appreciated by the group.

Walkers are very willing to write to their sponsors and tell them about their experiences on the Walk. Walkers need sponsors to meet their very minimal needs of \$10/week for food and personal items. Sponsors can continue to support walkers for the remaining 15 weeks of the Walk, or for as many of those weeks that they feel they are able.

Name.....

Address

☐ I wish to sponsor a LDW at \$10/week for ____ weeks

☐ Enclosed is \$5 for a round of ice cream cones

☐ Enclosed is \$____ for a pair of tennis shoes

☐ Enclosed you will find a check for the total ____ or partial ____ amount

(if you send the whole amount, we won't have to take the time to remind you later)

Southern Route on the Road Again

The southern leg of the Continental Walk for Disarmament and Social Justice cut across the Mississippi counties of Jones, Jasper, and Clarke in early June. For two weeks it was held up in Laurel when 23 of its members (all Black except for the 3 Japanese Buddhists) were arrested by the Mississippi Highway police, charged with "disrupting the flow of traffic" and "disobeying an officer." Daily picketing, a demonstration at the courthouse attended by over 300, and an all-night vigil on the eve of the trial June 14, resulted in agreement to dismiss all charges, and saw the replacement of State Highway Commissioner, W.O. Dillard, by one pledged to respect the rights of *all* citizens.

It was not surprising to local people that the cases were to be dropped only on the condition that the Walk would continue out of Jones county. Although the Walk enjoyed little overt support from the Black community of Laurel, except for donations from churches and the extraordinary efforts of one family that refused to be intimidated, it did bring the message that poor people need not be afraid to defend their rights and work for nonviolent change.

One of the key local issues of the Walk was the presence of an oil well on the grounds of the almost all-Black public high school, tax dollars from which go only to support the education at an all-White private academy. Other issues crucial to the day-to-day survival of Mississippi's poor were the need for decent housing, full employment, an adequate health care and food stamp program, and an end to police brutality.

Rev. James Orange, coordinator of SCLC chapter affiliates and a Walk organizer, described the need for nonviolent struggle to change the conditions of both

Black and Whites: "Just as the South was starved to death during the Civil War, our country is killing its poor. We are now turning out one nuclear bomb in the U.S. every 8 hours, while every hour eight families die of starvation. That is what the Walk is all about . . . We have to learn our rights, and teach our kids the truth: there is a difference between dying of an overdose like a dog, and dying for your freedom."

The next day about 50 people gathered at a general store on Highway 11. Half were young people and there were several elderly women and men who walked each day, rarely taking advantage of the cars, despite the hot sun. The owner of the store, apologized for not being able to walk, but offered to provide food. As was their custom each morning, Rev. Hiroshi Sera and the other Buddhists signalled the start of the Walk with a prayer and beating of their skin drums. Their continuous chanting provided an exotic counterpoint to the Black spirituals and freedom songs of the other walkers.

Most seemed unconvinced by Rev. Fred Taylor's prayer for protection from insults and the spiritual strength required to withstand injustice. Our reception in Hiedelberg was mixed. Marching past its dusty lumberyards and down its one main street, we were plagued by one of the many car breakdowns and flat tires that occurred throughout the Walk, this time on railroad tracks in the path of an on-coming train. Children resting in the car were rescued before the train came to a stop. We pushed the car off the tracks, then rallied at the town hall under the watchful eyes of a deputy sheriff, and the curious, incredulous stares of local townspeople. A few Blacks responded to our pleas to them to join us.

In areas where SCLC chapters did not exist, it was



Southern Walk passing through Laurel, Mississippi

hoped the Walk would awaken poor people to the realization that they could come together to change their lives through voter registration and nonviolent action. "I may be on welfare; I may be in the food stamp line; but I am somebody."

In the town of Bay Springs we walked through steady rain, stopping at the welfare office to call for free federal food assistance and a determination not to go to war in Africa. Then several of the children joined the Buddhists chanting while we marched 3 miles back out of the city limits, rejoicing in the rain that soaked our sneakers and bare feet.

Mike Jendrzeczyk

CONTINENTAL WALK T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE

Hot off the presses - Continental Walk T-shirts in small, medium, large, and extra-large. White with red and black lettering with the bomb into dove logo. The cost is \$4 (postage included), \$2 each for 12 or more plus postage.

ROUTE LETTER TO POLICE

The Connecticut Coalition on the Continental Walk has written an excellent letter to police as a model for Connecticut organizers seeking cooperation and facilitating Walk routes through local towns/cities. The letter to police explains the Walk's presence, route, etc. The CCCW also includes an explanation sheet to organizers on how to interview police, explain demonstrations, etc. At no time are organizers asking permission that the Walk enter a particular town (a legal right). These materials strive through personal interviews and letters with police to avoid confusion and guarantee cooperation. Send 25 cents to cover postage/xerox for a copy: The Continental Walk, 339 Lafayette St., New York, N.Y. 10012.



photo by Alison Metcalf

Vickie Leonard, Tom MacLean, Delmar Martin during lunch break in Braman, OK

WALK REPORTED IN JAPAN

Keiko Nihei of Japan Buddha Sangha writes us that in Japan the Continental Walk is reported in many newspapers such as Asahi, Akahata and many other democratic peace movement newsletters. He feels it will be much more reported as August 6th and 9th approaches.



Walkers welcomed into Kansas by Delmar Martin and his family

photo by Alison Metcalf

Texas Walk

On May 8, the north Texas portion of the Continental Walk began in Glen Rose, site of the state's first nuclear power plant. About 150 helium-filled balloons were released as the walk began. Each balloon carried a card stating that the balloon represented possible radiation from the plant. The cards immediately returned had made it to Ft. Worth, 40 miles away, the same day that they were released. After the release, four walkers made their way about 200 yards onto the plant's property before they were stopped by guards and told to turn back.

On May 12, the Walk arrived in Burleson, where walkers attended a Mass for Peace at St. Ann's Catholic Church. Afterwards, a discussion of issues was held between religious education students and the walkers.

On Friday, May 14, Daniel Berrigan arrived for two days of activity in the Ft. Worth -- Dallas area. That evening he spoke to over 75 persons at SMU about the continuing presence of war in the world and how each person must make a commitment to end that oppression through direct action and alternative communities. Berrigan was also the guest on the local public television nightly news-discussion program. His appearance generated a large amount of favorable "feed-back" phone calls to the program.

On Saturday, May 15, the Walk began in Ft. Worth at the Federal Building. From there the walkers made their way to Carswell Air Force Base, a Strategic Air Command Base and training and test facility for General Dynamics, conclusers of the "arms deal of the century" involving F-16 fighter planes to several countries. Upon our arrival at the Base gate, we were surprised to find that the guards offered us tea, cake, and coffee! The goodies were a part of the Armed Forces Day ceremonies. The guards told us that we were welcome to stand at the gate and picket and leaflet. We took advantage of that situation, with about ten of us handing our leaflets to base personnel as the shift changed. Some walkers didn't care to have any refreshments, feeling that the preparation for war *behind* the gates was the reason we were there and that the food was just an attempt to diffuse our determination and to show us that the Air Force was not all bad! Undoubtedly, Berrigan's presence at the demonstration was a reason for the friendliness.

On Wednesday, May 19, we leafletted cars and workers at Ling Temco Vought (LTV) Corporation, a large military contractor. LTV manufactures missiles and built the Crusader aircraft used in Vietnam. The leaflet pointed out the peace conversion efforts of the late UAW president Walter Reuther. Workers were urged to support peace conversion legislation through their local unions.

On the following Friday, the Walk began at the Rhoads Terrace Housing Project in South Dallas. Residents of the project and the area surrounding the Walk were reminded of the specific social programs which were being cut by the government, including HUD and day care. After walking through the poverty area, the Walk ended the day at the offices of



photo by Bobby Slovak

Walking through Ft. Worth, May 15

three Dallas congresspeople. All were reminded of the neglect that the government was showing citizens of Dallas.

Saturday, May 22, was the final day of the Texas leg. In Dallas, walkers gathered at the Kennedy Memorial and traveled through the Chicano neighborhoods to bring attention to the proposed construction of the B-1 Bomber.

In our area, the Walk ended with more people than it began with. Several new people came out anxious to continue in direct action and peace education. For all of us, it was a renewed beginning.

Bobby Slovak

WALK FUND RAISING DAY

August 6 and 9 has been designated as a time that we are encouraging supporters and organizers of the Walk to make a special effort to raise money for the National Walk Office. As we reported in our last *News* we currently have a \$4500 debt which will likely grow with the expenses of the Washington, D.C., activities. Over one-third of our expenses has been for literature, another 25% has gone to the two current Walk routes, about 12% for postage, 10% for salaries and 10% for travel with a bit left for odds and ends.

Anything you can do would be great:

- Taking up a special collection from religious bodies or at a religious service on August 7 or 8.
- holding a benefit -- with entertainers and speakers.
- having a literature, craft or bake sale.
- donating the salary you will earn on Friday, August 6.
- sponsoring a mini-walk in solidarity with the current routes (4 to be journeying then) and having walkers get a pledge from sympathetic people at a quarter or a dime per mile walked.

The Walk has no secret funding source and exists only because of and with your help!

Organizing

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

The Planning Committee meeting of the Philadelphia route of the Boston/Washington Walk was held June 6 in Philadelphia. A general theme for the Walk was decided: Military Spending is Strangling Our Cities. The arrival date for Philadelphia is scheduled to be October 2. The proposed route is: Saturday the Walk would go to the Mall passing HUD and the detention center as a pilgrimage focusing on places of suffering in the city. Sunday is a free day when people could talk to churches and other organizations. Monday will start at Chestnut St. and go to HUD and GE - at GE focusing on their production of nuclear reactors for South Africa and their production of weapons. Tuesday the Walk will proceed out Baltimore Pike to Media. The next meeting will be July 7 from 7:30 to 9:30 at the home of Mimi Myrtetus, 4427 Larchwood Avenue.

LINCOLN TO CHICAGO

People will walk out of Lincoln, Nebraska, on Monday, July 12, to start the 500-mile "feeder" that will join the main Walk at Chicago in late August. The schedule proposed is:

Lincoln	July 12
Omaha	July 15-17
Des Moines	July 24-25
Iowa City	August 1
Quad Cities	August 5-7
Chicago	August 27-28

Activities along the way will include films and slide shows, community forums and rap sessions, and potluck suppers. The local events are planned to boost the efforts of concerned individuals and to create links between groups and communities that could lead to new cooperative work for peace and justice.

ST. LOUIS

Barbara Corr reports that the St. Louis committee meeting was held on May 27. They plan to join forces with the Hiroshima Day Committee that has been holding observances for the last six years. A rough



photo by Larry Johnson

Tom MacLean discussing the Walk's purposes with a local policeman who joined walkers in being treated to root beer floats by Delmar Martin

idea of the scenario for the walk through St. Louis was worked out. They plan to carry barrels of money throughout the city at hospitals, schools, daycare centers, unemployment offices, etc. Some money will be left at McDonnell-Douglas with the stipulation it be used for peace conversion. A moment of silent observance will be held in front of City hall in memory of Hiroshima and a letter from Hiroshima's mayor will be presented by the Buddhist monks. The Walk may end with a music festival under the Arch.

MINNEAPOLIS TO CHICAGO

On June 1, Twin Cities Walk organizers leafletted and demonstrated to publicize the Walk. The demonstration basically consisted of a replica of the Hiroshima bomb born by four "spectors of death" and an alternative Peace Globe carried in procession down a Minneapolis street.

There is a slight change in the Minneapolis to Chicago itinerary. It is planned to begin the feeder in Stillwater, Minnesota, passing through Minneapolis/St. Paul, Red Wing, Sparta, Wis., Baraboo, Wis., and Madison, joining with the main Walk on August 27 in Chicago.

NEW JERSEY

It was announced at the May 9 meeting of the New Jersey Walk that there are over 100 individuals and groups in New Jersey interested in the Walk. In addition to the main route there are possibilities of a Ridgewood-Newark route and an Atlantic City-Camden car caravan. The main route will go from Elizabeth via Rt. 28 to Bound Brook and then on to New Brunswick. The statewide issue for New Jersey will be peace conversion. On July 4, local supporters of the Walk are being urged to carry out some action relating to the Walk. August 6 there is planned a state-wide Continental Walk demonstration in Trenton at the State Capitol, from 11:30 to 1:30, to note Hiroshima Day and the beginning of the connecting route in Boston.

MUNCIE, INDIANA

Jim Troutwine reports that the efforts to organize the proposed Evansville to Ft. Wayne feeder route have now turned to organizing a Muncie to Ft. Wayne route instead. They are focusing on local and community sympathetic institutions and they are preparing information packets. The main Walk is scheduled to reach Ft. Wayne on Sept. 6.

SYRACUSE

On June 5, there was a Continental Walk Workshop and Non-violence Training meeting in Syracuse with Carl Zietlow.

The Syracuse to Cleveland feeder route of the Walk is scheduled to leave Syracuse on August 22. Some of the cities along the way will be:

Seneca Falls	August 24-25
Stratford	August 31
Buffalo	September 3-4
Erie	September 12-13
Cleveland	September 20

distance walker expressed his support for the Walk and told her that he knew of the Southern Leg of the Walk and had heard of the charges being dropped in Laurel, Miss., two days before. Connections are being made!

From Oklahoma City, the Walk made its way north through several small towns where walkers were encouraged by people's signs and words of support. In the smallest and seemingly most conservative of towns we found friendly people interested in and sometimes actively supporting what we had to say. The predominant mood that the Walk felt was one of people stopping, listening, often basically agreeing with us but wondering about the best way to proceed. It was very exciting for us to feel this shift in people's thoughts, and to hear from friends who had been on the 1961 San Francisco to Moscow walk how much different things are now. Yes, it's a slow painful process, but it's happening.

A young man in Perry, Oklahoma, who had enlisted in the Navy for six years training in electronics upon graduating from high school, came out to walk with us for a day after having seen us walk through his town. His interest initially stemmed from his curiosity about "those commies", as he first described us. He spent the day walking with us, trying to determine for himself how sincere we were about our beliefs and how committed to the issues. Later in the day, as we approached the town of Tonkawa, Oklahoma, he offered to help carry the Continental Walk banner. His questions were thoughtful, and as he left us our concern went with him that his sensitivity will allow him to see beyond the Navy's militaristic presence and to remember what the walkers had to say.

On Saturday evening, June 19, the walkers were invited back to Oklahoma City to attend a concert by country and western singer Emmy Lou Harris. The walkers had a very enjoyable evening, a short fund appeal was made and many signatures were gotten on the Hiroshima appeal, including Emmy Lou Harris's signature. More than 1000 people attended the concert.

As the Walk approached the Oklahoma/Kansas border we were surprised and delighted to see a Walk supporter, Delmar Martin, coming down the road in his wheat truck with a big "Welcome Continental Walk" sign on the front. Just in time for lunch, Delmar brought along five gallons of orange juice (a very scarce commodity on the Walk) and three gallons of ice cream. Several ice cream cones were had by all, and we most happily accepted the Martin family's most gracious offer of hospitality for the next two nights at their farm, and were very glad to have Delmar and his son Jonathan walk with us. The warmth and encouragement that the walkers got from the Martin family will long be remembered.

This week the Walk arrives in Wichita with several speaking events planned along with a couple of potlucks and a support rally for the UFW.

Vickie Leonard

AMNESTY CONFERENCE

On July 10 there will be an amnesty conference for the midwest region in Madison, Wisconsin, at Edgewood College. The conference is being sponsored by NCUUA and the Wisconsin Coalition for New Priorities. It is being held in the hopes that people throughout the Midwest working in social change organizations and amnesty support groups will attend the conference and help to build a highly publicized pro-amnesty initiative. For further information contact Don Behm at the The Continental Walk, 731 State Street, Madison, WI 53703, (608) 255-0479.

DISARMAMENT AND SOCIAL JUSTICE MONTH

Jackie Haessly, a coordinator of the Milwaukee to Chicago segment of the 'link' has suggested having August recognized in Wisconsin or at the local level as "Disarmament and Social Justice Month" or a title consistent with the goals of the Continental Walk. Send your comments to Jackie at the Hoa Binh Center, 2243 N. 39th St., Milwaukee, WI. 53208.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE WALKERS

The Walk crossed the Oklahoma/Kansas border on June 24. Below are listed addresses for those who would like to keep in touch or just send words of encouragement to the walkers:

- 7/7 c/o General Delivery
Abilene, KS 67410
- 7/11 c/o General Delivery
Wamego, KS 66547
- 7/15 Otto Zingg
United Ministries in Higher Education
1204 Oread Avenue
Lawrence, KS 66044
(913) 843-4944
- 7/18 Plain States WRL
3950 Rainbow Blvd.
Kansas City, KS 66103
(913) 432-0350
- 7/23 c/o General Delivery
Sedalia, MO 65301
- 7/28 Pat Lacefield (for Jefferson City)
813 Maryland Avenue
Columbia, MO 65201
- 8/3 c/o General Delivery
Gray Summit, MO 63039
- 8/7 Barbara Corr
724 Syracuse
St. Louis, MO 63130
- 8/13 Janalyn Lindley/AFSC
1513 South State Street
Springfield, IL 62704