

The CONTINENTAL NEWS

ISSUE 17

JULY 23, 1976

339 Lafayette St.
New York, N.Y. 10012
(212)677-5455



Two More Routes Begin

Lincoln, Nebraska, July 12.

The Lincoln to Chicago branch route is underway. Steve Marsden writes us that at 8 a.m. July 12th, 15 people gathered for a rally at the Nebraska state capitol in Lincoln.

Marilyn McNabb spoke to the group about the necessity of reducing consumption of resources and of cutting back the military budget. John Judge, from Midwest Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors in Dayton, spoke about the role and influence of military intelligence. The FOR Endangered Species petition was read and Ross Anderson related his experience during the Omaha Action of 1959 when there were walks from Lincoln and Omaha to the Atlas missile sites.

On the way through Lincoln, walkers leafletted in front of the Federal Building and paid a brief visit to IRS. The Walk proceeded across the University of Nebraska campus and out of the city.

In the past two days, walkers have visited the communities of Ceresco, Wahoo and Mead. The group currently numbers 6 with 4 or 5 on the road at a time.

Bayport, Minnesota, July 14.

The Minnesota-Wisconsin to Chicago route began at noon July 14 with a vigil at Stillwater State Prison. Walkers spoke with the Commissioner of Prisons who seemed open to their suggestions. At 3 p.m. that day there was a meeting with 3M Corp. to discuss 3M getting rid of their remaining military contracts and their holdings in South Africa. The same evening a forum on prison conditions was held with members of the Commissioner's office and law students who advise prison inmates.

A "Trail of Alternatives" was begun Friday, July 16, in the Selby neighborhood, to point to positive programs meeting community needs and contrasting their struggle with well-financed armaments producers. Friday night was a meeting at a local church where films on Hiroshima were to be shown. A local woman came who expressed concern about the Minn. Rehabilitation and Housing Authority threatening to destroy sound neighborhood housing with no replacement. Walkers went out in the morning with the Minn. Tenants Union to greet the bulldozers, which did not arrive, and seemed to create enough sentiment that the buildings are still standing. On Sunday, walkers attended a rally at Potterhorn Park where the July 4th Coalition spoke about the Walks' support of the Minn. Tenants Union. The "Trail" finished Monday morning after leafletting Ford Motor Co.

The Minnesota-Wisconsin walkers plan to link with walkers in Madison, WI, on August 10.

Waik Crosses Kansas...

The main route of the Continental Walk crossed the border from Oklahoma into Kansas on the 24th of June. Through the towns of Argonia, Wichita, Newtown, Moundridge, McPherson, Lindsborg, and Salina the response has been outstanding.

At potlucks, which were given in almost every town, many community people became involved. Between Lindsborg and Salina the Walk doubled to over fifty people. In Lindsborg, a small Swedish art community, the Walk had a large welcome. The walkers were invited to an outdoor dinner party at which they showed the Walk slide show, to an overwhelming response by the town's people.

In Wichita, one of the activities that the Walk participated in was a United Farm Worker boycott demonstration. The Walk moved on to Salina where the mayor was presented the Hiroshima Appeal, brought by the Japanese Buddhist monks who are walkers, which he signed. The Hiroshima appeal asks for a complete prohibition on making and using nuclear weapons. The next day, the black community welcomed the Walk and showed a slide show and explained some of the racial problems they are dealing with including police brutality against women.

Twenty people met the Walk at the city limits of Kansas City on July 17 and walked with them into town. That evening walkers were housed in individual homes where potlucks were held. Sunday, July 18, an ecumenical service was held and 50 local people attended without it being publicized. The service was followed by a rally with good speakers, singing and a skit and was well attended by 200 people. Seventy-five people joined the Walk for a ways after the rally. Monday morning there was a street theatre at the Kansas City Power and Light Co. which is attempting to build the Wold Creek Nuclear Power Plant. The Walk through Kansas recieved good media coverage on ten radio stations and TV for two weeks prior to the Walks' arrival.

Notes

New Signers

John S. Connolly, candidate for congress from the fourth district in St. Paul, MN, has added his support to the Continental Walk. He feels that "...The United States should take positive steps to eliminate the most horrible crime against humanity, war".

The list of individual signers to the call to the Continental Walk has also been joined by Douglass LaFollette, Secretary of State of Wisconsin. He has sent a letter to his constituents urging them to join their steps with ours on the Minnesota-Wisconsin feeder route which began July 14.

Music to Walk By

Vicki Leonard has said that the long distance walkers really enjoyed the blue grass band that greeted them outside Oklahoma City and went with them by flatbed on the Walk into the city. Vicki suggests that it's a great idea for any organizer who can arrange to have good music as part of the Walk.

Organizing Ideas

Dave Albert, Movement for a New Society and Chicago Continental Walk organizer, reports that Larry Gara's (a professor of history at Wilmington College in Ohio) "Active Nonviolence" serves as an excellent organizing tool. The show depicts the uses of non-violence from both historical and practical perspectives. With a Walk presentation, "Active Nonviolence serves as an excellent background to current struggles in nonviolent revolution including the Continental Walk. The slideshow is available for a donation and postage from-

WRL
339 Lafayette St.
New York, N Y 10012

WRL/West
1380 Howard St (2nd floor)
San Francisco, CA 94103

WRL/South Central
P O Box 7161
Austin, TX 78712

New Endorsing Organizations

The Northern New Jersey Annual Conference Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church... endorse the Continental Walk for Disarmament and Social Justice; and encourage local churches and individual United Methodists in Northern New Jersey to participate in the Walk to dramatize the urgent need for disarmament; and encourage local churches and individual United Methodists to initiate and participate in local actions to foster social justice and peace, to be co-ordinated with the passage of the Walk through New Jersey in Mid-September". The endorsement was passed unanimously by the Board on May 24.

Hiroshima Day

August 6, 1976, will mark thirty-one years since the ultimate crime against humanity was committed in Hiroshima. Activities and press conference will be held in Boston August 6 to bring attention to this sad day in our history and to begin the Boston to Washington route of the Continental Walk. Six more monks from Japan headed by the Venerable Gyoten Yoshida, will join us in Boston and will be going with the Walk to Washington.

Nagasaki Day Benefit

There will be a Nagasaki Day Benefit in New York at the Village Gate theatre on Bleeker St. at 8 p.m. August 9. The performers include Ossie Davis, Grace Paley, Charlie King, Matt Jones, Beverly Grant & the Human Condition and Rev. Frederick D. Kirkpatrick. Tickets will be \$6 at the door or \$5 by phone to the national office in New York.

Continental Walk Day

Pat Lacefield reports that the Mayor of Columbia, MO, Robert K. Pugh, has declared July 31 Continental Walk Day in Columbia. As the Walk's main route does not go through Columbia, the walkers will be driven there for an afternoon rally and picnic and evening films. They will return to the main route the next day.

Long Distance Walkers

The long distance walkers on the main route of the Walk urgently request of organizers that the number of activities on rest days be kept to a minimum to allow walkers to rest, read, write, etc.

Organizing

Appalachian Route

Bill Ramsey of AFSC in North Carolina relates that people in Oak Ridge, Knoxville, Roanoke, and Charlottesville have decided to go ahead with the Appalachian feed-in route. They will begin in Oak Ridge at the Oak Ridge Atomic Energy Museum which throughout its exhibits on nuclear power and nuclear weapons fails to make any mention of the Hiroshima bombing or the effects of radiation on people. Some main points on their tentative schedule are;

sept 6	Labor Day: Direct Action, Oak Ridge, TN
sept 7	Walk leaves Oak Ridge
sept 8	Knoxville
sept 11	Gatlinburg, TN
sept 13	Cherokee, TN
sept 22	Bristol, TN

sept 28 Radcliff, VA
 sept 29 Roanoke, VA
 oct 7 Charlottesville, VA
 oct 8 Peace Conversion Fair in Charlottesville
 oct 15 Washington, DC

St. Louis Update

The main route of the Walk will arrive in St. Louis on Aug 5. Aug 6 there is planned a seminar on Conversion to a Peacetime Economy with Sidney Lens. Barbara Corr has written that Aug 7 will be an important day in St. Louis when the Walk will begin at General Dynamics and go to Homer S. Phillips Hospital, a black city hospital which is being threatened with closing. They will try to dramatize the contrast between the \$1 billion for four Tridents and the lack of \$1.5 million needed to keep the hospital open. This will be followed by a Hiroshima observance at Soldiers Memorial Park. There will be people speaking on housing, daycare, welfare, and prison justice.

New York City

The organizing drive for the Continental Walk in the New York area is picking up support from a broad coalition of groups and individuals. The New York office is bustling with activity as we prepare for a week of demonstrations and vigils organized around New York's financial crisis and the necessity to redirect national priorities.

On the 9th of September, groups will enter the city from Albany, Boston, Connecticut, Long Island, Brooklyn and Westchester. A rally will be held with Fightback, the black and Spanish-speaking association of construction workers, at a site in Harlem yet to be chosen.

On Saturday, the 11th, there will be a rally at Herald Square and a march to the United Nations. The rally will begin at one p.m. and the march will reach the U.N. by three. It is hoped that these actions can be followed up by churchwomen and men on Sunday, when clergy and congregations can show their concern over disarmament and social justice by meeting at a central location. Plans for this are not yet finalized.

Preparations are being made for a second meeting at the U.N. on the 13th. There will be another walk through Manhattan and a demonstration at City Hall is scheduled to begin at noon. Guerilla theatre troupes, minority organizations and peace groups have shown a great deal of interest in this walk and demonstration.

Continental Walkers will be leaving Manhattan for Ft. Lee, NJ, on Sept. 15th.

BULLETIN --

Arrest on Minnesota Walk

Kathy Bellesville has just told us that she and two other walkers were arrested at the N.S.P. Nuclear Power Plant in MN on Saturday evening around 6 p.m. The walkers had gone to N.S.P. to speak to the power plant employees about closing the plant and peace conversion. The three walkers, Kathy, Pat Hansel and Tad Crohn, were released after two hours. The other nine walkers are continuing the walk while Kathy, Tad and Pat await a Tuesday hearing.