

The CONTINENTAL NEWS



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Boston Route Begins

Boston, August 6

The Boston to Washington route of the Continental Walk got its sendoff this past weekend in a series of events that, despite the rain, were enthusiastically attended. The extensive organizing efforts of the New England Walk Committee were evident throughout the weekend.

On Friday, August 6, Hiroshima Day was remembered with a silent vigil held from noon to 2 pm at Government Center in Boston. The vigil was attended by 150 people. The milling lunch-time crowd at the downtown Boston site was urged to recall the devastation and horror of that day 31 years ago and to join the Walk as it made its way through Boston. The vigilers were met at Government Center by a group of 20 walkers from the Worcester to Boston route of the Walk.

While the vigil continued outside, a committee of four went into Government Center to present the

letter from the Mayor of Hiroshima to Mayor Kevin White of Boston. The vigil ended at 2 pm when everyone gathered in a circle, which extended around most of the plaza, for a moment of silence.

On Friday evening 200 attended a citizens' forum which was held at Boston's Faneuil Hall, despite the pouring rain outside. The forum featured Daniel Ellsberg and Boston City Councilwoman Sandra Graham. Charlie King did some singing including the Continental Walk song.

On Saturday morning our numbers, but not our spirits, were held down by the rain as walkers gathered for a rally at Faneuil Hall where last minute support, instructions, singing, and encouragement were offered to the walkers. As 100 or so bobbing, slickered figures set off through downtown Boston in the rain, there was a notable sense of determination in the air. That determination was needed because it

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Walkers going past Boston Common, August 7.

photo by Ed Hedemann

Arrests, Arson Plague Southern Walk

Birmingham, July 27

Nineteen participants of the Southern route of the Continental Walk were arrested by police in Birmingham, Alabama, at noon July 27 for "walking in a roadway" and "failing to obey the lawful order of a police officer". This marks the third arrest of the Southern Walk, all of which have been a clear violation of the walkers Constitutionally guaranteed freedom of expression.

The arrested walkers included three Japanese Buddhist monks, Jim Peck of the WRL New York office who was a participant in the freedom rides of 1947 and 1961, and many members of the SCLC. Bail was set at \$200 and a hearing for August 2.

According to organizer Ruby Williams, who had obtained the "parade" permit, the trouble apparently resulted from confusion over specifics of the permit. While the permit required the walkers to remain on the sidewalks, Ruby Williams was seeking permission from the city officials for the walkers to use one lane of the street.

The walkers were released at 5 pm Wednesday on their own recognizance, all charges dropped and Mayor David Vann called the arrests an "unfortunate misunderstanding". Jim Peck just returned from the Southern route and has given the following account of the arrests and his stay on the Southern Walk.

Heart of Dixie

"Don't you find things have mellowed some down here since those days?", a TV reporter asked me as the Southern Walk took-off from Kelly Ingram Park in Birmingham. "They've mellowed some, but there's a lot of 'mellowing' yet to go," I answered.

Had the reporter simply remained with us for our entire stay in Birmingham, he would have understood what I meant. He only would have had to walk seven blocks to see us 19 walkers arrested for the "crime" of walking in the street rather than on the sidewalk. Had he proceeded to the courthouse basement where we were booked, he would have observed that the



photo by Judy Garrison

Leaving Kelly Ingram Park, Birmingham.

paddywagon containing us 9 arrested men, remained in the underground parking area for over a half hour with its doors locked. The heat inside was so intense that it was difficult to keep from fainting. We were literally drowning in sweat. This was a deliberate act of minor torture by the police. They could have let us out of the wagon upon arrival, as they had for the women arrested.

If the reporter had gone on to the city jail, he would have seen us locked up in a bullpen for 16 prisoners (it contained 16 bunks) but occupied by 40 prisoners. The 24 unable to get a bunk, had to sleep either along the narrow benches which surround the bullpen or on the filthy concrete floor - without even a blanket. There were no blankets, no soap, no games, no reading matter. And this was not just for overnight. The food was worse than in the old Tombs in New York, which has been shut down by court order.

If the TV reporter had followed me to the home of my Birmingham hosts, he would have witnessed a scene which indicated how some things have NOT "mellowed". Staying there with me was a Black woman, a Walk organizer from New Orleans, and her 15 year old son. They departed Saturday night. The following night, around eleven, some Klansmen set fire to my hosts car. We were awakened by the sound of a jammed horn blowing and looked out to see the car aflame only 40 feet from the house. I helped drag a garden hose toward the car but when we got within range, the hose had little effect as the arsonists had doused the car so heavily with fuel. Two cops finally arrived and watched the scene, stonyfaced, without even a word of comfort or sympathy to the owners. When firemen finally extinguished the flames, the car was total charred wreck. We went inside the house and answered the ringing phone to hear a voice say "This is just a sample of what you're going to get if
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photo by Judy Garrison

Just before arrest in downtown Birmingham.



The vigil outside Boston's Government Center, August 6.

photo by Grace Hedemann

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poured down torrents on Sunday throughout the 15 miles covered.

On Saturday the walkers made stops at the Tenant's Union and Health Center in the South End.

the Army Recruiting Office, and a community-based prison reform group in Dorchester. As the Boston walkers head toward their demonstration on August 11 at the Plymouth Nuclear Power Plant, we wish them much sunshine.

Midwest Walks Progressing

MINNESOTA/WISCONSIN

The Minnesota-Wisconsin Walk route crossed the border into La Crosse, WI, on July 31 for a day of leafletting and an evening potluck. Monday, August 2, walkers proceeded through Sparta and Tomah, two west-central Wisconsin cities that are heavily dependent on summer tourist trade and—the National Guard. Citizens reactions to the Walk was not enthusiastic. A local reporter stated he had heard this disarmament garbage all his life and had enough.

Don Behm in Madison, WI, relates that Pat Hansel and Kathy Bellesville, who were awaiting trial for their July 17 arrest at the Northern State Power Plant in Minneapolis, have rejoined the Walk. Their trial has been postponed until October or November. The third person arrested, Tad Crohn, has returned to Minneapolis. There was a Minneapolis Star Tribune reporter with them during the action and arrest and the story was well covered in the Star Tribune.

Walkers passed through Mauston, WI, on the way to Wisconsin Dells for August 6. There will be a Hiroshima Day Vigil in a Memorial Park and a Madison reporter will cover the activities.

The Minnesota-Wisconsin route plans to arrive in Madison August 11-12. There will be a public

LINCOLN TO CHICAGO

Wiping the sun from our faces, we are still walking and working across Iowa, leaving our literature on the flag of every farmyard mailbox from Lincoln, Nebraska to Muscatine, Iowa, and in every town we pass through. So far our hardships and difficulties have been minor: blisters, the Newton police coming into the church we were staying at 3 am and threatening to shoot us if we left the room, a glass of ice thrown on us at 40 mph, and not enough sleep sometimes. The Coralville cops stopped and told us we could be arrested for "eating in the ditch". A day hasn't passed though that somebody here and there on the road stops and converses with us, gives us a cold glass of water or iced tea, and warmly gives goodbye. Our numbers vary, usually 6-8 people (sometimes 4 hard core) but occasionally we have many more walking. Our two largest groups were the 25 people who walked into Des Moines, Iowa, and the 15 who walked the day from Grinnell, Iowa.

We owe much to Ross Anderson who was with us from Lincoln, Nebraska, to Mead where in 1959 he and others committed civil disobedience at the Atlas missile base. In Omaha, we talked to people at Rockwell/Boeing and at GE. We also spent several

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Walk Enters Missouri

Columbia, MO

Fifty miles off the main Walk route, a host of mid-Missouri regional organizers welcomed long distance walkers to Columbia and nearby Fulton, with several joint events.

Saturday, July 24 and Thursday, July 29, Missourians for Safe Energy involved walkers in two days of their struggle against the nuclear power plant under construction near Fulton. There was leafletting, walking, and meeting local town folk to view *Lovejoy's Nuclear War* and discuss connections between this issue and the Walk concerns.

At Columbia City Hall on Friday, July 30, Mayor Bob Pugh received the Walk and letter from the Mayor of Hiroshima, and became a signatory to the Hiroshima Appeal. Mayor Pugh proclaimed Saturday, July 31, Continental Walk Day. A three-mile walk took over 100 people through Columbia's needy neighborhoods and downtown to Columbia College for a rally. The rally of 200 to 250 people (the most in any demonstration since 1972) was a happy reunion for many local activists where greetings were warm in a mood of heightened hope as food, music, and speakers flowed into mid-afternoon.

Speakers included councilpersons David Linstrom and Clyde Wilson who spoke strongly of the need for deep-rooted change and of awareness among city administrators of the Pentagon's usurpation of national resources. Long distance walker Debbie Brown greeted ralliers in behalf of the Walk. Bill Wickersham, long time activist and disarmament expert and Stuart Liederman, candidate for Congress from Missouri's 8th District also spoke.



photo by Jane Fowler Morse

Stewart Meacham after a day's walk.



Stewart Meacham leading a line of walkers leaving Lawrence, Kansas.

photo by Jane Fowler Morse

CHICAGO

August 25 is the planned arrival date of the main Walk route in Chicago. Activities there will include a Continental Walk Day in the West suburbs on August 26 and a rally in the Loop at the Federal Building on August 27. Saturday morning, August 28, there will be an ecumenical religious service in Hyde Park and later that day a debate on National Priorities and the Need for Disarmament between Sid Lens and Congressman John Erlenborn at Memorial Park.

RHODE ISLAND

The Boston to Washington Route will reach Providence on August 15. August 17 will start with a rally in downtown Providence with music and guest speaker David McReynolds. An evening potluck supper and films is planned. Thursday morning, August 19, walk-

T-SHIRTS

Continental Walk staffperson Jim Tindall is seen here displaying the Continental Walk T-shirt while on

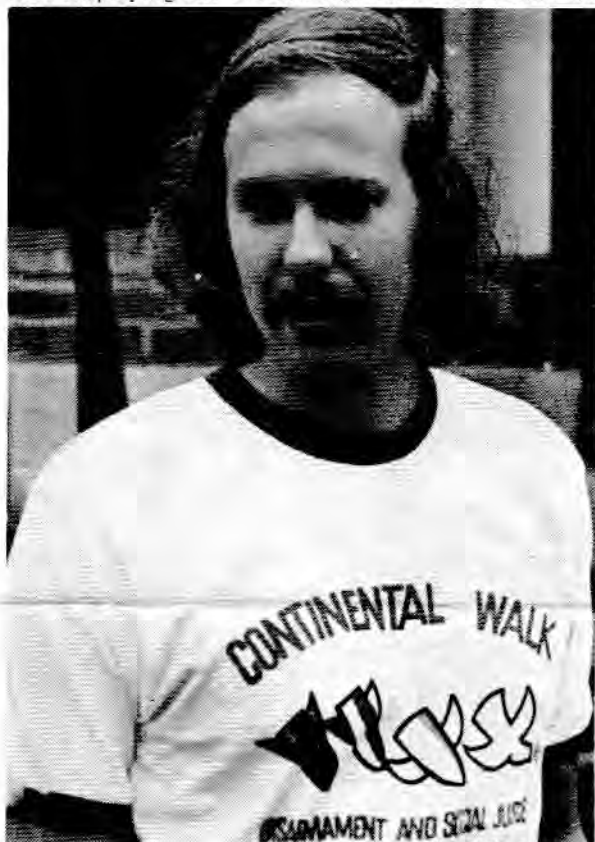


photo by Ed Hedemann

the Boston to Washington Walk. To order one of these red and black on white T-shirts, send \$4 and specify what size you wear (S, M, L, XL—the shirts tend to be on the small side, so unless you want the shirt tight, you might order a size larger). If you want to order in quantities of 10 or more, the cost is \$2 plus postage. Buy a shirt, advertise the Walk, and help support the Walk financially.

ers will demonstrate against the Trident submarine at the General Dynamics Electric Boat facility in Quonset Point. Saturday, there will be a demonstration against the proposed nuclear power plant in Charlestown, RI, at the Naval Air Station and Sam Lovejoy will speak. The Walk is scheduled to reach the Connecticut border on Sunday.



On the road in Missouri.

photo by Jane Fowler Morse

MILWAUKEE

August has been declared Disarmament and Social Justice Month in Milwaukee and Jackie Haessly said there have been many activities in anticipation of the Minnesota-Wisconsin routes arrival there on August 17. The walkers will cross the Milwaukee County line on August 17 for two days of pot lucks and showing of the Hiroshima/Nagasaki films. Organizers intend the Walk four days there to be another "Trail of Alternatives" focusing on the military, day care, defense plants, etc. August 19, walkers will have supper at a free meal center in the inner city followed by films and a benefit concert. August 20 many organizations will wind their own "trail" through the city to meet at the Federal Building at noon for a rally and a walk to the War Memorial (renamed by local movement folks the Peace Memorial).

BALTIMORE

The Maryland Coordinating Committee met July 27 to prepare for the Northeast feeder route arrival on October 8. For Baltimore, the primary theme will be to link the issues of unemployment and militarism. An action relating to Economic Peace Conversion is planned at the Applied Physics Lab outside Baltimore. Next meeting is Monday, August 23, 8 pm, AFSC office, 317 E. 25 Street, Baltimore. The present schedule for the walk is:

Oct. 8-10 Newark, DE, to Aberdeen, MD

Oct. 11-12 Aberdeen to Baltimore

Oct. 13 Baltimore

Oct. 14-15 Baltimore to Washington, D.C.

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you keep on having niggers stay in your home".

Yes, things have mellowed some. Bull Connor, the notorious police chief of police-dog game, is dead. A liberal mayor is in office. There is no longer any segregation in public places. But the ultra-bigotry of the old South is not dead. It lives in the form of the police responsible for sweating us in that paddy-wagon, the two cops who stoop stonyfaced observing, without comment, an act of arson. The Klansmen guilty of arson who won't be apprehended and our militaristic society which continues to foster racism in many individuals.

CONTINENTAL WALK ADS

One way to arouse and how visible support for the Continental Walk in your area is to do a multiple signature ad promoting the Walk and those ideals for which it stands. Although the cost might be prohibitive in large cities, it can be worth it in some areas—here's what you do. 1) draw up the text for the ad, revise and refine it to get your message and Walk events across; 2) get some well-known people in your area to sign a cover letter urging others to chip in their names to be published in the ad and also suggest that contributions are needed; 3) using your mailing lists (or lists put together by your prominent initiators) mail out the cover letter and text of ad along with an envelop with your address stamped on it; 4) wait for the results.

Walk organizers in the mid-Missouri region got over 220 names and \$500 which enabled them to put their ad full-page in the largest circulation paper in the region and a smaller ad in another daily. For more information on how to do this, or sample texts and cover letters, contact the national office or Columbia FOR/WRL, 813 Maryland Ave., Columbia, MO 65201.



BACKGROUND PAPERS ARE IN

Three of the eight background papers on the Continental Walk are now in at the National Office. Paper number 2 on Disarmament, number 3 on Jobs/Inflation by Sidney Lens, and number 5 by NCUUA are here. The papers on Health Care and Racial Justice are ready for printing and will likely be in when this News reaches you. These papers are excellent, concise information on the social justice issues the Walk focuses on. Single paper are 25 cents, a set of 8 costs \$1. In bulk, they are \$6 per 100 and \$40 per 1000.

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hours at the SAC Offutt air base with our message on wide banners and doing some simple street theater. The CW people in Omaha were very supportive, two walking a long way through Iowa. At Des Moines, there was a rally near the State Capitol steps with good music and progressive speakers. In Iowa City, there was a festival for the Walk with mime, folk music, poetry, and many good words. Jack Smith, who recently resigned from a 27 year teaching career at St. Ambrose College after ROTC was installed, was among the speakers. We have also visited the Iowa Cornfield Prairie City, the possible future site of another nuclear power plant. We left our very colorful literature on the surrounding fence.

Publicity has been fairly good. TV cameras picked us up several blocks from the capitol in Des Moines and we had coverage on several stations. We have been on TV in Lincoln, Omaha, Des Moines, and Iowa City, and stories on the Walk have been carried in Iowa, the Catholic Worker of Iowa, the AFSC, and local WRL are our strongest areas of support.

Greg Green
Jean Hagen
Steve Marsden
Michael Carrick

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ceremony at noon on the state capitol steps with city officials signing the Hiroshima appeal. The Mayor of Madison may not be present as he is going to be in Hiroshima, Japan, for Hiroshima Day. The Mayor has proposed making Nagasaki a sister city to Madison. After the public meeting, walkers will proceed to Waupun State Prison for activities there in solidarity with inmates who are being held in segregated cells and have had their visiting rights limited. The prison inflicted these punishments due to an inmate action 10 days ago for which amnesty was supposedly given but is obviously being ignored.

August 14 walkers will be in Ft. Atkinson leafletting against the proposed Lake Koshkonong Nuclear Power Plant. Their focus will be on nuclear waste disposal and nuclear waste transportation.

August 17 through 20 the route will go through Milwaukee with activities and films each day.

LONG ISLAND ROUTE

Planning for the Walk route through Long Island is begun. Warren Liebold has given the tentative schedule as: September 4 Shoreham Nuclear Power Plant to Stonybrook, September 5 Stonybrook to Bayshore, September 6 Babylon to Massapequa, September 7 Massapequa past Grumman Aerospace to Westbury, September 8 Westbury to Queensline (via the Southshore). Nassau contacts are Warren Liebold at 516-333-5044 and Susan Blake at 516-SU5-8836. Suffolk county contact is Riley Bostrom at 516-979-7392.