

CONTINENTAL WALK NEWS

339 Lafayette St.
New York, N.Y. 10012

Issue #7
1/12/76

WE'RE OFF!!

On January 1, after a brief ceremony at the "Peace Arch" connecting it with British Columbia, a car caravan left Blaine, Washington on its way south toward Seattle and, eventually, Ukiah, California.

The first big event was a Nonviolent Resistance Workshop/Festival in Seattle on January 4, followed by a string of vigils, demonstrations, public meetings, and other actions as the caravan makes its way down the coast.

And so, friends, we've begun.

MORE SPONSORS/SIGNERS

Promoting Enduring Peace, the Gray Panthers, the Peoples Party, NCJUA, and the Socialist Party have endorsed the Walk, bringing to 16 the number of peace and social justice groups so involved.

John Swomley, David Brower (Pres., Friends of the Earth), and the late Euell Gibbons have added their names to the signers of the Call, the latter just days before his death.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

The Japanese National Delegation to U.N.O., composed of Gensuikyo and Japan Buddha Sangha, has become the fourth non-American organization to endorse the Walk.

That's more, they take the action seriously: they're sending four teams of four Buddhist monks each to walk the entire route in relay form; and they are arranging to have a Japanese film crew film the entire Walk.

From Europe, meanwhile, comes news of an "International Nonviolent March for Demilitarization" to take place across southern France this summer to coincide with the Walk. Several European groups are cooperating on this effort.

MATERIALS AVAILABLE

The national office now has buttons in the two-color design pictured last issue. "Walk" is in red; the letters, black; background, white. Most of you have received a sample already. Cost: 1-9, 25¢ each; 10-49, 20¢ each; 50-99, 15¢ each; 100 or more, 10¢ each.

Posters will be available in short order. 14x22, it has the name of the walk in white letters on a black background above a drawing of the continental U.S., with space for announcing local events at the bottom.

Bumper stickers, with the name in black letters superimposed on a green map of the U.S., both on a blue background, will also be available. Size is 3-3/4 x 7-1/2.

The Organizers' Manual will be out within the week.

PRESS CONFERENCE

The San Francisco office held a press conference on December 18th to announce the Walk. The radio coverage was good, print media, poor. They gave it a 7 on a scale of 0-10.

On January 23rd we hope to have press conferences in San Francisco, Atlanta, and Washington D.C. to announce the start of the Walk. The Atlanta conference is called by SCLC, and someone from the Walk national staff or steering committee will be at each conference.

P.S.: If you see any publicity about the Walk, send us a copy if you can.

ODDS'N'ENDS

-- Alison Metcalf of California is going the whole distance of the alk and will serve as a photographer. She and Blaine Metcalf have spoken of writing a book about the Walk. If anyone else is taking pictures, send us copies!

-- Rick LaRue of NJ, another coast-to-coast walker, will be keeping a daily journal of his experiences, which he offers to the Walk for our use. Anyone planning anything similar?

-- Colleen Lafferty of CA, studying in Mexico City, donated 50 Pesos (\$3.93) to the Walk.

-- Zane Zell of Montana suggests "delegations for each state could carry banners from their areas. Small festivals (could be set up) in parks along the route to recruit walkers and educate about the Walk (street theater, music, pot luck picnics, craft workshops, etc.)."

-- B. G. Coward of Connecticut suggests one committee to concern itself solely with gathering signatures for a "Peace Government plea," and adds "for goodness sake, no litter, mess, garbage, or destruction of shrubs, grass, etc."

-- Dick Cool of NY suggests local people could post broadsides (unsigned articles about an issue) relating local issues to the alk.

ORGANIZING NOTES

-- In the western NY area, contact Bob Russell at 713 Otisco St., Syracuse 13203. A regional meeting is scheduled for January 17.

-- Also on January 17th are regional meetings in Denver, CO, and Austin, TX. A popular date! P.S.: In Denver, contact Pam Solo, AFSC, 1428 Lafayette St., 80218.

-- In the Boston-Providence (RI) area, it's: Boston-Washington alk, 48 Inman St., Cambridge, MA 02139.

-- In Chicago, try the Continental Walk, Friendship House, Suite 317, 343 S. Dearborn 60604.

-- Contact Michael Durgain, 119 1/2 Iverson, Laramie, WY 82070 if you might be interested in a Laramie-Cheyenne-Denver feeder route.

-- Also in the air are plans for a Toronto-Buffalo link, composed largely of American exiles in Canada. Call Steve Grossman or Evangela Mix, 416-533-2989 for information.

-- There's a possibility of a Florida-Atlanta car caravan. Interested? Contact Willard Uphaus, Amity House, 1246 Alcazar Way S., St. Petersburg, FL 33705.

-- Information about the possibility of an Indiana-Ohio-Michigan region can be had by contacting Craig Glassner, AFSC Nuclear Pollution Group, Humanity House, 475 W. Market St., Akron, OH 44303.

CORRECTION

In Issue #5, it was incorrectly reported that Mary Robinson in Texas is organizing for Oklahoma. Responsibility for that actually rests with Jeff Sather, 403 S. Webster, Norman, OK 73069. Plans are being made for demonstrations, including civil disobedience, at Tinker AFB and Rockwell International offices.

HASSLES?

Brad Lytle has expressed concern that the attack on the Walk in the Congressional Record may be sent to police along the route by the FBI in an attempt to label the Walk the "enemy," with harassment and even violence becoming possibilities. Anyone who feels they have reason to believe they're facing such a prospect can contact the national office for suggestions on how to head off such a possibility.