

# Planet

on that collaborated on the effort to bring the tour to 75 towns and cities throughout America.

In statements written by Maruoka and Morimoto, the horrific images of nuclear destruction are all too graphically resurrected by victims whose pain is exceeded only by their consuming need to alert mankind to what they believe is the logical conclusion inherent in the ever-escalating production of yet more nuclear weapons.

"Of course it's painful to recall such memories," said Maruoka with the aid of interpreter Asato, "but, given the present situation, the human community is on the verge of destruction. That's why we're here: to call attention to the urgent need to ban nuclear weapons."

Maruoka's school was located about 720 yards from the blast's epicenter. Just after the explosion, Maruoka was crushed under the fallen buildings and lay unconscious. Able to escape several hours later, he attempted to rescue classmates trapped in the flames of the ensuing firestorm, to no avail.

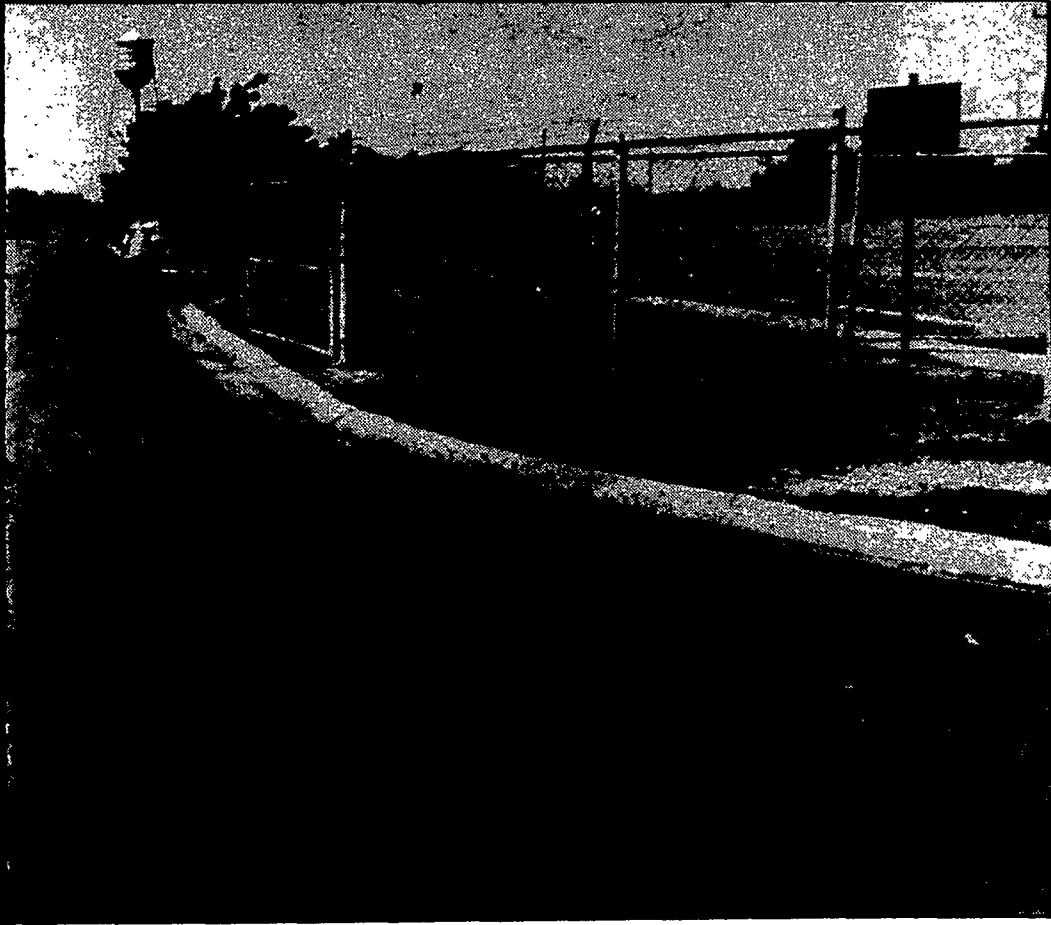
A vice-principal carted those who couldn't walk to Miyuki Bridge. "There were hundreds of hibakusha already gathered there," he says, "some eyeless and others noseless. Some people were even without limbs ... I was sent to Ninoshima Island off the coast of Ujina." **Continued on Page 16**



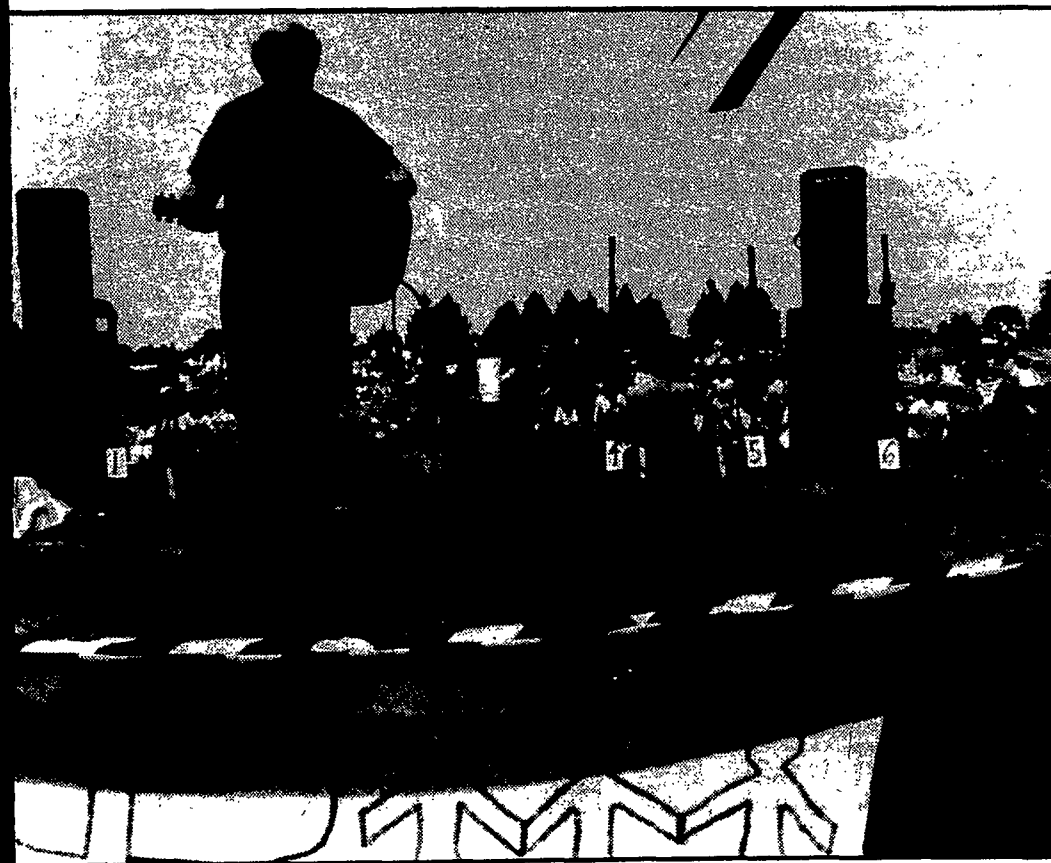
Bruce Wang  
Dik Cool lives by his name and refreshes himself with a cooling splash of water.



Jeff Goulding/Courier-Journal  
Carolyn Mow and Heidi Firtencel, both from Ithaca, release 25 rock doves to symbolize peace and unity at the end of the interfaith service Saturday morning.



Jeff Goulding/Courier-Journal  
The peace walkers split into two groups, one marching north and the other marching south, to encircle the area.



Jeff Goulding/Courier-Journal  
Peace ribbon from Washington, D.C., Tom Paxton plays his own special brand of folk music for the crowd.

## Rally Turnout Low, But Enthusiastic

By Teresa A. Parsons

Two years ago in October, 1983, 5,000 people gathered at Sampson State Park in Romulus, N.Y., for a peaceful demonstration against the deployment of nuclear weapons in Europe scheduled to begin in December. It was the largest such rally in the nation.

On Saturday, a demonstration to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki at Sampson State Park drew only one-tenth the response of its predecessor. At most, 500 people participated in the August 10 day-long rally.

According to a recent book, "Nuclear Battlefields: Global Links in the Arms Race," nine first-strike Pershing II missiles are now shipped from the Seneca Army Depot to European bases every seven weeks. The same book states that the depot houses 1,265 warheads, including more than 500 neutron bombs.

In the face of this confirmation — what one speaker referred to as "the long hand of doom" overshadowing the beautiful, cloudless sky — organizers had predicted a turnout of close to 1,000 people, but remained optimistic.

Beginning at 10 a.m. with an interfaith prayer service, activities included a 10-mile hike around the depot by two groups of demonstrators and a rally held on their return to the park.

The prayer service featured readings from scripture, prayer and singing led by

local clergy and community spokesmen. Speakers included Father Eugene Sweeney of St. Patrick's Church in Seneca Falls, who issued a call to worship, Sister Beatrice Ganley, S.S.J., and Chris Grannis of the Finger Lakes Office of Social Ministry, who led a prayer of petitions.

The highlight of the prayer service for most observers came at the end, when a flock of rock doves borrowed from Cornell University was released over the crowd. Pointing out their tight formation in flight without a leader, Monica Remond of Corning noted that the cooperation of each allows the flock to achieve its common goal. "We release these birds to symbolize the freedom we long for from nuclear weapons," she said.

Shuttle buses then transported the walkers for peace to the front gate of the Seneca Army Depot. There two groups embarked in different directions for the 10-mile walk around the depot and back to the park. Despite the 90-degree temperatures, about 240 people took part in the walk.

The rally at 4 p.m. featured Brooklyn district attorney and former Congresswoman Elizabeth Holtzman; two hibakusha, survivors of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki; and many representatives of upstate peace and justice organizations. Folk-singer Tom Paxton performed such classics as "We Finally Built the Perfect Bomb" and "I Sold a Hammer to the Pentagon."

Many of those who attended Saturday had also joined in the October 1983 demonstration and many agreed that Saturday's turnout and the health of the peace movement in general could be discouraging. But for most, Saturday was a day of renewal.

Continued on Page 16