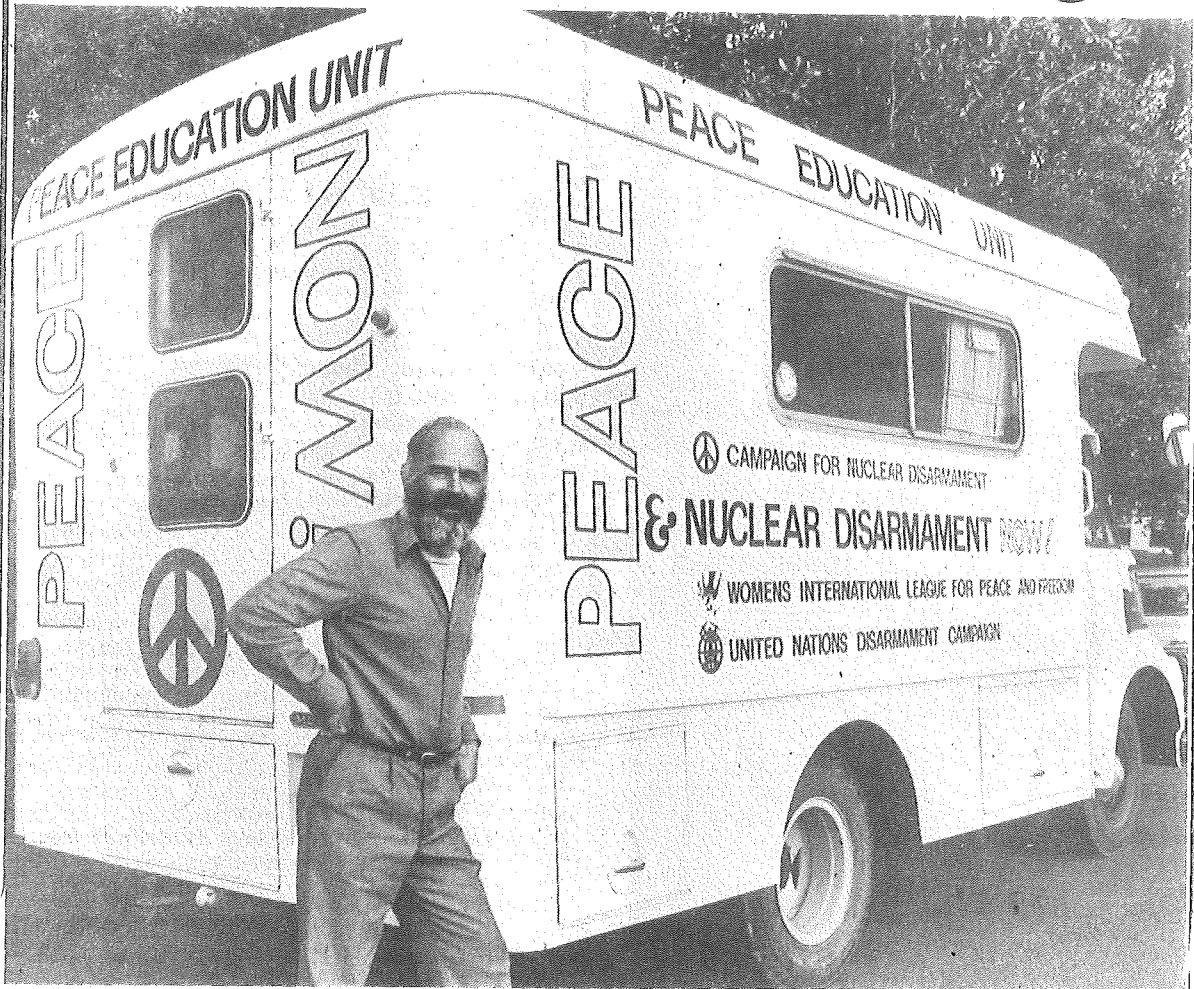


On the road with 'madness' message



When Jim Chapple was a boarding student at Wanganui Technical College in 1943-4, he was one of "less than ten" boys at the school excused from weekly cadet training — and the only one on conscientious grounds.

He was, and he was made to feel, an outsider. "With the Second World War on, as teenagers we were growing up in a climate of militarism. To go against that idea was considered very, very stronge."

Jim Chapple is a third-generation pacifist, following his father, and grandfather. His beliefs led him in 1980, to quit his teaching job to work full-time for the peace movement.

Earlier this year he took to the road in a specially-adapted van, in a one-man schools crusade to warn of the nuclear arms danger. He is in Wanganui this

week at secondary level for 30 years. He now subsists on donations from peace movement supporters, and says he is happy with a basic living standard because there is "so much work to be done."

"There's too much injustice in the world, too much greed, too much genuine need."

Over the past three years he has been involved with such projects as the sending of the yacht Pacific Peacemaker to Mururoa Atoll and on to Seattle, in protest against French nuclear testing and the American Trident submarine programme.

Mr Chapple with his van, in Wanganui. It is equipped with bed and cooker, television, video recorder and office gear.

"If a person does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps ... he hears the beat of a different drummer."

— Thoreau

...different drum

with John Francis

According to Mr Chapple made a "moral commitment to a response."

"Yet as far as I can make out nothing was done officially in New Zealand schools — although a programme of action was a very specific condition."

Internationally, it seems, inaction at all official levels was apparent. Peace group representatives at the 1982 Special Session, again in New York, found that "instead of nations having done something,

doing nothing," says Mr Chapple. Therefore it is up to individual school principals as to whether he is able to take his "shows" to their students.

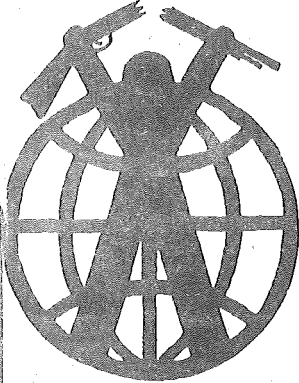
"Out of about 20 secondary schools so far, I've only had two refusals that sounded suspicious. The response has been very encouraging."

He says his message is two-fold:

"One, stop the arms race. Two, getting people to realise that the whole nuclear cycle — not just the arms race — is a

is in Wanganui this weekend for a peace conference, and hopes to be visiting local schools next week.

He taught English, social studies, science and



The symbol adopted by the last UN Special Session on Disarmament. Malcolm Caldwell, former chairman of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, is quoted as saying: "Whatever ambitions you have for the future, whatever kind of society you would like to see achieved, the Bomb is your enemy, threatening to terminate in sudden bloody violence, every cause, every campaign, every human plan and dream."

marine programme.

Despite his current role as public speaker Mr Chapple says he doesn't always "go in for a lot of words", preferring to match his talents to the jobs needing to be done. With Pacific Peacemaker for instance, as a qualified automotive engineer he was able to strip and overhaul the yacht's diesel motor.

His decision to tour New Zealand schools was prompted by Government action — or lack of it — following the 1st United Nations Special Session on Disarmament in New York, 1978.

"That was the biggest, most successful disarmament conference ever seen," says Mr Chapple.

Paragraph 106 of the final document produced by the conference states in part:

"Government... and non-governmental organisations are urged to take steps to develop programmes of education for dis-armament and peace studies at all levels."

Member states, including New Zealand, ac-

things were worse.

"National leaders, politicians and the military seem unable or unwilling to do anything to halt the arms race", concludes Mr Chapple. And yet a rally in New York's Central Park at the time of the UN disarmament talks attracted one million people.

"The feeling is that if anything is to be done, the people must do it."

The current schools tour, then, is Mr Chapple's personal response.

Mr Chapple asks for 45 minutes with school groups. He opens by showing the Dr Helen Caldicott film, "If You Love This Planet", which won an Academy Award for the best short documentary of 1982. Then he answers any questions, and he usually finds there is so much interest he finally has to "chop off" discussions.

He sees his presentation as a "wonderful starter" for follow-up work by the students themselves.

The tour has no official approval, "even though the Government itself is

nuclear cycle — not just the actual bomb making and testing but energy production, waste disposal — is affecting us all. Scientists talk of 'safety' with low levels of radiation, yet it is now believed the low levels are doing the most damage. And so we find, 20 years later, people who've been working in nuclear power stations for instance are coming up with problems in numbers that are scary."

One of the bases for his convictions, says Mr Chapple, is Einstein's statement not long before he died:

"Splitting atoms changed everything save man's mode of thinking. Thus we drift towards unparalleled catastrophe."

Mr Chapple is taking part in the gathering this weekend, at Friends Settlement, of Peace Movement, New Zealand delegates from around the country. Peace Movement New Zealand is a national co-ordinating body for such groups as Wanganui's Peace Forum.

Plastic best? Rubbish!

I believe there is a little booklet available, giving all sorts of ideas for using empty plastic drink bottles. How to use them as cloches in the garden, to make terrariums, toys, all sorts of cute little gadgets.

If the packaging companies are not actually financing this booklet, they will certainly be tickled pink to see it being distributed. After all, it helps to disguise the realities, which are, you might say, as sticky as melting plastic.

"One-way" packaging has grabbed the consumer. Most of it is plastic, but the majority of those bottles and jars still made of glass are also now non-refillable. This packaging approach may be "convenient" for some — and no doubt very profitable for others — but it compounds the problem of waste.

It's all very well, with the glass containers for instance, claiming their are "recyclable". But the energy required to break them down and reconstruct them is far greater than that needed to clean and re-fill.

We live in a crazy, wasteful world.

The latest issue of "Earth", the bulletin produced by the environmental movement Friends of the Earth, has an article on the subject by Sue Weston:

"For almost a decade, environmental groups have been making submissions and writing reports

on beverage containers.

"What we've been saying has been virtually ignored by policy makers. The time to submit has passed, now is the time to take action to stem the growth of non-refillable beverage containers.

"Back in 1975 groups such as Ecology Action, Friends of the Earth and the Environmental Defence Society were expressing concern that our system of returnable beverage containers would be threatened by the introduction of one-way, non-refillable containers.

"Eight years later we have a whole new range of such containers — non-refillable glass bottles, plastic PET bottles and paperboard cartons. These new containers have expanded consumer choice, especially by offering more light-weight containers.

"However, the uncontrolled growth of non-refillables may make refillable containers an endangered species by the end of the decade. Once non-refillables take over a large enough market share, refillables will become uneconomic and will be discontinued — effectively reducing consumer choice.

"In several Australian states

this has already occurred — in 1982 95% of soft drinks in New South Wales were sold in non-refillable containers, and in Victoria the share was 75%.

"For obvious reasons the manufacturers of disposable packaging are keen to see this continue. To placate growing public concern about the wider implications of disposable beverage containers they have started to promote recycling as the solution.

"Overseas, huge refuse incineration plants have been encouraged by disposable packaging manufacturers as the solution to growing mountains of packaging refuse. Both recycling and incineration for energy recovery are far less desirable than a sound system of refillable containers which can be reused dozens of times before eventually being recycled.

"The refillable beverage container system already works well for milk and beer bottles, and should be extended to cover all beverage containers. Overseas experience with refundable deposits has indicated high return rates for refilling and recycling, savings in energy and raw materials, and reduction in litter. In addition, a net increase in employment in the beverage industry.