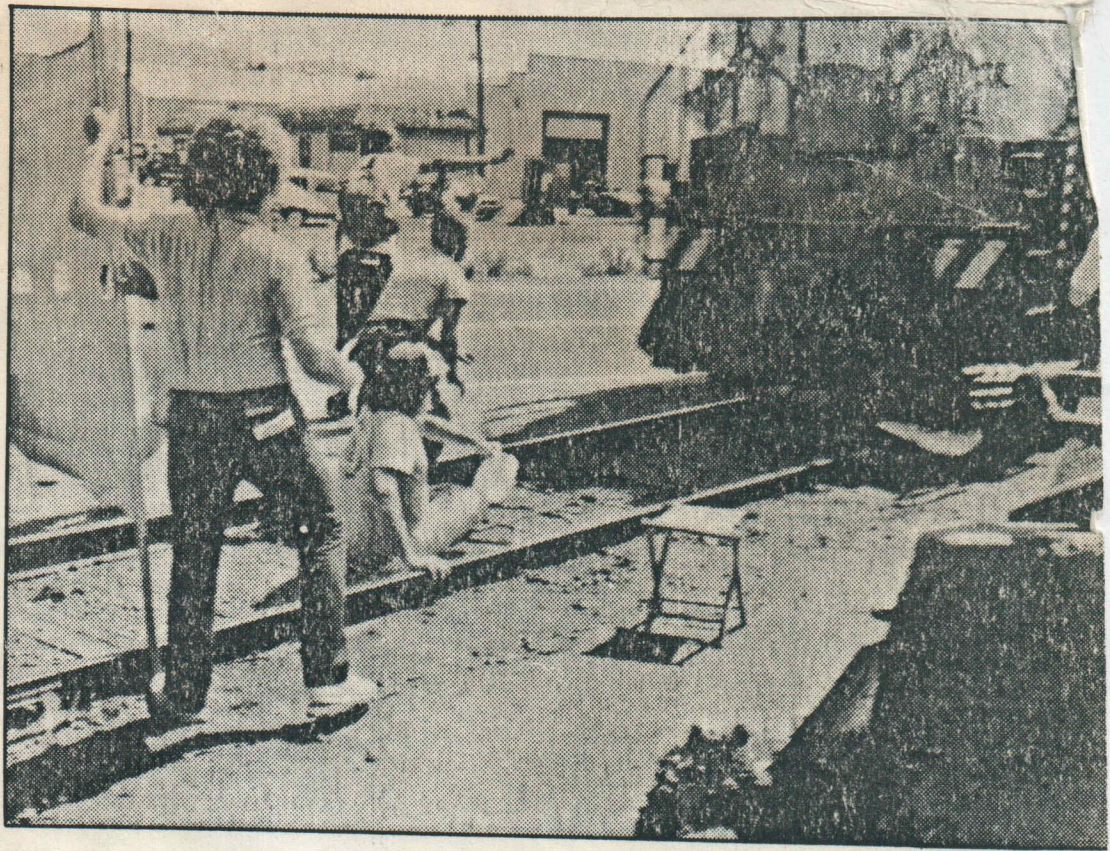


Long-term protest behind tragedy

By Marie Felde
The Tribune

CONCORD — Yesterday's tragic protest at the Concord Naval Weapons Station was part of a continuing effort this summer by several groups objecting to United States involvement in wars in Central America.

One of the groups, the Pledge of Resistance, says it has proof obtained through the Freedom of Information Act that the weapons station is shipping arms to Central America.



Willson sits on rail bed as train bears down on him.

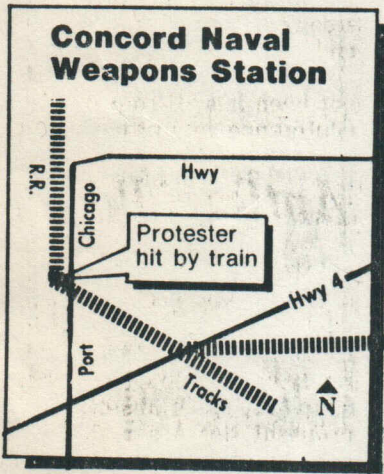
Brian Willson, who was critically injured when he was struck by a train yesterday, was at the weapons station on June 10 when he announced the beginning of a long-term effort by the Veterans Peace Action Team and the Nuremberg Actions Committee to halt the trains loaded with munitions.

At least one or two people had been holding a vigil at the tracks most days since then, and a few trucks had been stopped, but most people were not ready to step onto the tracks and be arrested, Willson said. Yesterday he said he believed the commitment had grown and there was enough support to stop the trains.

Also this June, more than 1,000 people descended on the sprawling weapons center in an action organized by Pledge of Resistance.

More than 300 people were arrested over five days in connection with that protest. There were no serious injuries and most of those arrested were cited for misdemeanor trespassing.

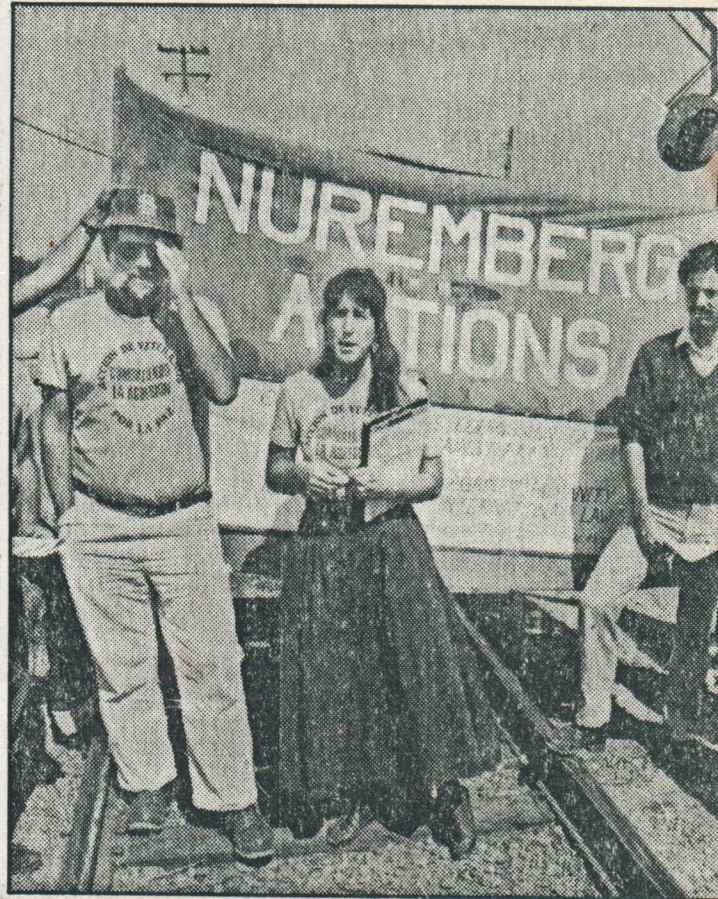
Currently, about 80,000 to 120,000 pounds of munitions are shipped each year from the Con-



By Frank Pennock Jr./The Tribune

cord station to military installations around the world, according to the Navy. The station is the Department of Defense's only weapons shipping center on the West Coast.

Although the Navy will not confirm or deny the presence of nuclear weapons at the station, many people believe they are stored there. The Navy acknowledges there are areas on the 13,000-acre station where deadly force is authorized to deal with persistent intruders.



By Bill Knowland/The

Willson and wife Holley Rauen stand on tracks before crash.