ONE-WOMAN CAMPAIGN HITS HEADLINES IN CALIFORNIA

‘Peace Pilgrim’ is walking 3,000 miles across USA

‘STOP THE WAR IN KOREA’

A YOUNG American woman is walking 3,000 miles across the USA carrying a peace message to every town and village through which she passes.

Preferring to remain anonymous, she has called herself “Peace Pilgrim” because she feels it imperative that the journey be a movement of the spirit of peace across the USA.

In addition to handing out copies of her peace message she is distributing three petition forms.

One calls for an immediate stopping of the war in Korea, another for the establishment of a Peace Department of the U.S. Government, with a Secretary of Peace who accepts the belief that evil must be overcome with good, falsehood with truth, and hatred with love.

The third petition form, addressed to the United Nations and world leaders asks them to free the peoples of the world from the “crushing burden of armaments.”

“I shall spend some time in each large centre of population,” Peace Pilgrim writes to Peace News. “It may take me a year to cross the country.

On Radio and TV

“My whole job now is walking and talking with people about the way to peace. In undertaking this pilgrimage I do not think of myself as an individual, but rather as an embodiment of all human hearts that are pleading for peace.

“What happened to me in Los Angeles and Hollywood was almost miraculous. All channels of communication were opened to me and my little peace message. I spent hours being interviewed by newspaper reporters and being photographed by newspaper photographers.

“My story (even my picture) went out over Associated Press, United Press, International News Service. Besides doing two live television programmes, I spent hours recording for radio, television, newsmagazines, and it went out over national hookups of radio and television.

Newspapers all along the line from Los Angeles to San Diego were interested. In San Diego I did one television programme and four radio programmes—and that includes all the stations that use live talent.

“I spent a year at a high school to an enthusiastic audience. The head of the San Diego

peaceful

Her message...

MY friends, the world situation is grave. Humanity, with fearful, faltering steps, walks a knife-edge between abysmal chaos and a new renaissance, while strong forces push towards chaos. Unless we, the people of the world, awake from our lethargy and push firmly and quickly away from chaos, all that we cherish will be destroyed in the holocaust which will descend.

This is the way to peace: Overcome evil with good, and falsehood with truth, and hatred with love. The Golden Rule would do as well. Please don’t say lightly that these are just religious concepts and not practical. These are laws governing human conduct, which apply as rigidly as the law of gravity. When we disregard these laws in any walk of life, chaos results. Through obedience to these laws this frightened, war-weary world of ours could enter into a period of peace and richness of life beyond our fondest dreams.

Council of Churches approved my message and my three petitions, and they are being widely circulated in the churches.

“At Tijuana, Mexico, just across the border, I was received by the Mayor, and he gave me a message to carry to the Mayor of New York City. I shall also carry a message from the California Indians to the Arizona Indians.

“I shall go east on highway 80 through Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona, and after hitting Dallas, Texas, I shall cut up through Kansas City, St. Louis, Chicago, Detroit, then down to Washington, D.C., then on to New York City. This is not a very direct way across. However, my object is not to make fast time, but to contact a lot of people.

“In order to remain an impersonal instrument, I have undertaken a very stern personal discipline. I shall walk until I am given shelter, and fast until I am given food, using money given me to spread my message.

Peace Pilgrim is a voluntary worker for the American section of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, founded in 1915 in an attempt to secure negotiations between the belligerents in World War I.

Peace Pilgrim was a very popular figure in the peace movement of the 1950s and 1960s. She walked across the United States, carrying a peace message and distributing petitions for peace. She was known for her peaceful message and her dedication to ending the Korean War. Her efforts helped to raise awareness about the need for peace and contributed to the movement for disarmament.