Peace Pilgrim To Stay A Wanderer

BY ART RAYMOND
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The Peace Pilgrim, visiting in Mitchell Thursday and Friday, has dedicated her life to being "a wanderer until mankind has learned the way of peace, walking until I am given shelter and fasting until I am given food."

She has no illusions about her goal to accomplish peace but she quotes, "It is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness." Thus you may see her walking on her pilgrimage which may have no end, a silver-haired woman, dressed in blue slacks and shirt, and a short tunic with pockets all around the bottom in which she carries her only worldly possessions.

Lestened on the front of her tunic are the words "Peace Pilgrim" and on the back, "Walking 25,000 miles for world peace."

She's been at her mission for seven and one-half years and has walked 15,000 miles on her pilgrimage in 46 states, 10 provinces of Canada and in Mexico. This is her second appearance in Mitchell. She was here about five years ago.

Her mission now has a three-fold dedication - walking, talking, and taking care of her correspondence which has built up tremendously in the last seven and one-half years.

Thus, she walks and she talks whenever she can. Tonight she will address a public meeting at the First Methodist Church in Mitchell.

To accomplish her mission she must not only just walk but also must talk to clubs, to organizations, to church memberships, to college and university assemblies. "I'm interested in meeting people and having them meet me," she says.

Because of her increased talking schedule she now plans to walk about 2,000 miles a year - a cutback from the 5,000 she did the first year.

Between Pilgrimage walks she will ride and frequently does she says, when she goes on speaking tours.

Her present Pilgrimage schedule calls for her to do about a thousand miles in the north in the summer, about a thousand in the south in the winter, zigzagging back and forth across the country. She is going east generally and hopes to end her 25,000 miles at Washington, D.C.

However, that doesn't mean the end of her wanderer's life for she says her wanderings will cease only when the tide of world peace is drifting as strongly toward peace as the tides of today's world are drifting toward war.

To the Peace Pilgrim her vow means what it says, "walking until I am given shelter and fasting until I am given food."

She is penniless and doesn't worry about food, where her next meal is coming from or where she will sleep.

She says, "There is a magic formula for resolving conflicts. It is this: Have as your objective the resolving of the conflict - not the gaining of advantage."

"There is a magic formula for avoiding conflicts. It is this: Be concerned that you do not offend - not that you are not offended."

"For 22 years this woman, who was born in the United States, has had no sleep because of it."

And thus she walks on, saying, "There is great freedom in simplicity."