MILDRED NORMAN... the ‘peace pilgrim’

‘Peace Pilgrim’ Dies in Crash

Mildred Norman, who for more than 25 years has been known as the “peace pilgrim” and who was to arrive in Elkhart today, was killed Tuesday in a traffic accident.

While the silver-haired woman had never given her age, authorities say she was 70 and a native of Cologne, N.J.

According to the Associated Press, Ms. Norman was killed in a two-car collision on Ind. 23, near Knox in Starke County. She was a passenger in a car driven by Ulver Woodard of Knox, who also was killed. Authorities say they were on their way to a religious service.

The driver of the other car, Dana McPherson of Knox, was reported hospitalized in fair condition.

The peace pilgrim “was a promoter of the cause of peace; this was her whole life,” said the Rev. Robert Dick of Elkhart’s Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

Dick and his wife, Helen, had planned to have Ms. Norman stay at their home during her Elkhart stay.

Having begun her initial peace pilgrimage on Jan. 1, 1953, she long ago met her first goal of walking 25,000 miles for peace. She had vowed to be a wanderer “until mankind has learned the way of peace, walking until I am given shelter and fasting until I am given food.”

The peace pilgrim had been in Elkhart at least once before, stopping here in September 1976.

She had been scheduled to make several radio and television appearances on her latest stay in Elkhart, and was to have been the speaker Monday night for a meeting of the Fellowship of Reconciliation.

Dick, who is a member of the fellowship, an international peace movement, said the meeting still is scheduled for 7 p.m. in the City Church of the Brethren at Benham and Wolf avenues.