

Who?

Someone who, when she has a conviction about something, just can't help acting upon it....

A woman determined to do all that "one little person" can do to bring peace into a warring world....

A wayfarer on the highways, wearing dark blue slacks and a tunic to match, with "PEACE PILGRIM" in large letters on the front and "WALKING COAST TO COAST FOR PEACE" on the back....

Any of these descriptions would fit her, but she herself would say:

"Just call me Peace Pilgrim. In undertaking this pilgrimage I do not think of myself as an individual, but rather as an embodiment of the heart of the world, which is pleading for peace."

What?

What Peace Pilgrim undertook to do was to walk from coast to coast across the United States, talking with those she met about the way to peace. It was as simple as that.

She took nothing with her on her pilgrimage except the clothes she wore, a few copies of her Peace Message, and some petitions.

The essence of her message was this: "Overcome evil with good, and falsehood with truth, and hatred with love. The Golden Rule would do as well." These, she insisted, are not impractical theories, but laws of human conduct, as certain as the law of gravity."

Why?

When she was asked the reason for her pilgrimage, she replied:

"It is an opportunity to talk with my fellow human beings about the way to peace. It is a penance for whatever I may have contributed, by commission or omission, to the tragic situation in the world today. It is a prayer that this frightened, war-weary world will somehow find the way to peace before the holocaust descends."

"Until mankind has learned the way to peace," she added, "I shall remain a wanderer on the face of the earth."

When and Where?

Starting from Los Angeles on New Year's Day, 1953, Peace Pilgrim followed a meandering route along some of the nation's principal highways, in order that she might meet and talk with as many people as possible.

After passing through San Diego, Phoenix, Tucson, El Paso and Dallas, she went up through Oklahoma City, Wichita and Topeka to Kansas City; thence through St. Louis, Chicago, Detroit, Toledo, Cleveland and Pittsburgh to the first of her two destinations, Washington, D. C.

From our nation's capital she went on by way of Baltimore and Philadelphia toward her final destination, the United Nations headquarters in New York. With rare exceptions, her message was everywhere eagerly received. She completed her 5000-mile pilgrimage when she walked across the George Washington Bridge into New York City on December 17th.

How?

Walking (not hitch-hiking) every step of the way, fasting until she was given food, sleeping outdoors when she was not offered shelter, Peace Pilgrim asked for nothing, and when money was given her, used it only to help spread her message of peace.

She averaged about 25 miles a day when actually on the road, but spent from three or four to as many as ten days in the larger cities, giving newspaper, radio and television interviews and speaking to church, youth and women's groups, schools, and meetings of many kinds. Thus her message reached thousands besides those she met on the highways.

What began as a purely individual undertaking soon became a "group effort", as Peace Pilgrim wrote to a friend. All along the route of her pilgrimage, members of existing organizations, and new groups formed for the purpose, began helping to circulate Peace Pilgrim's petitions.

One of these petitions is addressed to the United Nations, and calls for world disarmament and reconstruction.

The other asks for the establishment of a Peace Department in the United States government. Peace Pilgrim hopes to present this to President Eisenhower in person.

Peace Pilgrim has no official sponsors. But members of many groups are helping to secure signatures to her petitions, among them

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