

Peace Pilgrim Walks to Urge World Calm

By Syd Herman

MANITOWOC—Humanity walks a knife-edge between complete chaos and a golden age with tottering steps which lean toward the distaff but one individual walks with firm steps the roads which lead from city to city back and forth across the country in a pilgrimage for peace.

A silver-haired woman whose age it would be difficult to guess and who parries all questions about her name and background walked into Manitowoc Friday morning.

Unlike contemporary movements which lean toward fiery oratory, mass meetings and even violence, she mounts no soap box, does not speak unless spoken to

first, forces no literature at passing persons, nor begs for anything. Her only purpose in life is to smile, be friendly, and to attempt to instill in the people she meets the urge for action in a move toward peace.

'Made a Vow'

This gentle person wears her only possessions—dresses in comfortable navy blue walking slacks and shirt and a short tunic which carries all her worldly possessions in pockets all around the bottom. The front of the tunic is lettered in large white letters with her name "Peace Pilgrim" and on the back is lettered "Walking 25,000 Miles for World Peace."

She has walked more than two-thirds of the distance and she is not sure she will stop when that figure is reached.

"I made a vow that I would remain a wanderer until mankind has learned the way of peace, walking until I am given shelter and fasting until I am given food. I am not affiliated with any organization. I walk as a prayer, hoping to inspire others to pray and work for peace," she said.

Refuses Fees

She wears her 24th pair of children's walking shoes—a canvas and composition-soled flat-heeled shoe and says she gets about 1,500 miles per pair. She has counted 18,500 miles but didn't start counting until urged by reporters who asked for estimates. She came here from Green Bay with stopoffs at Oshkosh and Fond du Lac where she had been asked to speak. She speaks to countless numbers of schools, colleges and universities as well as to organizations along the way. She refuses fees and when they are mailed to her or slipped into her pocket as she leaves she mails the money to a Pennsylvania address where a close friend uses the money to publish and mail free news-letters to persons who have befriended her along the way.

"I have never had to go without eating for more than two days and actually I seldom miss eating because kind friends invite me to their tables along the way. I haven't slept outside in two years now—somebody offers to put me up for the night when I speak for various groups," she said.

Started in 1953

The walk started in January, 1953, after she had suddenly decided that life had to have a more concrete purpose. Her pet project: Commend every good thing that comes to your attention to give it strength.

"Overcome hatred with love falsehood with truth and evil with

(Continued From Page 1)

good," she advocates—but does not preach. "The world is like a mirror—if you smile at it, it smiles back at you."

Her tenets for a lasting world peace hinge on several simple solutions. She would like to see establishment of a world language to be taught as a universal language in all the schools of the world. She has no language preference but believes this should be left up to the language experts who already are working on such a problem through United Nations. This, she says is the biggest single step toward world understanding and a long stride toward world peace. She also advocates a peace department in our government to do extreme research on peaceful means of solving conflicts.

Desire for Peace

"I am very happy about the Peace Corps," she said, adding that she thinks eventually there will be a need for an unarmed peace corps to go into trouble areas to remedy the situations before strife begins.

"The desire for peace is always there—it always has been. But there is a need for organized action designed to bring peace. There is a greater awareness and more willingness toward such a goal today," she said.

From Manitowoc, Peace Pilgrim will set out for Sheboygan and next week expects to arrive in Milwaukee. From there she will go to Racine and Kenosha, then over to Madison and thence south to Illinois as she follows the season. In November she will tour Missouri and in February will be in Louisiana. During July and August and in December she does not walk. These are the months when she goes on speaking tours.

During those months there is no school and less opportunity to visit children and younger people and their groups. Her forwarding address is Peace Pilgrim, Cologne, N. J., and her mail is