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Peace Seeker Visits Here



Photo by Paltz, staff photographer

Peace Pilgrim (above) appears in her walking clothes — navy blue slacks, sweater and short tunic bearing her name in white letters — shortly after reaching Sioux City on one leg of walking pilgrimage for world peace. The traveler has spent the month of May in the Hawkeye state, visiting towns of more than 25,000 population, plus smaller towns to which she has been invited. She will remain here through Memorial day.

While hundreds of motorists are taking to the nation's highways for a Memorial day holiday of fun, Peace Pilgrim, a soft-spoken, dedicated traveler walking a pilgrimage for world peace is visiting in Sioux City for the second time.

She is scheduled to appear before a public gathering at 7:30 o'clock tonight at the First Methodist church to share some of her experiences and speak on Peace Within and Without.

For reasons of her purpose in life, the gray-haired woman has assumed the name, Peace Pilgrim.

Her personal vow, "I shall remain a wanderer until mankind has learned the way of peace, walking until I am given shelter and fasting until I am given food" has taken her a distance of 18,000 miles. The visitor arrived here during the weekend from Fort Dodge, Ia., after journeying across the Hawkeye state during the month of May.

Began in 1953

Since beginning her walk in January, 1953 from Los Angeles, the tanned wanderer has zig-zagged across the North American continent, visiting all 48 states, every Canadian province and parts of Mexico.

The first year she traveled a distance of 5,000 miles and to date has accumulated a total of 18,200.

"I've worn out 23 pairs of shoes, or should say I'm on my 23d pair now," she confided. "Each pair lasts about 1,500." Her daily average is 25 miles and 50 miles is the most she's gone in a day, she added.

"In my early life, I discov-

ered that money-making was easy, but not meaningful. Out of a very deep seeking for a meaningful way of life, I dedicated my life to service and began to live to give instead of to get," the traveler explained as to why she began her pilgrimage.

Reasons for Venture

She said she undertook it "on foot and on faith as a prayer and as a chance to contact people.

The Sioux City guest believes these steps could be taken toward peace right now: (1) Establishment of a world language to be taught as a second language in all schools in the world, (2) establishment of a peace department in the United States government to do extensive research on peaceful ways of resolving conflicts, and (3) establishment of an unarmed peace corps to go into any situation where trouble is beginning and remedy the cause of trouble before strife develops.

Peace Pilgrim's aim is to continue to walk until the tide of world affairs drifts as strongly toward peace as it now drifts toward war. She expects to see world disarmament and world peace in her lifetime and believes the wish to survive if nothing else is pushing people in that direction now.

Since first taking her vow, the traveler feels persons who always have desired peace now are becoming much more willing to work for it.

Miss Ethel Chesterman was hostess to Miss Pilgrim Sunday night. During her stay here she has been a guest in several Sioux City homes including the Robert J. Zoernig residence and the Harland Soper home.