

## Call Her Peace Pilgrim

# One-Woman Crusade Seeks Peace

By MONA MOORE  
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MALAGA — Depending upon your viewpoint, she's a penniless pauper or the wealthiest woman you can name.

With no worldly possessions except the clothes she wears, carrying in her pockets the bare essentials — a toothbrush and comb, paper and pen — Peace Pilgrim walks until she's given shelter and fasts until she's given food.

But she certainly doesn't think of herself as poor.

"I think of myself as free from enslaving things — unnecessary possessions and meaningless activities," she says, smiling, as she tucks a wisp of her silvery hair into her pony tail.

Dressed in her uniform of navy-blue shirt, pants, sneakers and navy-blue tunic, with the words "Peace Pilgrim" on the front and "25,000 miles for peace" on

the back, she spoke to a small group of people at the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. Jay Dinshah here Sunday.

She also expects to visit Newfield, Atlantic City and Absecon later this week.

Peace Pilgrim began her first pilgrimage in Los Angeles in January 1953. Since then, she's been in all 50 states, 10 Canadian provinces and parts of Mexico. She's now almost finished with her sixth pilgrimage and starting to plot her seventh, which will begin next March in California.

Wherever she goes, the message she brings is a simple and timeless one: "Overcome evil with good, falsehood with truth, and hatred with love."

It's a familiar message, but she imparts it with such a sincerity and genuine enthusiasm that it doesn't sound trite at all.

She often doesn't know where she'll eat or sleep that night, has had close brushes with death or danger, and

has occasionally spent nights sleeping in the woods; she once almost froze to death in a mountain snowstorm. But she says her needs are always met somehow.

"People are good," she says. "There is a spark of good in everyone. You can't find a completely diabolical person."

She's a bit vague and mysterious about her past, saying only, "I came from a life of money and things and I hadn't been happy."

Asked her real name, she replies, "'Peace Pilgrim' is my real name. It has been for 25 years now."

In addition to shedding material things, she doesn't smoke or drink, is a vegetarian and also refuses to ingest caffeine in the form of coffee, tea or soft drinks.

"I think of myself in radiant health," she says. "I haven't had an ache or pain, a cold or headache, in 40 years."

It was 40 years ago that she took her vow of simplicity — "I shall not accept more than I need while others in the world have less than they need" — and eventually got her life "down to need-level."

"In my life what I want and what I need are the same," she says. "Those who have enough, but not too much — those are the happy people."

Over her 25 years as a pilgrim, she's seen many changes. She began during the Korean War, but it wasn't until near the end of the Vietnam War that she began to see a change in popular attitudes, toward peace.

People today are also more introspective, more interested in "the deepest kind of inner searching," she says.

There's also been a greater acceptance of vegetarianism in recent years, although she doubts it will soon become a widespread acceptance.

"We must learn not to kill each other, before we can learn not to kill creatures," she said.

Although world peace is her goal, she feels it can be attained only when enough people achieve inner peace to begin to have an effect on institutions like television, the press and the government.

"Our institutions and our leaders reflect our immaturity," she says. "It can't change for the better until we change for the better."

Peace Pilgrim will speak at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at Piney Hollow United Methodist Church on Dutch Mill Road in Newfield.

At 7:30 p.m. Thursday, she'll be at the Christian Community, at 2323 Atlantic Ave. in Atlantic City. On Sunday, she'll speak at 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. at Absecon Presbyterian Church.