

Letter written to niece after the start of her pilgrimage in January 1953

(Typed from its original longhand by Friends of Peace Pilgrim)

San Diego, Calif.
Thurs., Jan. 22, 1953

Dear Jeanie:

The enclosed scarf is one of the things which were given to me in Tijuana, Mexico — one of the largest of the Mexican border towns — when I went down there yesterday. I pass it along to you, thinking that you may be able to use it.

When I reached the border a group of newspaper reporters were waiting for me. They were very interested. Then I was received by the Mayor of Tijuana. He was very interested, too, and he gave me a letter of greeting to carry with me to the Mayor of New York City. I was photographed at the Mayor's office and elsewhere by newspaper photographers. I was then received at the American Consulate and at some fine homes in Tijuana. Then I walked through the streets of Tijuana and talked to the people who could speak English. Everyone was very much interested.

People in Southern California are very much interested also. When I walk along the highway many people wave and stop to talk with me. The same thing happens in the cities. In the letter to your mother I mentioned how well Los Angeles treated me.

In San Diego there are four radio stations that use live talent. I have been on all four. There is also one television station, and I was on that last night. Papers here have carried my picture and my story. Churches and other groups here are circulating my messages and my petitions. So you see San Diego has been very good to me also.

I spoke in a high school here this morning, and when I had finished a group of girls gathered around me and asked me if I had a daughter, and I said, "No, but I have a niece." One said, "My, but she must be proud of you." Another said, "I wish I had an aunt who had courage enough to walk across the country." Another said, "I wish I had an aunt who was on radio and television and had her picture in the papers."

I have spoken to a lot of young people since I started my peace pilgrimage. All of them were very enthusiastic, and many of the college and high school students are circulating my petitions. The students out here in California are wide awake, and very much concerned about the war situation, and very glad that someone is working for peace.

I leave here tomorrow or Saturday and go across the desert on highway 80.

Love and best wishes,
Peace Pilgrim