



'Peace is much more than the temporary absence of war. It is the absence of the causes of war. If we, as a race, were mature people, peace would be assured. But we have only scratched the surface of our real potential.'

Peace Pilgrim

Pilgrimage for peace

Woman walks for a better world

By LYNNE WOGAN
Times staff writer

She travels across the country without a suitcase. She doesn't need one.

Her only possessions are a ballpoint pen, pocket comb, toothbrush, postage stamps and the clothes on her back.

She travels on foot without a penny in her pocket, and has no home base.

When there's no place else to go, she sleeps on roadsides and in used car lots. But that usually isn't necessary. Strangers open their homes to her for the night. And she claims she's never had to miss more than four meals in a row, thanks to the generosity of her fellow men.

She calls herself Peace Pilgrim. It's the only name she's used for 24 years since her pilgrimage began at the Rose Bowl Parade in Pasadena, Calif., Jan. 1, 1953. She walked the parade route and kept on walking. She had no family or responsibilities to prevent her journey, she said.

She had logged 25,000 miles 12 years ago when she stopped counting. Since then, she has made several more cross-country walks.

"My friends thought I'd taken leave of my senses when I said I was going to walk for peace," said the blue-eyed, silver-haired pilgrim who stopped counting birthdays and "arrested my age 24 years ago."

She walked into Raleigh Saturday to talk about world peace. She spoke at the Quaker Meeting House and the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. A third talk will be given at 7:30 tonight at

the Holy Order of MANS, 602 Stacy St. It is free and open to the public.

She speaks about human potential and society's potential.

"This is the way of peace: Overcome evil with good, and falsehood with truth, and hatred with love.

"Please don't say lightly that these are just religious concepts and not practical. These are laws governing human conduct, which apply as rigidly as the laws of gravity. When we disregard these laws in any walk of life, chaos results. Through obedience to these laws, this frightened, war-weary world of ours could enter into a period of peace and richness of life beyond our fondest dreams."

She said she walks to inspire others to pray and work for peace. She speaks to individuals along the way as well as groups. She has also addressed psychology and philosophy classes at colleges from coast to coast.

While in Raleigh she is staying with Richard and Mary Leuba. Leuba is an assistant professor of engineering at N.C. State University and his wife is a social worker who met the pilgrim when she addressed a Quaker gathering in another city.

She walks in children's tennis shoes with thick crepe soles and canvas tops.

"They walk 1,500 miles a pair. I think that's excellent mileage." When she needs a new pair, they are offered to her, she said.

"I've taken a vow of simplicity which is that 'I shall not accept more than I need while others in the world have less than they need.'"