

V-M THURSDAY (V-M: photo)  
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# Peace Pilgrim dies in crash

by The V-M and AP

A two-car collision in northern Indiana has killed a Knox man and a traveling evangelist known as the "Peace Pilgrim."

Killed on Indiana 23 near Knox Tuesday were Uler Ward, driver of one car, and his passenger, Mildred Norman, 70, a native of Cologne, N.J. Officials said they were traveling to a religious service.

The driver of the other car, Dana McPherson, Knox, was hospitalized in fair condition.

Known only as "Peace Pilgrim" to persons she met, Miss Norman had criss-crossed the nation on foot seven times to promote peace. Her travels included a visit to Valparaiso last weekend.

She wore a navy blue tunic emblazoned with "25,000 Miles on Foot for Peace" in white letters on the back and "Peace Pilgrim" on the front and navy blue slacks. The tunic had pockets around it that she kept her worldly possessions in. She said she carried no money and would not accept money, food or shelter. Instead, people would open their homes to her and she said this gesture "shows that people are good."

Her journey began suddenly on Jan. 1, 1953, when she woke up one morning and knew traveling for peace was what she should do.

"All of my friends and associates tried desperately to talk me out of it (pilgrimage)," said Peace Pilgrim when she was in Valparaiso by invitation of First United Methodist Church. "But I knew this is what I had to do."

She devoted all of her retirement years to the pilgrimage for peace. When she first start-

ed her journey, Peace Pilgrim walked along the highways so she could use a road map to keep track of her miles.

"When I first started, I wanted to see how many miles I could travel. Some days I walked as many as 50 miles and I completed 5,000 miles during the first year. But I discovered I could not talk to as many people this way."

In 1964 she surpassed 25,000 miles and that is when she quit counting the miles she walked. Miles were no longer important to her and she began walking where the people were — in towns and parks. When in Valparaiso she walked around the Courthouse Square.

When she talked to people she handed them a blue slip of paper. On one side it explained her journey and on the other side was Peace Pilgrim's message: "This is the way of peace: Overcome evil with good and falsehood with truth and hatred with love."

When Dr. John D. Wolf, minister at First United Methodist Church, received word of Peace Pilgrim's death he said, "She left a profound impression on the individuals and congregation during her stay here. She was a genuine God-centered person who was dedicated to peace within and between people. You meet only one person like this in a generation."

Dr. Wolf said that Peace Pilgrim's sister, who resides in Cologne and has been forwarding her mail to her as she traveled, is in charge of disposing her body which will be cremated. No particular services were scheduled in New Jersey. Dr. Wolf said that his church would hold a memorial service during the worship service sometime in the next couple of weeks.

Peace Pilgrim Mildred Norman who walked for peace in the world for almost 30 years was killed Tuesday in an automobile accident near Knox. This photo was taken when she visited Valparaiso last weekend on her seventh pilgrimage across the Un-

