

El Paso Herald-Post

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Woman Walks 18,000 Miles to Protest War

A gentle grey-haired woman who has walked 18,000 miles in the past eight years said today, "I shall remain a wanderer until mankind has learned the way of peace." Mrs. Peace Pilgrim, no known address, stopped overnight with a friendly Ysleta couple after completing a 1000-mile walking tour of Texas.

"I walk until given shelter and fast until given food," Mrs. Pilgrim said. "This is my calling—and what you are called to do, you do!"

Decided to Give

"Early in life I learned that money making is easy but not satisfying. I sought a meaningful way of life. I decided to live to give—not to get. Walking for peace and disarmament is my way. My journey is undertaken on faith as well as on foot. It is a prayer to inspire others to do something for peace."

Mrs. Pilgrim started her journey in Los Angeles in 1953 and has been going ever since. She has covered 48 states, 10 Canadian provinces and part of Mexico.

She wears cloth shoes with crepe soles, the same as children use for play. Each pair lasts about 1509 miles and she is on her 23rd pair.

The rest of her costume is made up of Navy blue shirt, slacks, and short tunic with big pockets all around the bottom. It has her name on it and the lettered motto—"Walking 25,000 miles for World Peace."

Never Harmed

"I have never been harmed in all these years," Mrs. Pilgrim said. "Many people approach me out of curiosity, but after we

talk, we become friends. I have had many wonderful experiences and never a bad one. I believe that good overcomes evil."

On her first tour Mrs. Pilgrim passed through El Paso. Yesterday a gas station operator noticed her at the roadside and called a friendly greeting.

"I remember you coming by here several years ago," he said. Mrs. Pilgrim was pleased with her welcome.

"Before I started walking, I had never covered more than five miles by foot," she said. "Sometimes now I go as much as 50 miles at a stretch. It is all worth it. I know I will see world peace before I die."



Peace Pilgrim in walking shoes.