

Driver also dies

July 7, 1981

Crash kills 'Peace Pilgrim'

KNOX — Two persons were killed, including "Peace Pilgrim" Mildred Norman Ryder, 71, in a two-car, head-on collision on Ind. 23, just north of Knoxville, about noon Tuesday.

The driver of the auto Mrs. Ryder was in, Ewell Ward, 70, of Rt. 3, Knoxville, died about 3:55 p.m. Tuesday in Starke Memorial Hospital.

Deputy Starke County Coroner Roger Braman, who investigated, said Mrs. Ryder was pronounced dead at the accident scene of head and internal injuries. Ward also suffered head and internal injuries, Braman said.

Mrs. Ryder, known nationwide as the "Peace Pilgrim" was enroute to Senior Citizens Luncheon at

Koontz Lake when the auto she was in collided with a car driven by Dana McPheron, 18, of Rt. 2 Knoxville, who remains in Starke Memorial Hospital in fair condition. She suffered multiple cuts and bruises.

Ward was a driver for the Knoxville Senior Citizens Service Van and was transporting Mrs. Ryder, originally of Cologne, N.J., to the luncheon.

Prior to her arrival in Knoxville, Mrs. Ryder had made several appearances at various churches in Elkhart and Valparaiso this week in her trek across country doing evangelism work.

Braman noted that Mrs. Ryder had given up her worldly possessions, and did not drive a vehicle, to

do evangelism work and earned the nickname "Peace Pilgrim" as a result of that work.

Her original goal was to walk 25,000 for "the interest of peace." In six years she planned to cover all 52 states.

"I shall remain a wanderer until mankind has learned the way of peace, walking until I am given shelter and fasting until I am given food," she said in an Elkhart appearance Monday.

Starke County Police who investigated had no report today of the accident although Braman said, it remains under investigation.

The Braman Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.



MILDRED NORMAN RYDER
Peace Walk ends in death

Ka-1 5/15