

# Peace Pilgrim walking less, talking more

By BETTY PIERCE

Peace Pilgrim wears a tunic which, on the back, announces that she has walked 25,000 miles in the interest of peace. But that was when she stopped counting the miles, and she stopped counting in 1967.



**Peace Pilgrim**

trip I spoke at one quarter of the high schools in Tucson.

"My priorities have changed since I first began my pilgrimage Jan. 1, 1953, walking ahead of the Rose Parade in California," she said. "When I began, the most important priority was walking, then speaking, then answering my mail. Now, speaking comes first, then mail, then walking."

She once would refuse rides, preferring to cover every mile on foot, but with advent of the freeway system, most of her walking is done where she stops. "You'll see me walking along the street, across the college campus, through a park. I still carry no money, and depend on faith for each meal, and for hospitality.

"PEOPLE ARE KIND. I've never missed more than four or five meals in a row, and I have never asked for anything. I accept no money for speaking. I travel with a comb, a folding toothbrush and a ball-point pen."

Another change since she started out is the clippings, tucked in one of the pockets of her tunic, about her pilgrimage which she collects when she can, because Swarthmore College has asked for them to place in the Swarthmore Peace Collection.

IN EL PASO SHE is scheduled to speak on Community College campuses, and in public meetings; "The ones held in buildings large enough to invite the public to," she explains.

She will speak Friday, at 7 p.m., at the Unicorn Center, 1401 West Yandell; Saturday, at 7:30 p.m., at Mutual Savings, Montana at Reynolds, and on Sunday at 11 a.m., at the Religious Science Center of El Paso, 3330 Montana, at the corner of Luna street.

Peace has seen many changes in attitudes in the United States since she began her pilgrimage. "When I began, people accepted war as a necessary part of life.

"This is my seventh crossing of the United States," Peace said, "and I was last in El Paso five years ago. Instead of zig-zagging across the country, this time I'm making loops, so that I can speak at places on this trip that I had to miss last time.

"THE UNIVERSITY in Las Cruces was not in session last time I was through, so I didn't speak there. But this time I did. And on this

"NOW, WE THINK OF alternatives, and no longer accept war as a necessity. As a nation, for instance, we have been trying alternatives in the Iranian crisis.

"I see another interesting difference, too. When I began, California was the place where new ideas were accepted freely, and New England was the place where new things were looked on with great suspicion. But today, I find a sort of leveling; new ideas beginning in New England, and California becoming more conservative."

Peace speaks on topics related to peace; both peace among nations, and inner peace.

Why does she do it? Why did she become a wanderer and what does she expect to accomplish?

The Herald-Post will publish an interview with Peace, concerning her reasons, and her philosophy in which she talks about some of the things that make her a sought-after lecturer in colleges and Universities, in a story to appear on the Religion Page of Saturday's Weekender.