



Pilgrim Suggests Name for Riverfront Park

★★★ 'Pilgrim' Names Park

Peace Traveller Visiting Windsor

Peace Pilgrim has a new name for Windsor's riverfront park.

She walked the three blocks from the river's edge to the mayor's office Thursday morning, and suggested it be named "Peace Park."

It was a short stroll for Peace Pilgrim, who has already walked 11,000 miles to promote her message of international goodwill.

Self-effacing to the point of describing her place of birth, her education and background as "irrelevant details," she insists on remaining anonymous.

The walking "ambassador" of peace is a slim, gray-haired woman dressed in blue tunic, slacks and shoes.

Friday night, she will address a public meeting at 8 o'clock in Trinity United Church.

Peace Pilgrim's walking began in 1953, in Los Angeles, Calif. It was an inspiration, a "calling," a sudden spiritual decision. The walk was to be a prayer, as well as a means of contacting millions of people.

She took a vow: "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."

That was 56 months ago. Since then, Peace Pilgrim's trail has zig-zagged across the United States, and she has walked 100 miles in each of Canada's provinces and in Mexico.

The walking isn't continuous. It's usually in 100-mile stretches, averaging 25 miles a day.

Her blue tunic has pockets all around the bottom. On the front, "Peace Pilgrim" is lettered in white, and on the back is "10,000 miles on foot for world peace."

She walks without a penny in her pockets, and this created a problem when she first tried to enter Canada across Ambassador Bridge. She was turned back because of the lack of funds, and she had no Canadian sponsor.

"This time, I took \$100 across the border, and mailed it back from the first post office I came to," she said.

"There is a magic formula for resolving conflicts," Peace Pilgrim tells her audiences. "Have as your objective the resolving of the conflict, not the gaining of advantage."

"To avoid conflict, be concerned that you do not offend, not that you are not offended."

The suggestion about "Peace Park" arose from the position of the lawns and gardens. "In a sense, it's between two countries who have shown the world the way in which to live at peace," she told Mayor Michael J. Patrick.

"I suppose you have a great many suggestions already, but perhaps you could place this before City Council, too."

Mayor Patrick, himself something of a walker, promised the would see that council considered "Peace Park," which he said is a "most suitable name."