

THE HEMET NEWS

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Center opens in memory of 'peace, love' mission

By JOE KRAUS

HEMET — Every so often someone comes along in the course of human events that makes an impact on those who follow. And, long after that individual is gone, others take up the cause to keep that person's ideas, goals and mission alive.

Such is the case of the Peace Pilgrim, a woman who devoted her life in the promotion of love and understanding among all people. In doing so she crossed America for nearly three decades, logging some 25,000 miles on foot, everywhere promoting peace.

In that time Hemet and San Jacinto were among the communities visited by the Peace Pilgrim. And during the time she spent here she spoke to several groups concerning her mission to "overcome evil with good, and falsehood with truth, and hatred with love."

The Peace Pilgrim died in the summer of 1981, the victim of an automobile accident. She was 73.

Shortly after her death, however, several people whom she had befriended over the years gathered together. What they decided was to preserve in any way they could the Peace Pilgrim's message so that

other generations, many of whom may never have heard of her, could benefit by her work.

Today, Hemet is the world headquarters for this Peace Pilgrim Center. And Ann and John Rush of 43480 Cedar avenue make up the



two-person volunteer staff, insuring the work continues.

Recently moved here from Whittier, where they had lived for 18 years, the couple, with three other friends of the Peace Pilgrim, compiled the writings



ON THE ROAD — The Peace Pilgrim, who walked more than 25,000 miles on behalf of peace, once visited Hemet and San Jacinto, speaking to groups here. She died in the summer of 1981, but the work she started continues in Hemet.

and talks, the interviews and private conversations of the Peace Pilgrim. Added to this were clippings of the numerous newspaper and magazine stories that had been written about her over the years.

With this in hand a book, "Peace Pilgrim, Her Life and Work in Her Own Words," was produced. The nearly 200-page softback was published one year ago and already more than 15,000 books have been distributed. The book is sold in bookstores across the country for \$6 each. But the work is offered free from the Peace Pilgrim Center to all who request it. Volunteer contributions, however, are being received to help pay printing costs.

In addition to the book, a 90-minute tape has been put together. This is composed of a variety of the recorded messages given by the Peace Pilgrim. A newsletter also has been inaugurated. It is prepared occasionally and mailed to all those who show an interest in the work.

The subject of all of this is a woman who took the name of "Peace Pilgrim" in 1953 and set out on foot for what was to become a 28-year pilgrimage for peace.

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