

Peace Pilgrim: a person the light shines through

BY BETSY BAKER

"Forty years ago I came out of my life of money and things. I changed my life from self-centered to God-centered and began a 15 year preparation for my pilgrimage."

Those words were spoken by a remarkable woman known only as "Peace Pilgrim." Since January 1, 1963, she has been walking for peace throughout the United States, Canada and parts of Mexico. All her possessions fit into the pockets of the blue tunic she wears; she has no money and accepts none. "I walk until given shelter, I fast until given food," she says.

In 1964 Peace Pilgrim completed 25,000 miles on foot, measured by the distances on road maps. Since that time she has not counted miles, but she continues to walk to fill speaking engagements and to answer her correspondence.

Peace Pilgrim no longer uses her former name, and says she stopped counting her age in 1963, but this writer would estimate her age at 80 years. She wears those years lightly, however. Her blue eyes sparkle and she gestures animatedly when she talks; her voice is strong and her step is firm. Optimism about the future she has in abundance. She has accepted speaking engagements well into 1982 and has planned her itinerary to 1984!

During her 15 year preparation Peace Pilgrim first gave away all her possessions. "How free I felt," she commented, and then worked for 10 years at "need level" while doing what she calls her "spiritual growing up."

Then, to the amazement of her friends, she began her pilgrimage. "They thought when I said I was changing my life I meant that I was moving to a nice, comfortable retirement home," she said. "When I told them I meant to walk 25,000 miles for peace they told me I wouldn't last a

year."

Peace Pilgrim has walked without fear for nearly 25 years; the open road, in big cities and small towns, in many situations others would find frightening. "When you are afraid, you attract to yourself the very things you fear," she said. "I am not afraid therefore I am safe."

She also maintains her pilgrimage has kept her health. "Not an ache or a pain or a cold in 40 years," she said. "I have that amazing energy that comes with inner peace-it never runs out."

The way is not always easy for a pilgrim, however. Early in her pilgrimage she was arrested for vagrancy, but was released when the judge decided she was, in fact, a religious pilgrim. In the fifties she was

"thoroughly" investigated by the F.B.I.

Invitations to speak and offers of shelter come far in advance now. Peace Pilgrim came to Waddington from Saranac Lake, and by press time she will have moved on to Evans Mills. While in this area she spoke on campus at St. Lawrence University and Potsdam State, to church groups, North Country Women and the Potsdam Rotary Club.

"At first I spoke to anyone who would listen," she said "I even preached 12 sermons once, in 12 different churches on the same Sunday!"

Although she says she seldom has time to read, Peace Pilgrim frequently refers to current happenings in her talks and seems well acquainted with the economic and political realities of modern life

World peace is the main topic of her speeches. The chances for peace are better now than when she began her walk in 1963 said "Now people are beginning to realize that modern technology has made peace a matter of survival."

Peace Pilgrim also talks about the search for inner peace. "When I started out, no one was interested in inner peace," she commented. "Now, it's almost a universal search."

Her religious faith is non-denominational. She uses few conventional religious terms. "The denominational terms divide us," she said, "and turn our attention from the most important things." The essence of what she says is very simple, "To find inner peace, to realize your full potential as a human being, turn your life over to God."

Peace Pilgrim has never advised others to follow her life style. "There are

many ways to serve God. My way is not for everyone."

In many ways Peace Pilgrim defies analysis. Most of the things we find necessary hold no interest for her. The possessions which weigh us down she gladly gave away. The good health and long life we seek seem to have been given to her without asking. She does the difficult things on faith, which seem unable to do easily. She is truly a person the light shines through.

Courier and Freeman

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New owners for historic homestead

One of the oldest landmarks in the Town of Parishville will change hands on September 21. The Keener homestead, located on the Keener Road, in West Parishville, has been sold by William R. and Myrtle Mae Keener to Mr. and Mrs. Romie Clothier of Maryland.

The farm dates back to 1849 when the house was built by Keener's great-grandfather, Silas Leonard. In 1887 it was deeded to Charles E. Keener and his wife, Lucy Leonard Keener. Since that time it has been owned by three generations of Keeners who were born in the present farm house.

In 1908 Charles L. Keener inherited the property from his father. He lived there with his wife, Mary E. Keener and raised four children. When he died in 1920, Mary Keener became the homestead's owner, until 1933 when she

deeded it to her oldest son, Harland W. Keener and Laura P. Keener.

After Harland died in 1945 his wife kept the property until 1952 when it was sold to the youngest son of Charles L. Keener, William R. and his wife, Myrtle Mae Keener, of Allentown, Pennsylvania.

The homestead has not operated as a farm since 1945, but the present owners restored it in 1952 and converted the house to apartments which were rented to student couples during the school year.

Keener commented that he has spent his birthday on the homestead for all but one of his 71 years. Last year, he said, was the only time he was unable to be in the area for the summer. The Keeners three children, Clara Louise Keener Saunders, Lucile Keener Clark, and William Keener, Jr. visited the family

home in summers past and did so again this summer. Clara Saunders, Mike, Sherry Greg recently had a dinner for neighbors Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bicknell Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Parmentel, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Benson and Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Randall.

Besides Harland and William, who owned the farm, the other children of Charles and Mary Keener were Lucile Keener Bostick who resides in Mayfield Apartments in Potsdam and Charles E. Keener who died in an automobile accident in California.

Keener explained that he has sold the farm because of health problems. He is an avid fisherman, however, and he says he would like to find a camp in the area to use during the summer.

The Keeners will be moving to Pennsylvania later this month.



PEACE PILGRIM, interviewed last week in Ives Park, gestures expressively as she describes her travels over the last 25 years. Among her local speaking engagements was one of the Potsdam Rotary Club. (Betsy Baker photo)



THE KEENER HOMESTEAD, the second oldest house in the town of Parishville will belong to new owners later this

month. William and Myrtle Mae Keener have sold the farm and will be moving to Pennsylvania. (Victoria Levitt photo).

People

AIRMAN ASSIGNED

Airman Dana F. Richey, son of Mr. and Mrs. Isadore J. Richey of Route 2, Norfolk, has received a new assignment following graduation from the site development specialist course conducted by the Air Training Command at Sheppard AFB, Texas.

Airman Richey, now trained in crafting, surveying and contract inspection, will go to Dyess AFB, Texas, for duty with a unit of the Strategic Air Command. Completion of the course earned the individual credits towards an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

The airman is a 1972 graduate of Massena Central High School and received an A.A.S. degree in forestry in 1974 from Paul Smith's College.

GRANGER DAY

"Granger Day" was observed in the Norfolk Wesleyan Church on Sunday, August 14 when the Reverend and Mrs. John Granger and four children, South Glens Falls, attended church and Sunday school that morning. The Reverend Granger preached and Mrs. Granger sang during the service. The Grangers are serving as Youth Workers at the Lisbon Youth Camp.

The Reverend Granger was former pastor of the Norfolk Wesleyan Church. He is now pastor of the Kingsbury Wesleyan Church, South Glens Falls.

ATTEND CAMP

Robert Jr. and David Moulton, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Moulton, Sanfordville, attended Sunday School camp at Camp Aldersgate at Brantingham Lake, August 7-13. They are members of the Sunday School of the West Stockholm United Methodist Church.

Jim McCargar and Sherry Russell, West Stockholm, will attend Camp Aldersgate August 21-27.

VISITING

Mr. and Mrs. Evans Kefauver, and two daughters, Marietta and Dorothy J Sandy Hook Connecticut, are spending three weeks at their home here located on the Knapps Station Road.

Marietta Kefauver graduated in June from the Newtown High School, Newtown, Connecticut. She will now reside here in the Kefauver home where she will attend Canton ATC this fall majoring in General Husbandry.

Her father, Evans B. Kefauver is the night time foreign news editor of "The News" New York City.

Dorothy Kefauver is employed as a music teacher in Newtown, Connecticut.

RETURN HOME

Lola Williams, Collegeville, Pennsylvania has returned home after spending two weeks at the home of her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Stevens and family, Knapps Station. Mrs. Williams was accompanied to the Stevens home by Sandra Stevens Le Boeuf and Douglas James, Norfolk, Virginia, Douglas LeBoeuf will be 11-months-old on September 1.

The annual Stevens Family reunion was held at the Norfolk Rod and Gun Club on July 30. Approximately 60 persons attended.

PURCHASE HOME

Mr. and Mrs. John Dunkins, with their two sons and one daughter, who have been residing in the Waite Apartment (formerly the Chandler house), Knapps Station, have purchased a home in Raymondville and have moved to their new home.

BIRTHDAY PARTY

On Thursday night, August 18, a birthday party was held at the Dougan home in honor of Jill Montgomery who celebrated her seventh birthday on August 30.

Guests present were: Lawrence Garvey, Beechertown; Mr. and Mrs. Milan Scott, Lawrenceville; Mr. and Mrs. David Montgomery David and Lisa, Bucton; Kristen Winters; Mr. and Mrs. James Montgomery Julie and Jill Chittanango; Mrs. the host; Mr. and Mrs. Bill Dougan and Billy Dougan.



COLLISION—Kathy Premo of Chase Mills collided with a car driven by Craig Grant of Pine Street, Potsdam, at the corner of Market and Munson Streets on Friday morning. Premo had been looking to her left at the time she hit Grant's car, and she did not see that he had stopped to make a turn. No tickets were issued. (James Levitt photo).

APA booklet describes roads known for scenic adventure

It's the time of year when little traveled, roads, back roads, off the beaten path roads are most alluring and there's a 28-page booklet telling where to find them.

Eck will head sales team at Potsdam mill

Harry N. Walters, president, Potsdam Paper Corporation, has announced the appointment of Charles E. Eck as sales manager.

Eck was formerly sales representative, printing and converting papers, Riegel Products Corporation. He joined Riegel in 1966 after earning his BA degree in economics cum laude at the Florida Atlantic University. Starting as a systems analyst on Riegel's first computer installation, he progressed to the controller's department in 1968 and in 1970 took over Riegel's distribution function in New Jersey.

In 1972 he was named manager of purchasing and distribution. In January, 1975, he was promoted to manager of quality control and production planning, and later that year was advanced to manager of operational services (quality control, technical service and planning and distribution). In 1976 Eck moved into Riegel's sales operations.

Eck, his wife Jean and their three children will move to Potsdam.

It's available by writing the Adirondack Park Association, Box 977 Adirondack, N.Y. 12808. Ask for the Off-the-Beaten-Path, Scenic Roads and enclose 25 cents to cover handling and mailing.

If the motorist takes his time he'll see a balanced rock; fern bordered brooks; dappled light through-branches; intriguing signs calling attention to New World battles, early settlers, industries, and French emigres who hoped to prepare a hideaway for Napoleon.

The "purple prose" season in the 13-county North Country area of northern New York State offers rewards to those who take its leisurely byways, many of which are described in Off-the-Beaten-Path.

And if you enjoy a picnic lunch and a walk in a forest preserve, you can visit Adota of Tahawi, the stoical Indian who overlooks the Lower Ausable Lake.

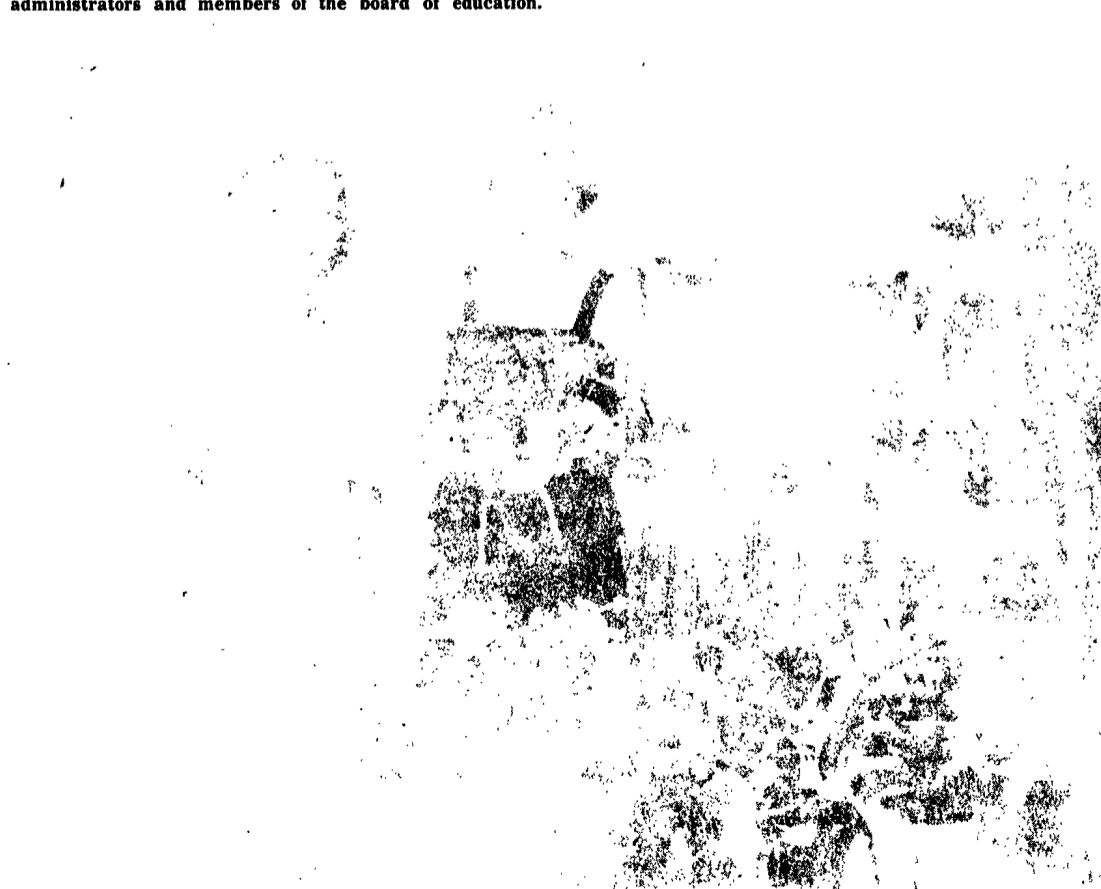
Place names in the area are fascinating and lend to speculation like Oswegatchie, Star Lake, Blue Ridge, Sabattis, Potato Hill; the list is endless evoking tales from the earliest days in the Couchsachrage (beaver hunting grounds of the Five Nations). The name "Adirondacks" is fairly recent.

Enjoy fall this year on off the beaten path roads. Park at a lookout to view rolling meadowlands, friendly mountains, rambling rivers, and the waters of Adirondack lakes mirror a kaleidoscope of color.



CHRIS FAYS in Potsdam was the scene as 20 new faculty members at Potsdam Central School had lunch with administrators and members of the board of education.

Schools officially opened today throughout the North Country. (Mike Billington Photo)



PLANT SALE—Do you want to keep some of this summer weather in your home all winter? You will have this opportunity on Thursday and Friday, September 8 and 9, when the League of Women Voters will sponsor a plant sale. It will be held on the lawn of the home of Beverly Cross, 38

Pierrepont Avenue, between the hours of 11 and 4 each of the two days. Kathy Brosnan is organizing the sale and is being assisted by members of the local League. (Victoria Levitt photo).