

The Editor Has A Caller

I looked up from my desk the other day just as a figure filled the doorway. In spite of her peculiar garb, the woman who faced me had a compelling countenance and I invited her to enter.

In a soft-spoken, refined and educated voice, she inquired for the Editor and explained that she was passing through Laurel and someone had suggested that I might wish to interview her.

She was clad in dark blue woolen slacks, shirt and pocketed tunic. On the front of her tunic were painted the words "Peace Pilgrim." The back read "Walking Coast To Coast For Peace." I have seen and interviewed many other persons who have chosen to do sensational things and I have little patience with them. But this woman was different somehow.

I asked her name. "Just call me Peace Pilgrim," she said with a smile. "In undertaking this peace pilgrimage I do not think of myself as an individual, but rather as an embodiment of all human hearts that are pleading for peace." She refused to talk about herself except to explain that she had devoted her life to Service and this year to Peace, and that she was walking from coast to coast for the opportunity to talk with her fellow human beings about the way to peace.

"It is a penance for whatever I may have contributed, by commission or omission, to the tragic situation in the world today," she said. No one sponsors her. It is just an individual effort for world



peace and peace in the hearts of men.. She does not belong to any organization but has been affiliated more with the Quakers than any other faith, she said.

The Peace Pilgrim started on her year's journey by foot last January first in Los Angeles. "Only the clothes on my back, my peace petitions and a few copies of my message on the way to peace are my only possessions," she declared. "Unnecessary possessions are unnecessary burdens—and this is true not only for one who walks, but for everyone."

She walks until she is given shelter; she fasts until she is given food. Thirty-six hours, however, is the longest she has gone without

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