



(Times Staff Photos by Bob Rogers)

PILGRIM HAS WALKED 10,000 MILES 'FOR PEACE'

... she'll keep walking until mankind has found peace and goodwill on earth.

AN ANONYMOUS 'PEACE PILGRIM'

She Wanders From Dawn Till Night Waging Her Own Idealistic Fight

By MARIANNE KELSEY

Have you ever tried walking 10,000 miles for an ideal? A frail, grey haired woman has.

Every time you complain about walking two blocks to the corner drug store, you might keep her story in mind.

The woman, who calls herself Peace Pilgrim, began her pilgrimage four years ago in Los Angeles, Calif.

Since then she has completed 10,000 miles walking zig-zag across the country.

Her purpose? To remain a wanderer "until mankind has found the way to peace and brotherhood."

The Peace Pilgrim does not want to reveal her name or tell what made her decide to go on her tour.

"It's a calling," she says, "like some people are called to be ministers."

In a desperate search for a meaningful way of life, the petite wanderer took a vow of simplicity. She does not want to possess more than she needs, while others still need the essentials of life.

Through her hike, "undertaken on foot and on faith," she hopes to inspire people to actively work for peace.

"World peace is not impossible," she believes. "It will come about, if only for the sake of self preservation."

She expects to see world disarmament and world peace in her life time.

Her blue outfit has the words "Peace Pilgrim" and "Walking 10,000 miles for peace" written across it in large white letters.

Although she has completed 10,000 miles, she does not intend to stop walking.

"Walking gives me an opportunity to meet people and talk to them about the need to work for peace," she explains.

On her travels, during which she visited every state in the Union as well as Mexico and Canada, she has worn out 24 pairs of shoes.

Except the clothes she wears, her belongings consist of a toothbrush, comb, pencil and newspaper clippings, she declares.

Although she has slept on cement floors, in barns and even under the stars, she usually finds someone to offer her hospitality for the night.

Where will she go from here? "I intend to do a lot of walking in Florida," she says.

She hopes to stay a few days in St. Petersburg with friends.

"But on Christmas Day," she smiles, "I'll be on my way again."