

March 2, 1956



PEACE PILGRIM

## Solitary Woman on Pilgrimage Is Crusading For World Peace

"On foot and on faith" a blue-eyed, white haired woman who refers to herself simply as Peace Pilgrim arrived in Owensboro late yesterday afternoon on a one-woman crusade for world peace.

On the front of the dark blue wind-breaker she wears with navy slacks and sneakers is lettered in white, "Peace Pilgrim." On the back is printed, "walking 10,000 miles for world peace."

In the three years since she began her pilgrimage she has actually walked more than 10,000 miles, but she kept no accurate record of mileage during the first year. Since she began tabulating the distance two years ago she has covered 7,900 miles.

Peace Pilgrim walks 100 miles in each state, winding up at the state capital. Kentucky has been easy for her to cover, she says, because by walking from Louisville to Frankfort by way of Lexington she could contact the most populous portion of the state, and thus reach the largest number of people.

Tennessee was not so easy to touch in 100 miles of walking, she says. She did walk from Huntingdon to Nashville, but she also visited Memphis, Jackson, Chattanooga and Knoxville.

Indiana will be equally difficult to cover, she added, because the state has several centers of population.

When she arrives in a new city, Peace Pilgrim contacts the newspapers, radio stations and colleges. While in Owensboro she will appear on both WOMI and WVJS and will speak in the Student Union Building at Kentucky Wesleyan College at 10 o'clock today.

The solitary traveler has an infectuous smile which won friends for her throughout the west and is gaining friends for her in eastern states. She seems able to transmit the smile by telephone, so that persons she contacts upon her arrival in a town invariably grant her an interview.

Peace Pilgrim dedicated her life to service 18 years ago. From then on her life began to change significantly. She says that she could do only little things for mankind, but that there were so many little things which needed to be done.

Three years ago she set out "to inspire people and perhaps encourage them to work with me for world peace." She had three goals: peace in Korea, a Secretary of Peace in the President's cabinet, and world disarmament. The first goal has been achieved, and she says there was a vague granting of the second when Harold Stassen was recently appointed to a cabinet rank position dealing with disarmament. She plans to continue her present pilgrimage for another year, touching Canada and winding up in Florida. If world disarmament has not become a reality by that time, she is prepared to travel as much longer as seems necessary to win

total peace

What her life was like before she became Peace Pilgrim the dedicated woman considers unimportant. What she plans to do after she has finished her crusade is equally irrelevant, she adds.

Her journeying is truly a pilgrimage in that she has no means of support. She sleeps in whatever place presents itself. Recently she has slept in an all night restaurant, in a bus station, and on the floor of a service station. Most of the time though, she says, people invite her to their homes to spend the night.

She fasts if need be. But the longest time she has been without food was a skip of four meals. Last Sunday she had one meal.

Peace Pilgrim says she belongs to no organization. As far as possible she wants to let people know of her purpose and mission.

"The only important thing about me is my message," she says. Her vow is, "I shall remain a wanderer until mankind has learned the way of peace—walking until I am given shelter, fasting until I am given food, using money given me to spread the peace message."

In part that message is, "My friends, the world situation is grave. Humanity, with fearful, faltering steps, walks a knife-edge between complete chaos and a golden age, while strong forces push toward chaos. Unless we, the people of the world, awake from our lethargy and push firmly and quickly away from chaos, all that we cherish will be destroyed in the holocaust which will descend."

The Owensboro Messenger, 1874

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