

Peace Pilgrim Visits City—

Woman Walking 10,000 Miles To Promote World Disarmament

By BILL STRAWN

Peace Pilgrim, a gray-headed, 115-pound woman who refuses to reveal her real name, was in Durham today as she reached the latter part of a 10,000 mile walk throughout this nation, Canada and Mexico to promote world peace.

Arriving here after walking from Greensboro, Peace Pilgrim said she has walked 9,675 miles, not counting miles walked within municipalities. She counts only "highway miles."

Peace Pilgrim carries with her only a toothbrush, comb, "a few copies of my message," newspaper clippings of her travels and a pencil.

"I began my walk unknown and penniless, owning just the clothes I wear," Peace Pilgrim said. "My vow is, 'I shall not accept more than I need while others in the world have less than they need.'"

The blue outfit she wears has on the front in white letters, "Peace Pilgrim," and on the back, "Walking 10,000 miles for world disarmament."

Peace Pilgrim said she works for no organization. "I don't represent any organization whatsoever," she said. "I don't even belong to any organization. I just do what I can, as an individual, for world peace."

She said her journeys were "undertaken on faith as well as on foot."

Three years ago she began the first 5,000 miles of her journey in Los Angeles, Calif. She said she walked zig zag across the country to New York City, and has journeyed through all states except South Carolina, Georgia and Florida. She will visit these states next.

"I'm on my 12th pair of shoes," Peace Pilgrim said. "I average 25 miles per day, although I have walked as much as 50."

She depends for her food and shelter on the generosity of people she meets. "Everywhere I am received very well," she said. "What I work for is world peace, something everyone wants."

Last night she slept on the outskirts of Durham. "A garage man invited me to sleep in a parked car," she said. "Just before that a truck driver had given me dinner. I have no income whatever."

Peace Pilgrim said she doesn't know and never cares where her next meal or lodging place is coming from.

"My most luxurious accommodations were at a resort hotel in the Southwest," she said. "The very next night I slept on the cement floor of a gas station."

Meals which she has been given, she said, have varied from a dinner at the swanky Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York to the simple fare of agricultural workers in a field in the Southwest.

In speaking in behalf of world peace, Peace Pilgrim said, she addresses primarily church and student groups.

Optimistically, she considers world peace a probability. "I expect to see world disarmament and world peace in my lifetime," she said, "but I realize it will take more than 10,000 miles of walking. It will take many of

us praying and working together to achieve this."

Tomorrow Peace Pilgrim will walk to Raleigh, she said, and on Thursday will visit in Chapel Hill where she hopes to speak before journalism students at the University of North Carolina. Then she will leave for South Carolina.

Peace Pilgrim emphatically declines to give her real name, say where she was born and educated, or to tell other biographical facts. These matters, she said, are "completely insignificant," and telling them would be catering to "idle curiosity."

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