

The Montana Standard

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Peace Pilgrim Is Butte Visitor

A woman who has vowed that she will walk back and forth across the country until the tide toward world peace is as strong as the tide is now toward war is visiting in Butte.

She will give her name only as Peace Pilgrim and she says that she began her trek in Los Angeles in January, 1953. To date she has walked 14,550 miles in her mission to bring the realization to people that something constructive must be done about peace. Her goal, she says, is not the number of miles she travels nor the years it takes, but rather the final result, peace, which she will work for until it becomes a reality.

While in Butte the Peace Pilgrim will speak at a public meeting in the Fellowship Room of the YMCA at 2 p.m. Thursday. She will tell of her experiences on the road and discuss peace within ones self as well as peace in the world.

The Pilgrim says her personal biography is unimportant and she refuses to divulge any facts of her life prior to the time when she became the Peace Pilgrim. She says she wishes to be remembered only as a woman who was so concerned about the present state of the world that she dedicated her life to the discussion of world peace.

Dressed in navy blue slacks and shirt covered with a short tunic rimmed around the bottom with pockets in which she carries her only worldly possessions, the woman walks the country over without money. She accepts the hospitality of the road by taking food and drink when offered, but she never accepts transportation in her walks for peace.

Her vow is "I shall remain a wanderer until mankind has learned the way of peace, walking until I am given shelter and fasting until I am given food."

She says that because she has

inner peace she finds she is never hungry, thinking of food only when it is put before her, and that she is indifferent to heat or cold. When you are concerned about what you are doing, she says, you don't worry about little hardships.

A slight, almost frail-looking woman, the Peace Pilgrim walks unafraid along the highways of America. She has walked through 48 states, the 10 provinces of Canada and Mexico. She began her pilgrimage "after my hair turned to silver, and with no pre-

vious athletic training," she says. Refusing to give her years, she says she is ageless and that her energy is endless.

Her actual age could be anywhere from 50 to 70-or more. Her step is light and she brims over with vitality.

While in Butte the Peace Pilgrim is the guest of Mrs. Murl Gidel, 1127 W. Mercury. She will leave here Thursday for Boise from where she will begin a walk to Salt Lake City.