

'Peace Pilgrim' Counts Miles

By HOWARD HOLT

A gray-haired woman who claims to be ageless arrived in Yakima yesterday on her self-appointed walking mission to spread the Golden Rule for world peace.

She calls herself "Peace Pilgrim," and refuses to discuss her past life because, she said, it is unimportant to her present calling. She also will not give her name.

Rides Not Counted

"I started walking in January, 1953—and so far have walked about 14,225 miles," she said. "I only count the miles I walk—not the rides that I get in my travels."

The "Peace Pilgrim" arrived in the state of Washington on May 25 and so far has walked 175 miles in this state, she said.

She said she took a vow of simplicity 15 years before she started walking on her mission of love and peace. Her vow was that she would not accept more than she needs when others in the world have less than they need.

Asks No Food

The "Peace Pilgrim" said she never asks for food or shelter—because that would be "unloving."

"I have never skipped more than four meals in a row," she said, adding, "and about three-fourths of the time I sleep in a bed. If I don't have a bed, I sleep in a park or a parked car."

Last night, she had both food and shelter as she said she had been invited to the home of a Zillah family.

Work For Peace

"In any age where there is extreme apathy in the face of a crisis situation as of today, someone is apt to be motivated to leave a quiet life and make some unusual witness to arouse people



to activity," said the "Peace Pilgrim." "I am not specific as to what they should do but try to inspire people to work in their own way for peace."

The "Peace Pilgrim" does not carry a Bible. She said she carries her religion in her heart, explaining, "The Bible is an outward expression—the key for our times is practice. We don't need more light in the world, but rather the putting into practice the light we already have."

Gets Many Letters

The "Peace Pilgrim" refused to tell her age but said she was born in the United States. She said she is not of any particular religious faith but considers all churches "a stepping stone to God."

Much of her time is spent in answering letters which she said she receives from all over the world.