

SHE WALKS FOR PEACE AND TALKS ABOUT IT TO EVERYONE

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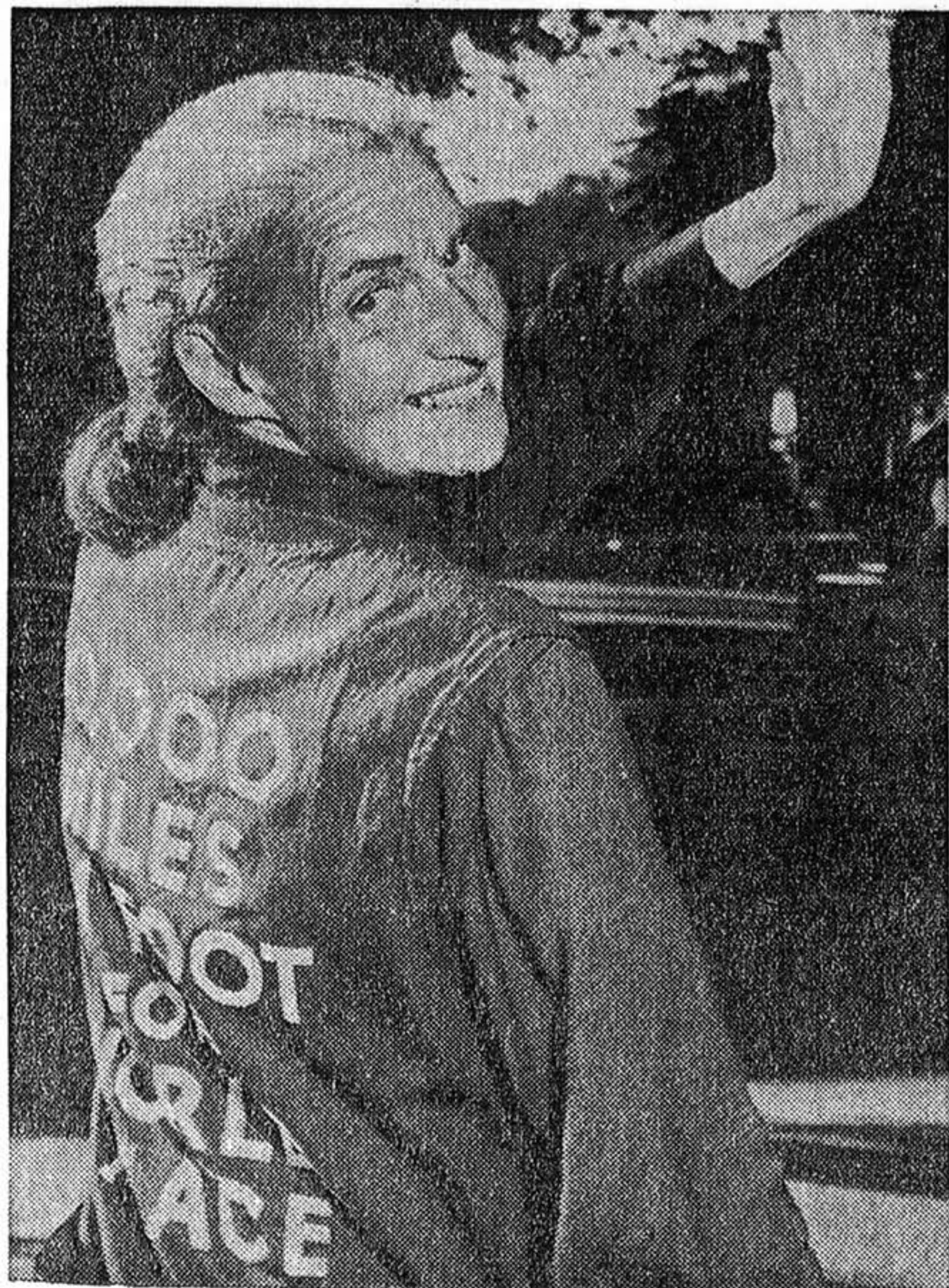
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Pilgrim's Home? 'Everywhere'



'PEACE PILGRIM'
200,000 Miles

By AL FINKELSTEIN

With a toothbrush in her pocket, a comb in her hair and a smile on her face, she walks . . . and walks . . . and walks.

She hasn't a penny in her pocket — and doesn't need one.

She walks until she is given shelter and fasts until she is given food.

Her name is — simply — Peace Pilgrim. Her home is "everywhere." And her message is "peace."

So far, she estimates, she has walked at least 200,000 miles in 20 years to deliver that message.

Hard On Shoes

She's worn out 12 pairs of shoes and six of her unique uniforms since she first started walking "seriously" in January, 1953.

She walks 10,000 miles a year. She walks in rain, hail, heat, sleet and snow. She walks the year around through Mexico, the United States and Canada.

Her invisible mileage meter tallied 10,400 miles Sunday when she walked into Winnipeg for the first time in her almost-unbelievable undertaking.

An undertaking which she hopes to explain more fully before a public meeting Thursday at 8 p.m. at the Unitarian church, Sargent avenue and Banning street.

She seeks no fame. She throws no pitch. Religion has "nothing to do" with her purpose. She is a one-woman mission with a magic formula:

"Be concerned that you do not offend — not that you are not offended."

She has been interviewed in newspapers, on radio and television almost all over the world. She is easy to talk to; not so easy to know.

No reporter yet has been able to learn her born name, age, marital status, hometown, or specific early background.

She walked into the Free Press newsroom Sunday night in a pair of purple slacks and a short inky tunic. (Her clothes are all given to her.) Her silver hair was swept back in a pony tail-like knot and her crepe-soled shoes were run down at the heels.

She wears no rings on her fingers and no makeup on her face. She is about 5 feet, 4 inches tall, weighs about 110 pounds and looks fifty-ish. Her accent is northeastern United States — probably New York or New Jersey.

Her mailing address is Cologne, N.J. — period. Volunteers in all parts of the country print her newsletters, distributed free to any person in the world.

Pilgrim's Purpose

On her back is imprinted the purpose of her pilgrimage:

"TEN THOUSAND MILES ON FOOT FOR WORLD PEACE."

She talks to everybody. And "everybody," it seems, talks about her. So much so, that when she left Vancouver recently, a West coast resident asked a Winnipeg

friend to set up a public meeting and accommodate her during her stay here.

Peace — the first name which she actually answers to — needs "no money," has "no fear," and is in "perfect health." ("Not even a sniffle in 20 years of walking.")

"Energy flows through my body like electricity through a wire," she said.

The longest fast she usually endures is "four meals in a row." She had no food from last Friday noon to Sunday morning when she arrived in Winnipeg.

Walks 100 Miles

She walked 50 miles before Brandon and then 50 miles to Winnipeg. She slept in a parked car one night and on the grass covered with a newspaper the next night.

She is on her way east, averaging 100 miles in each province since traipsing through B.C., Alberta and Saskatchewan. She accepts "lifts" only over "long hauls."

What then, does a person unaffiliated with any organization, representing no faith or denomination but her own selected mission, talk about?

"I talk about the good things I'm for, not the bad things I'm against."

How long will she continue to walk?

"I shall remain a wanderer until mankind has learned the way of peace."

That is her vow. That is her life. She walks to fulfil it.