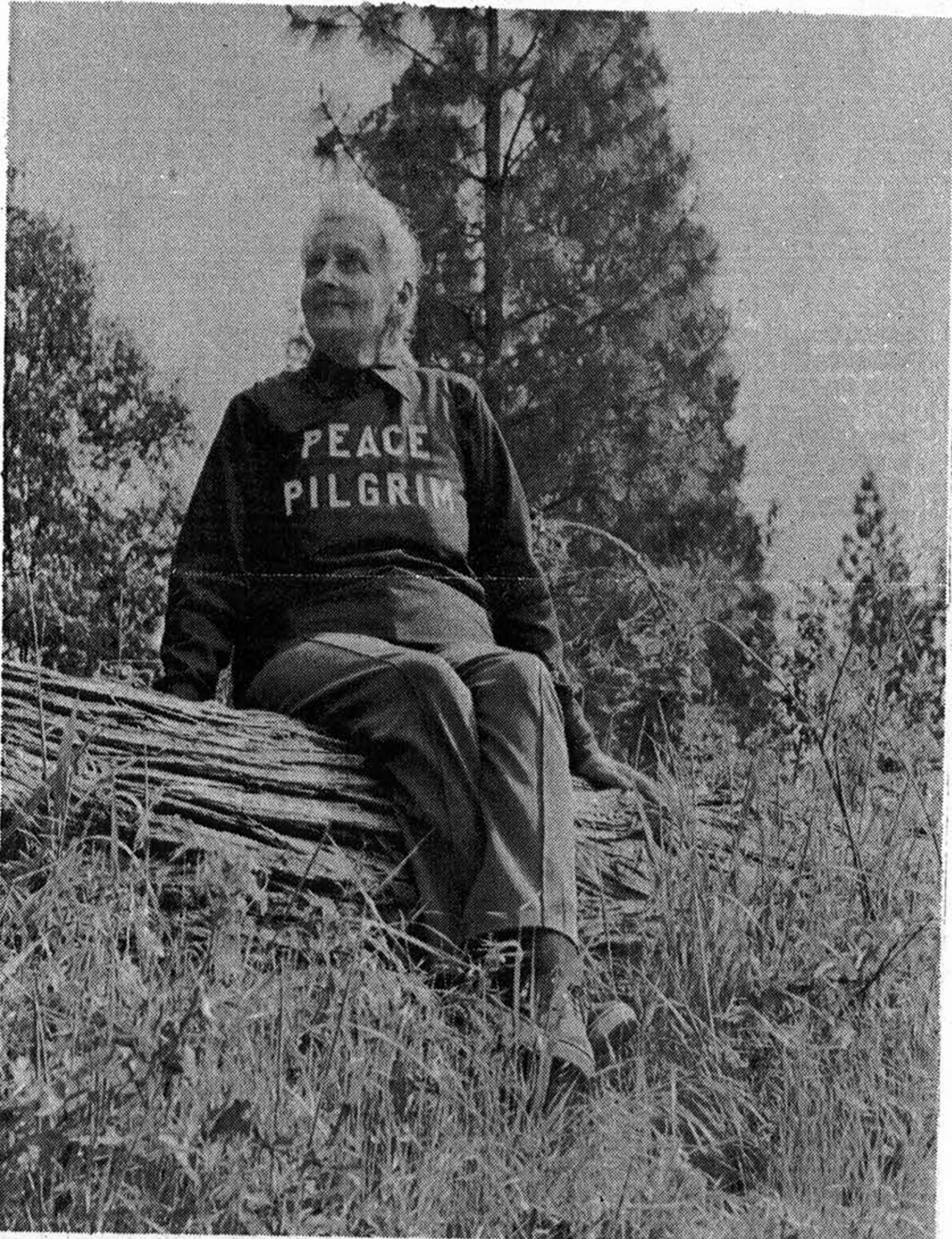


Peace Pilgrim visits GV



THE PEACE PILGRIM visited Grass Valley last week. She has traveled over 25,000 miles in her years of marching for the cause of peace. (Union Photo)

The Peace Pilgrim marched into Grass Valley Saturday, nine years after she reached the 25,000 mile mark.

"I haven't counted the miles since then," the elderly lady said, She has been walking throughout the United States, Canada and parts of Mexico for 20 years, promoting the concepts of world-wide peace and inner tranquility.

The silver haired lady wears a navy blue vest on which is written "The Peace Pilgrim" "25,000 miles for peace." In pockets in the vest she carries all her worldly possessions.

"Thirty five years ago my life changed," she said. "I came to realize that money and worldly goods are valueless and that it is much better to give than to receive. I felt my life work was to work for peace among individuals and all peoples of the world."

The peace pilgrim began her journey shortly thereafter, beginning a pilgrimage on foot across the country. She said her friends thought she was crazy to begin such a pilgrimage but she "felt a spiritual goal" and a close contact with "the source of universal energy."

She has made five pilgrimages across the United States. On one journey she visited every city in the U.S. and Canada with a population of

25,000 or more. That trip took seven years to complete.

She began to walk through Mexico but found the language too great a barrier so returned to the U.S.

The Peace Pilgrim has no home, only a forwarding address in New Jersey, and she says, "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."

The Peace Pilgrim is passing through Grass Valley on the beginning of her sixth cross-country journey. It will be a five year pilgrimage, she said, a "gentle journey of prayer and example."

From Grass Valley she will travel to Chico and then up the coast to Oregon and Washington. From there she will again head south and travel into Nevada. She began her walk in southern California five months ago and has been traveling north through the center of the state.

"I walk on country roads and city streets," she said, "and I avoid the crowded freeways." She often rides from place to place if she must walk along busy highways.

"Walking used to be most important to me," she said, "but now speaking is most important, answering letters second and walking is third."

The Peace Pilgrim believes world-wide peace can be attained through example, through adults raising their children will love and showing peace instead of hate and evil.

She believes peace between nations will come only when the people in each country know themselves emotionally and spiritually and can look beyond the pettiness of material things.

"It has worked in this country between the states," she said. "The states do not war among themselves and I believe the countries of the world can learn to live among themselves in peace under a strong world-wide government such as the United Nations. We still have many problems in this country but I believe they will be solved only through love among each individual."

The Peace Pilgrim spoke at a picnic at Pioneer Park in Nevada City Sunday and had speaking engagements in the area through the middle of this week. Wednesday morning she spoke to students at Nevada Union High School.

The Peace Pilgrim concluded with this thought. "This is the way of peace. Overcome evil with good, and falsehood with truth, and hatred with love. The Golden Rule would do as well. Please don't say lightly that these are just religious concepts and not practical. These are laws governing human conduct, which apply as rigidly as the laws of gravity. When we disregard these laws in any walk of life, chaos results. Through obedience to these laws this frightened, war-weary world of ours could enter into a period of peace and richness of life beyond our fondest dreams."