

# Ageless Peace Pilgrim fights apathy

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Progress Staff Writer

The Peace Pilgrim — "citizen of the world and member of the human family" — is walking Scottsdale this week.

The silver-haired woman adopted the name over three decades ago when she formally "came out of the empty life of materialism and money." She doesn't remember her age — "I'm ageless — and has been preaching peace since her first march in the 1953 Tournament of Roses parade.

In the next 10 years she walked some 25,000 miles doing the pilgrim's job — "rousing people from apathy and making them think." But in those days her priorities were walking, speaking and answering mail, in that order.

Today, she's juggled her priorities — first speaking, then answering mail and walking. That's not to say she's become weary of walking.

"I used to stay on the main highways . . . now I stay off of them and do some hitchhiking."

On her second trip to Scottsdale, Peace Pilgrim already has climbed Squaw Peak and "would love to go up the Praying Monk."

Speaking mostly to college psychology, sociology and government classes takes up her days, while evenings and weekends are spent preaching in churches — her record for sermons is seven on one Sunday.

She spoke Tuesday at two classes at Scottsdale Community College, "answering a lot of questions on Iran," she said. She's scheduled to speak at Arizona State University and Mesa Community College next week.

"I have to keep up on current events." She keeps abreast of world affairs by listening to the radio during hitchhike

rides, glancing at headlines at newspaper stands or occasionally watching television news broadcasts at her hosts' homes.

"History is made so swiftly we can see it made. We are in a crisis period in human history, we must choose between a nuclear war of annihilation and a golden age of peace."

Awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to Sister Theresa thrilled her, and although she doesn't dabble in politics, one of her "pet projects" is Amnesty International.

She eschews money and other possessions — aside from clothing, she owns a folding toothbrush, comb and ballpoint pen — and relies on others for shelter and food, "but only if they offer."

Her motto, she said, is "fasting until given food and walking until given shelter."

Where does she get her energy?

"The endless energy of inner peace . . . I haven't had an ache or pain in 43 years," she boasted.

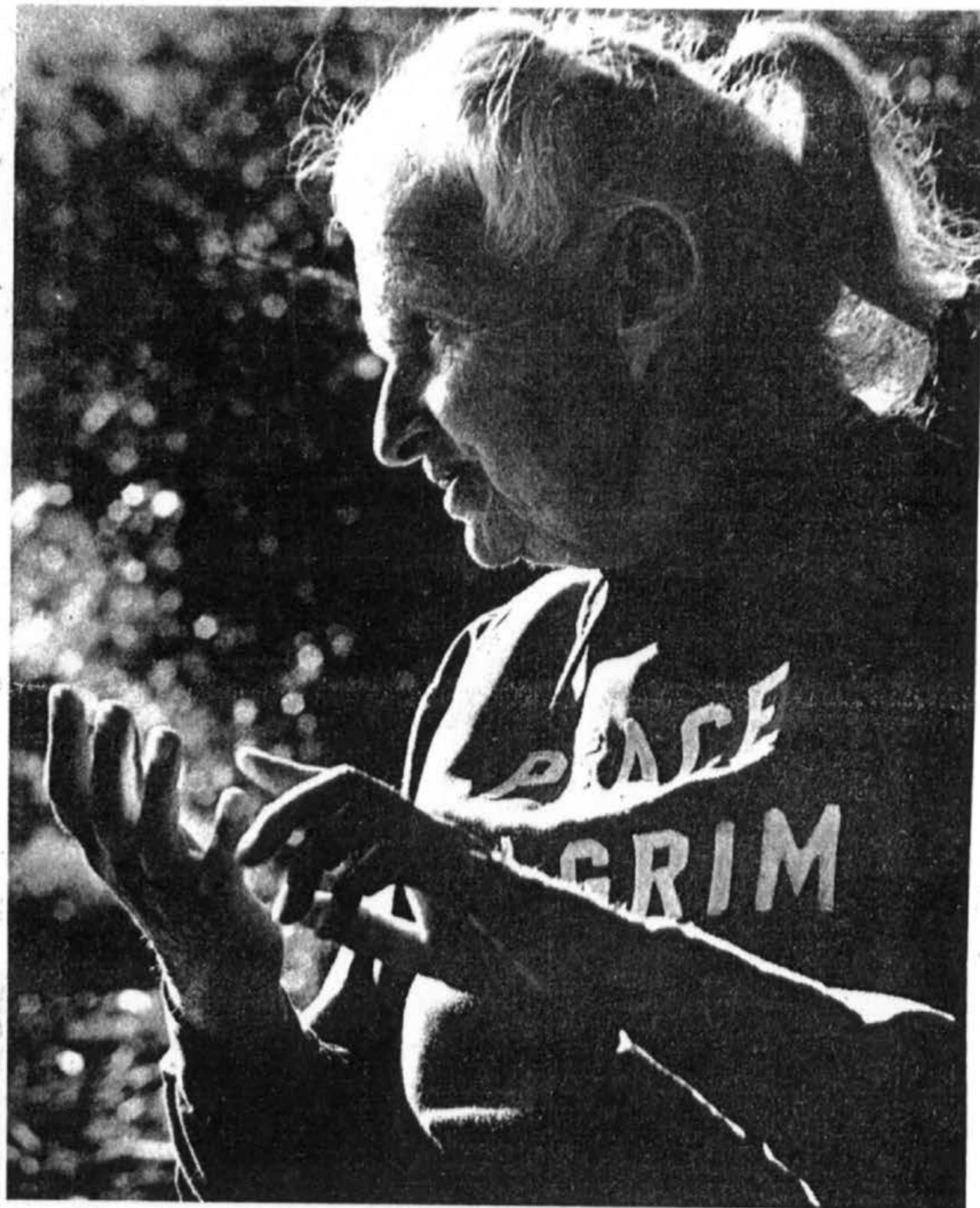
"There's a joy in living the peaceful life; too many people walk around with long faces and chips on their shoulders."

Although she calls herself a deeply religious woman, she doesn't belong to a denomination. Three friends in Cologne, N.J., mail her newsletter to some 10,000 subscribers. The friends send her mail general delivery to wherever she is visiting so she can answer it personally.

She will stay in Arizona until January, because of the "many invitations" to speak in the Valley.

A New Jersey writer is working on a book about her, and in 1985 she might consider four offers to do film documentaries of her life.

"I don't know though," she said, "there's a lot of work to be done."



Peace Pilgrim