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Peace Pilgrim Arrives

Native N. J. Woman Who Walked Here From Coast Hopes to Get Disarmament Plea to UN

BY IRWIN MOSKOWITZ

A middle-aged woman walked into pre-Christmas Newark this morning with some ideas for peace on earth and a batch of newspaper clippings describing her year-long walk from California.

The woman is a slim, blue-eyed Jerseyan with gray-blond hair and an engaging smile who calls herself "Peace Pilgrim." She does not otherwise identify herself. She is on her way to New York, where she intends to ask Mme. Pandit's permission to present a plea for world disarmament and reconstruction to the United Nations General Assembly.

Peace Pilgrim began her pilgrimage January 1 from Pasadena. She took all her worldly possessions with her. They amount to mimeographed copies of her peace message and a set of clothing which includes dark blue slacks, shirt and tunic and a couple of sweaters.

Arrives With \$1.57

She started with no money. When she came to Newark today, some 5,000 miles and six pairs of canvas shoes later, her pockets contained \$1.57. That money, with other small sums she has used for food and shelter, was donated by some of the thousands of persons she has met along the way.

The 115-pound pilgrim says she

never has solicited aid and has accepted only enough to keep her alive. She made the trip to California by hitch-hiking but says she has refused all rides on her pilgrimage except for short side trips from her main route.

She says she belongs to no organization and, though religiously motivated, is associated with no church. Her religion is based on belief that the Golden Rule "is a law of God which must be obeyed as rigidly as the law of gravity if mankind is to avoid chaos."

"Wonderful Response"

Peace Pilgrim says she has gotten "a wonderful response" from almost every one to whom she has spoken, including school children, truck drivers, housewives, clergymen and GIs.

She spent two nights of her pilgrimage behind bars on charges of vagrancy. But she recalls these events with a degree of pleasure.

"In Arizona," she says, "the arrest meant a chance for a warm shower and a bed with clean sheets. And the police let me go the next morning when they found out I was carrying a letter from the Governor in which he commended my mission and guaranteed my safe passage through the state.

"In Texas, the cell was crowded



"Peace Pilgrim" in Newark today.

and filthy. But there I had the opportunity of advising and perhaps helping a teen-age girl who

had gotten into trouble by running away from home. The Texas police released me the next day

when they learned I had the moral support of an outstanding local clergyman."

Police Kind

Peace Pilgrim says most policemen were courteous and that many arranged shelter for her in town halls, fire houses and in unbarred sections of police stations. Her other sleeping quarters have been in cars, farm houses, bus and train depots and the outdoors.

She remembers only two unpleasant experiences. One was in the Middle West, when she awakened early one morning at the side of the road to find a wheat combine bearing down on her. She says she rolled out of the way just in time to escape.

The other incident occurred Monday at a gas station near Princeton, where she got locked in a washroom and had to spend the night on the frigid tile floor before the attendant came to free her. She spent the previous night on a bench in a Trenton railroad station.

Discounts Individuality

Peace Pilgrim says she does not want the public to think of her as an individual but "rather as an embodiment of all human hearts that are pleading for peace." She will say of herself only that she is a native of this state and is not married.

She says she intends to live in voluntary poverty and to be without a permanent home "until we find a way to abolish hatred and other causes of war."

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