

FROM WACO

# 'Pilgrim' Hikes Here Urging World Peace

By BOB KNIGHT

Peace Pilgrim, a woman with no name or money but much faith, is in the process of walking her message to every state in the Union.

Aim: world disarmament. Method: a 10,000 mile pilgrimage of the United States and parts of Mexico and Canada.

She walked into Austin on her eighth pair of canvas shoes Saturday, never accepting a ride during the three-and-a-half day, 104-mile journey from Waco city hall. Her only possessions: a folding toothbrush, a comb, correspondence from people along the way and copies of her message.

She has walked 100 miles in California, Arizona and New Mexico to their state capitals since January when she began the second half of her pilgrimage. In 1953 she walked her first 5,000 miles in a zig-zag path from Los Angeles to

New York, at the rate of 25 miles per day for 200 walking days.

The 115 - pound, silver-haired woman describes her mission as "an effort to do everything one tiny person can do for peace."

The way to peace, she says, is to, "overcome evil with good, falsehood with truth and hatred with love."

Her vow: "Until mankind has learned the way to peace, I shall remain a wanderer on the face of the earth, walking until I am given shelter, fasting until I am given food. . . ."

She owns nothing but the clothes she wears—blue tunic and slacks—but she never lacks, she says.

"If you dedicate your life to God, you discover that everything needful is given."

Sometimes the period between receiving is long—36 hours on the Texas desert on her first trip—but food and shelter always come.

On the way to Austin she slept on the floor of an all-night gas station, the back of a parked car and in a home.

Although not affiliated with any church groups, since her arrival she has been invited to speak in a number of them in Austin.

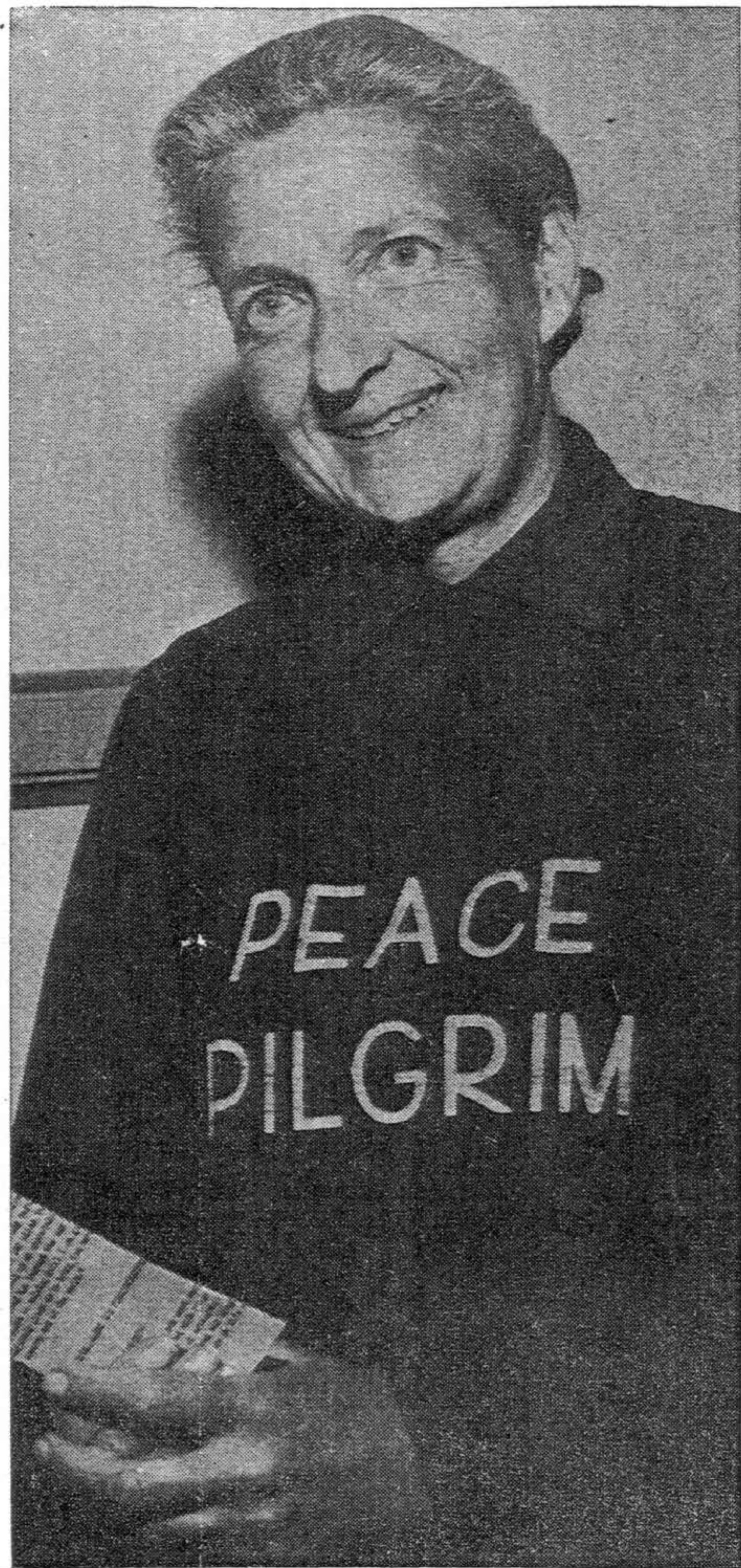
Tuesday at 8 p. m. she will address a public meeting at Bethel Temple on "The Peace Within."

She chooses to remain nameless because she is not interested in personal publicity, she said. She will not reveal her background, other than to say that she dedicated her life to service 17 years ago and to her pilgrimage two years ago.

"I hardly feel individual any more," she explains. "I feel like an embodiment of all human hearts that are pleading for peace."

When Peace Pilgrim leaves Austin Wednesday, she will direct herself toward Mexico, accepting rides until she comes within 100 miles of Mexico City. Then she'll walk the rest of the way to the capital.

She doesn't know Spanish. But this doesn't bother her. She is sure she will manage.



Staff Photo

Hoping to meet Governor Allan Shivers, a Peace Pilgrim is in Austin. She walked here from Waco as part of a 10,000 mile pilgrimage for world disarmament. She will speak at Bethel Temple Tuesday at 8 p. m.