

Peace Pilgrim Here After Walking 6,200 Miles



Missoullan-Sentinel Photo

Peace Pilgrim, otherwise unidentified, chats with Dr. Deane Ferm, director of the School of Religion at the State University, after her arrival here on a 10,000-mile walk which she describes as a prayer for world peace.

The slight, gray-haired woman has walked 6,200 miles of her projected trip, coming here from Tacoma, Wash. She will leave Monday to walk to Helena, expecting to arrive Thursday.

She walked 5,000 miles, visiting 18 states, in a transcontinental tour in 1953. During the current second half of her 10,000 miles, she has pledged to visit every state capital and walk at least

100 miles in every state, plus Canada and Mexico.

She accepted rides here from Tacoma, but will walk to Helena. She was referred to Dr. Ferm by Dr. Harvey F. Baty of Bozeman, former director of the School of Religion. She met Dr. Baty at a religious conference she addressed in New Hampshire. She plans to see Dr. Baty after leaving Helena.

She disclaims any desire for personal publicity and will not answer questions about herself except to say that 15 years ago she decided to dedicate herself to service.

She says she seeks only the opportunity for prayer and to

talk to people. She arrived here Thursday and Friday morning spoke at the University. Friday night she spoke at a gathering of Missoula members of the Society of Friends and local ministers at the home of Dr. Ferm.

A public meeting at Dr. Ferm's home, 510 McLeod Ave., is scheduled for 8 p.m. Sunday. She also plans to speak at other churches and to other groups while in the city.

She brings a simple message of the way to 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 law 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."

"Until mankind has learned the way of peace I shall remain a wanderer on the face of the earth—walking until I am given shelter, fasting until I am given food, using money given me to bring the message of the way to peace to the people of my country and of the world."

She says she has never been hungry, although she has never asked for food. The longest she has gone without food on her travels was from one morning to the following night.

"If you really love and trust everyone, you will never fail to find good in everyone," she said.