

Peace Pilgrim In Visit Here

Hutchinson was visited briefly Tuesday by a gray-haired, peace-minded woman who calls herself Peace Pilgrim, and is set on hiking 10,000 miles.

Her ambulatory prowess has, in the past couple of years, won her newspaper clippings which would stretch a considerable number of yards along the route.

Peace Pilgrim, who dresses in dark blue, says she carries nothing with her but a comb and toothbrush, some copies of her message plus at the moment some unanswered correspondence. All this goes in the pockets along her hand-sewn tunic, emblazoned across the back with the legend, "walking 10,000 miles for world disarmament," and across the front simply "Peace Pilgrim."

"Women always wonder if I have a change of clothes with me — I don't," she said when asked by a man who also wondered. "I just wash out what I'm wearing and put it on to dry. That's the quickest way."

In 1953, when she became a pilgrim for the cause of world disarmament 15 years after finding an "inner peace" through religion, she walked 5,000 miles.

In 1954 she walked such a little bit, she said, that she doesn't even count it. This year she's planning



BRIEF STOP on a 10,000-mile hike Peace Pilgrim.

to walk 100 miles in every state — in Kansas it will be from Abilene to Topeka next weekend — plus a few miles to make up her 10,000 miles goal.

Peace Pilgrim, who said she never accepts money for the talks she gives, takes rides the rest of the time, came into Hutchinson with a very pleasant truck driver and his son, she said. She will speak Friday night at McPherson.

The woman, who says she had some relatives but no children of her own, shuns intimate personal publicity, she explains, because she is attempting to dramatize a cause rather than an individual.

She set out with three aims, of which two have been granted, she noted: peace in Korea and creation of a Peace Department in the President's Cabinet. Appointment of Harold Stassen as secretary of a disarmament program fulfilled this one.

The third goal, world disarmament, will come, she believes, "because we will all be afraid of the weapons we have created."

Toward making it happen, Peace Pilgrim has so far spent eight pairs of crepe-soled shoes and endured hardships she says were made easy because of her resolution to follow a vow: "to walk until I am given shelter, to fast until I am given food," until goal No. 3 is reached.