

'Peace Pilgrim' Who's Walking 10,000 Miles Arrives in Jackson

By GEORGE HARMON
State Times Staff Writer

A gray-haired woman who won't reveal her real name walked into Jackson last night and said she's not tired a bit after walking 7,500 miles.

She calls herself "Peace Pilgrim."

She says this is a name God gave her.

"My real name is not important," she said. "Or my age. I was born in New Jersey, if that means anything."

Inscribed on the jacket of her blue costume—her entire wardrobe—is this message:

"Peace Pilgrim—Walking 10,000 miles for Disarmament."

With her past a blank to all who meet her, "Peace" lives upon the charity of other people, never asking for food or shelter but rarely going without it.

She prefers to call her 10,000-mile hike a pilgrimage, "a journey on foot and on faith, undertaken as a prayer and as an opportunity to talk with people and perhaps to inspire them to pray and work with me."

"Peace" walked 5,000 miles in a zig-zag path across the United States in 1953 and last year began another 5,000-mile trip which includes a 100-mile hike in each state. Each hike ends at a state capital.

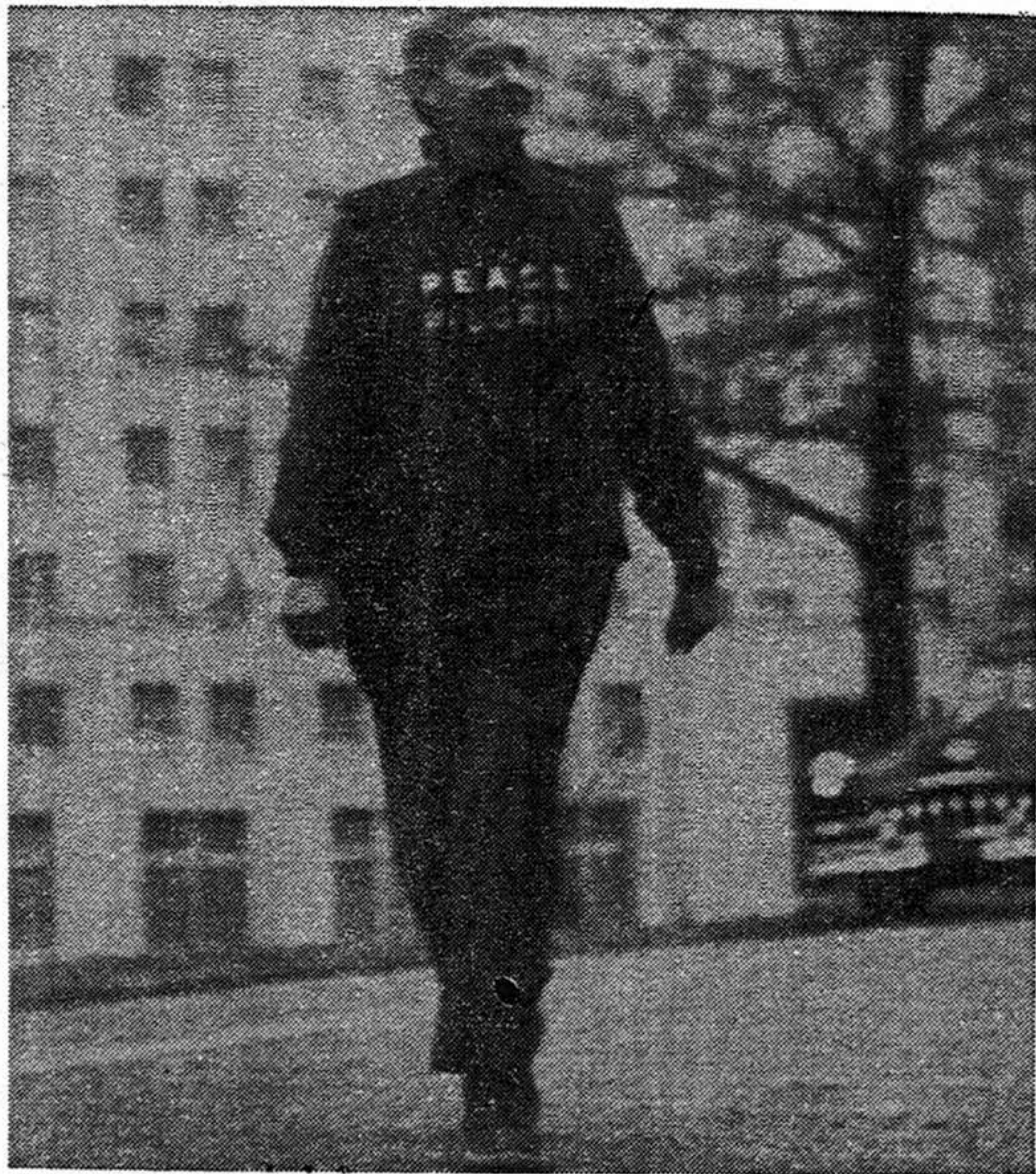
"I started walking in 1953 with three petitions," she said. "These were for peace in Korea, the ap-

pointment of a U.S. secretary of peace with cabinet status, and international disarmament."

"Two of these prayers have been answered.

"I was sitting in an Illinois newspaper office when I read about the Korean truce on a teletype. And I consider the appointment of Har-

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"PEACE PILGRIM"

... "Walking 10,000 Miles for Disarmament"

Peace . . .

old Stassen to the cabinet last year as the answer to my second prayer.

(President Eisenhower appointed Stassen a Presidential assistant on disarmament problems, with cabinet status).

Her Mississippi pilgrimage began in Natchez, and it took her four days to walk to Jackson by way of Vicksburg. She spent nights in homes at Port Gibson, near Edwards and at Jackson, and stayed in hotel lobbies at Natchez and Vicksburg.

She has eaten in grocery stores, private homes and restaurants since coming to this state and also sampled pecans alongside Highways 61 and 80.

She plans to stay in Jackson "over the weekend if I find food and shelter."

She spent Tuesday night with a Jackson woman who stopped her car and began to chat as "Peace" walked along the highway on the city's outskirts.

"Peace" says she speaks to college and religious groups in each city she visits.

Jackson was the 25th state capital "Peace" has reached in her current journey.

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