

Gray-Haired Woman on Walking Tour Arrives in City with Message of Peace

A plea for world disarmament and reconstruction is being heard throughout the country through the energy of a slight gray-haired woman who is dedicated to a walking pilgrimage of 10,000 miles.

Peace Pilgrim is, she says, her name—she refused to reveal any other. "It's not important who I am, but my mission and message are very important," she said here Monday.

Peace Pilgrim says she expects to see world disarmament and peace during her lifetime "but it may take more than 10,000 miles of walking."

Garbed in a navy blue tunic, with Peace Pilgrim across the front, navy slacks and a blue kerchief, she blithely walked through Monday's rain on her trek through Maine.

This is the second half of Peace Pilgrim's 10,000-mile pilgrimage. She has already walked from coast to coast and border to border and has covered some 8,900 miles.

Maine is the 37th state in which she has walked at least 100 miles. Her ultimate goal in each is the state capital. She's a day ahead of schedule in Maine, arriving in Augusta Monday afternoon. She plans to spend today in the Capital City.

Since entering Maine at the beginning of this month, Peace Pilgrim has walked from Portland through Freeport and Lewiston and then to Brunswick, Bath, Wiscasset, Gardiner and Augusta.

She accepts no rides while on her pilgrimage, although she receives many offers and enjoys talking with the travelers who

stop. But her dedication to world disarmament is all - important. She calls her pilgrimage a prayer

as well as an opportunity to talk with thousands of people.

Peace Pilgrims's vow, which she made in 1953, is to remain a wanderer until mankind has learned the way of peace. She relies on those she meets for shelter and food—accepting only what she needs to continue her pilgrimage.

In Maine she has fared very well. "The people here are very friendly." She hasn't missed many meals—four in a continuous period during her pilgrimage—and only one night did she spend sleeping in the open.

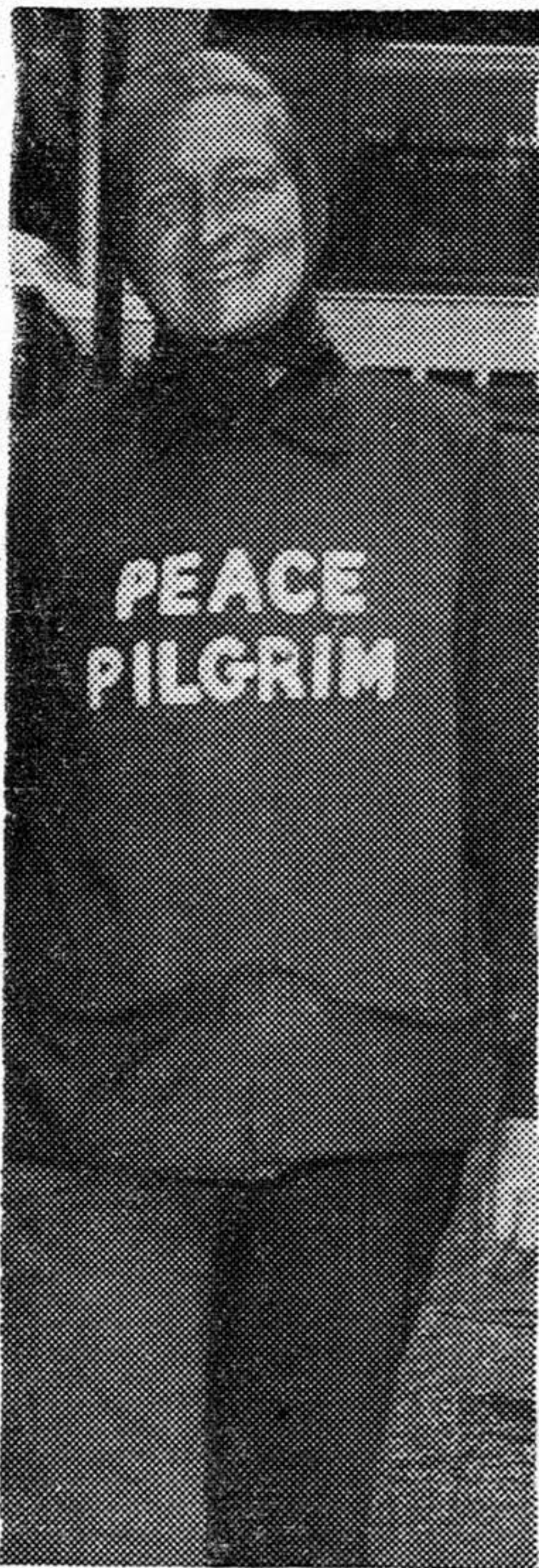
Her canvas shoes show the wear and tear of her travels, the thick rubber soles worn through. She said she hasn't minded walking and said her feet are never uncomfortable. Her shoes, she explained, had insoles cut from an old innertude which "work quite well."

Peace Pilgrim said she found it hard to walk less than 25 miles a day and sometimes walked as much as 50 miles daily. She averages four miles in an hour, taking time out to visit with people along the way.

During the winter, she speaks before church and student groups. "All churches are good, I love them all—they are all stepping stones to God," she explained.

She said she received a great deal of mail which she often-times answers by the roadside. Her talks are on "attainment of greater inner peace." "All men are not peaceful," she said "but physical violence can be avoided."

Ultimate peace, she said, will not be obtained until individuals find the courage to walk the road of peace.



PEACE PILGRIM

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