

ENIGMATIC WOMAN <sup>6/9/61</sup>  
'Peace Pilgrim' Here  
On 25,000-Mile Walk

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Staff Writer

A woman trying to walk the world to peace paused in St. Paul Thursday during a 25,000-mile pedestrian pilgrimage.

Dressed in blue slacks and a tunic with white letters in front reading "Peace Pilgrim" and on the back "Walking 25,000 Miles," the slim woman would identify herself only as "Peace Pilgrim."

"I have no interest in emphasizing myself," she said. "What is important is my message."

In that vein, she declined

to say how old she is (a guess would be 50-60) where she was from (the Eastern seaboard would be a good bet) or what she did for a living before her peace trip.

**'NO DEPENDENTS'**

Asked if she has been or is married, she said, "I have no dependents."

She was more explicit about her footwear, a pair of crepe-soled oxfords. "I've worn out 22 pairs in the 18,000 miles I've counted walking since I started out from Los Angeles in 1953."

Asked what size shoe she wears, she said, "I wear a children's size, six."

She weighs 115 pounds, stands 5 feet 4 inches and hasn't been sick since she started walking, she said.

"Some people don't, but I believe in prayer," she said. "This walking is my way of self-sacrificing prayer, a gesture I hope will inspire people to do something to bring peace to the world."

**GROUPS FORMED**

In the wake of her walks through 49 states, all 10 Canadian provinces and parts of Mexico, some community peace groups have been formed, she said.

She owns only the clothes on her back, she said. "Unnecessary possessions are unnecessary burdens." She eats and takes shelter only when they are offered her.

"I haven't slept by the roadside in a year," she said.

Only twice in eight years has she been picked up for questioning by police authorities.

"Since I never have any money, they could arrest me for vagrancy, but they never have," she said. "I merely explain what I'm doing and



PEACE PILGRIM

—Staff Photo.

they let me go. I've never had an unpleasant experience."

Occasionally, the peace pilgrim makes talks to church and college groups. She reaches others through a newsletter arranged for from Peace Pilgrim, Cologne, N.J.

She planned to spend a week in the Twin Cities and then start walking to St. Cloud and Duluth. Her last visit here was five years ago.

Does she think her walking is paying off?

"I expect to see world disarmament in my lifetime," she said.

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