



—P-I Photo by Paul Thomas

PEACE PILGRIM, A PENNILESS WANDERER
Foresees possibility of "Peace Department"

DIALOGUE

Peace Pilgrim Wins Her War

BY EARL HANSEN

Peace Pilgrim, the silver-haired penniless wanderer who has walked more than 25,000 miles for peace, said here yesterday that she "no longer feels like a voice crying in the wilderness."

When she gave up her name and possessions and started walking, she says even her friends thought "I'd taken leave of my senses."

That was 20 years ago. Motorists now pass this grandmotherly pacifist in tennis shoes and "never shout mean things. Only things like 'good luck' and keep up the good work."

Once "with money and things, but with a life that was empty, meaningless and unhappy," Peace Pilgrim's twinkly eyes and chattiness bespeak that her life on the road has personally brought her a long way.

Passersby may snicker as they read "25,000 Miles On Foot For World Peace" across her back. But Peace Pilgrim, whose "magic formula" includes being concerned "that you do not offend, not that you are not offended," appears oblivious to putdown. She claims that anyone's problem with her is his own problem.

Peace Department?

"But mankind may be on the brink of possibilities. We immature people of the world may have learned that war accomplishes nothing . . . Dueling ceased, remember, when so many men legally right were being killed in duels and dueling wasn't proving who was right."

She now foresees the possibility of a "Peace Department," set up to research peaceful ways of ending conflict and to lead other countries by our example.

Questioned if the U.S. might be first in war but last in peace, especially when her peace message had made her feel as a "voice crying in the wilderness" as she walked throughout America, Peace Pilgrim countered:

"Economics . . . materialism . . . these are still the world's controlling forces, as man is still way off balance onto the materialistic side, and that makes us (America) influential."

Peace Pilgrim says she received her calling while on a New England vacation in 1953, and was overcome with an "inner peace" which has her "plugged into universal energy, universal supply and universal truth."

Truck Driver's Tale

Anyone may be "plugged in," she says, by discovering the truth of Jesus and other prophets who taught that "The Kingdom of God is within."

Peace Pilgrim's experiences attest to scientific estimates that an average person goes to his grave with more than 90 per cent of his physical, mental and spiritual abilities untapped. She related a truck driver's story:

"When I told him that I walked on endless energy — walking until given shelter and fasting until given food — he said he knew what I meant. That he'd had this energy one weekend when marooned in a town by a flood. He worked two days without stopping, rescuing people, and without growing tired."

Peace Pilgrim, who purportedly never accepted a dime during her years on the road, will be taking her folded toothbrush, comb and pen with her into local college classrooms. She'll address sociology, psychology and philosophy classes at the University of Washington, Seattle University and Seattle and Shoreline Community Colleges.

You might encounter her in the University District, on a downtown street, at University Friends Meeting Sunday at 10 a.m., or next Wednesday evening at 7:30 at Unity Church of Truth. She's here for the rest of July, teaching what many seem to hear as a Christmas special.

