

Peace Department is Latest Goal Of World Peace Seeking Pilgrim

Her friends call her "Peace". And to Peace Pilgrim, "that's a most beautiful name."

Peace Pilgrim, an ageless and vibrant woman who has lived a vow of simplicity made 37½ years ago, has also set her goal in life with that five letter word.

In search of world peace, she has been on the road since Jan. 1, 1953, making pilgrimages to different parts of the U.S. and Canada as part of her work toward world peace.

Her latest step toward world peace will be made from Stuart, where she arrived Wednesday for a few days stay, walking there from another part of the country where she was spreading her universal message of love and peace, accepting hospitality from friends along the way.

Peace Pilgrim said she is writing to government officials and also to the United Nations from Stuart, asking that in conjunction with the Bicentennial that a Peace Department be established with three functions.

These include doing extensive research on peaceful ways of resolving conflicts, dealing with national problems in connection with disarmament and world peace, and establishment of the Peace Department with fanfare as an example and to ask other nations to establish similar departments.

A postscript to her letters will ask that the United Nations be requested to establish a world language, to be taught as a second language.

Such a "Peace Language", she feels, will be a long strike toward world peace since it would help get rid of at least one difference between peoples.

Most nations, Peace Pilgrim said, are willing to follow suit with the Peace Department idea and have, "in their own sometimes clumsy ways" tried to solve problems.

"We have always had War Departments," she said, "so why not a Peace Department. I think the idea will be accepted."

In her long search for world peace, Peace Pilgrim said she has watched the world changing in favor of searching for peace, both the inner peace for individuals and also for world peace.

"When I started out most people accepted war but now they are searching for peace. There was also little interest in an inner search for

peace but now there is an almost universal search for inner peace. This is a most hopeful sign.

"Most of the major nations are now on speaking terms and are trying to resolve their differences. What we need are more people with an inner peace to establish a lasting outer peace."

Peace Pilgrim has two "magic formulas" that she spreads, one for resolving conflicts and the other for avoiding them.

To resolve conflicts, "Have as your objective the resolving of the conflict, not the gaining of advantage". And on avoiding conflicts, "Be concerned that you do not offend, not that you are not offended."

Both formulas are spread, through the news media and by individual contacts, by Peace Pilgrim as she walks around the nation dressed in navy blue slacks and shirt and a short tunic with pockets in which she carries all her worldly possessions — a folding toothbrush, pen and comb.

A wanderer in the true sense of the word, her mail reaches her through a friend in Cologne, New Jersey, who forwards the mail to the nearest post office where she is traveling.

Peace Pilgrim said she operates on the need level, refusing to take more than she needs which other have less than they need.

As part of her 15 years preparation for her mission in life, she spent five years giving away her worldly possessions.

She also began her work by working with the elderly and later by counseling the psychologically disturbed, working with individuals and not through institutions.

To earn money to live on she became a typist for a few hours.

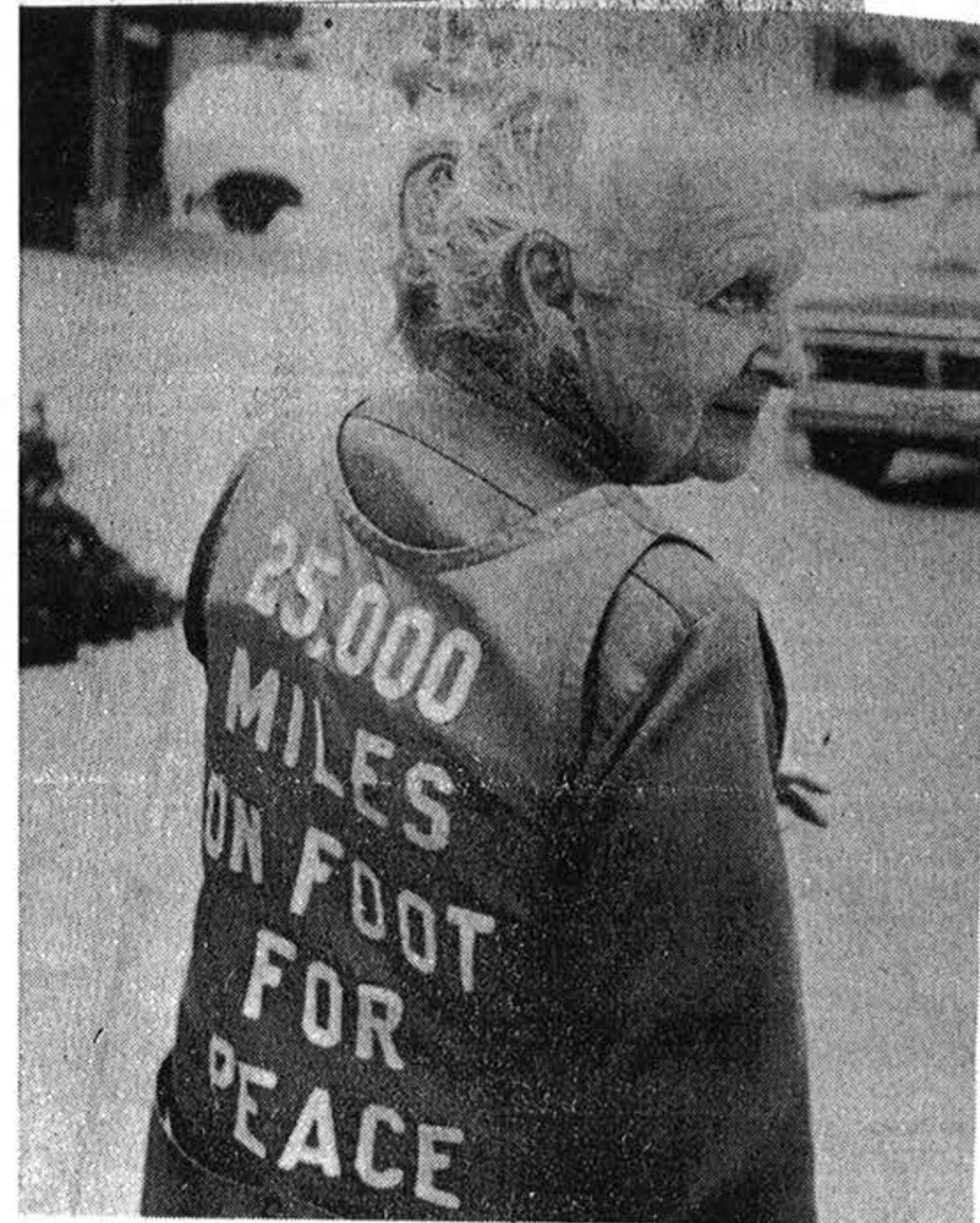
After completing three walks across the nation to fulfill goals she set, Peace Pilgrim is now on her sixth pilgrimage, visiting areas by invitation.

This year she will go on her seventh pilgrimage, this to Alaska and Hawaii, the only states she has not been to yet. This trip will be financed by a businessman who believes in her work, she said.

One week will be spent in Alaska and two in Hawaii.

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PEACE PILGRIM — Front and back views of the nationwide walking peace seeker, shown off during a visit to O'Neill and Holt County last week.