

She Hopes 10,000 Miles Bring Peace

BY PHYLLIS BEARDSLEY, Mirror-News Religion Editor

Two years and 5000 miles ago at the Pasadena Rose Parade, Peace Pilgrim began her long walk.

Today she begins the second half of a journey that has already taken her coast-to-coast and border to border.

In the next two years she plans to visit the capital of every State.

Slight, but not frail, meek but not timid, unadorned, but not unbeautiful, the white-haired woman walks and talks to anyone who will listen.

"Peace is possible," she says, "even though we are headed for war. Peace can come to the world if peace is discovered by individuals."

"Overcome evil with good, falsehood with truth, hatred with love," she pleads.

"The Golden Rule will work for all people and all nations," she says, "and it will bring world peace."

She will give no name other than Peace Pilgrim.

Fifteen years ago as Sally Smith or Mary Brown, or whatever her name was, she was a secretary in an office.

Although her Quaker background in New England was filled with church activity, it did not seem enough. She decided to give her life completely to the work of peace.

She accepted a life of "voluntary simplicity" believing that worldly riches prove to be burdens rather than wealth. Her only possessions are the simple clothes that she wears, a light jacket, a folding toothbrush, comb and notebook and pencil.

Her pilgrimage, she claims, is "a prayer and a penance."

"Until mankind has learned the way to peace, I shall remain a wanderer on the face of the earth, walking until I am given shelter, fasting until I am given food."

She has no idea how many people she has reached with her message.

"I've talked to thousands," she says, "and I don't know how many by newspapers and radio and television."

But she keeps no scrapbook. "I come and go," she says, "if someone has taken courage to speak for peace because of me, this is my only aim."

"If you have love there is no strangeness and no room for fear."

Last night she attended the Watch Night service at the Mt. Hollywood Congregational Church.

Tomorrow she will speak at the Pasadena Friends Church.

10 Part I—SATURDAY, JAN. 1, 1955

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PEACE PILGRIM walks tomorrow in Rose Parade.