

# The Butte Daily Post

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## Peace Pilgrim Who Is Walking Across Country Visits Butte

A woman who has vowed that she will walk back and forth across the country until the tide toward world peace is as strong as the tide is now toward war is visiting in Butte.

She will give her name only as Peace Pilgrim and she says that she began her trek in Los Angeles in January, 1953. To date she has walked 14,550 miles in her mission to bring the realization to people that something constructive must be done about peace. Her goal, she says, is not the number of miles she travels nor the years it takes, but rather the final result, peace, which she will work for until it becomes a reality.

While in Butte the Peace Pilgrim will speak at a public meeting in the Fellowship Room of the YMCA at 2 p.m. Thursday. She will tell of her experiences on the road and discuss peace within ones self as well as peace in the world.

The Pilgrim says her personal biography is unimportant and she refuses to divulge any facts of her life prior to the time when she became the Peace Pilgrim. She says she wishes to be remembered only as a woman who was so concerned about the present state of the world that she dedicated her life to the discussion of world peace.

Dressed in navy blue slacks and shirt covered with a short tunic rimmed around the bottom with pockets in which she carries her



WALKS 14,550 MILES

only worldly possessions, the woman walks the country over without money. She accepts the hospitality of the road by taking food and drink when offered, but she never accepts transportation in her walks for peace.

Her vow is "I shall remain a wanderer until mankind has learned the way of peace, walking until I am given shelter and fasting until I am given food."

She says that because she has inner peace she finds she is never hungry, thinking of food only when it is put before her, and that she is indifferent to heat or cold. When you are concerned about what you are doing, she says, you don't worry about little hardships.

A slight, almost frail-looking woman, the Peace Pilgrim walks unafraid along the highways of America. She has walked through 48 states, the 10 provinces of Canada and Mexico. She began her pilgrimage "after my hair turned to silver, and with no previous athletic training," she says. Refusing to give her years, she says she is ageless and that her energy is endless.

Her actual age could be anywhere from 50 to 70-or more. Her step is light and she brims over with vitality.

Learning the ways of the road as she travels, the Pilgrim has found a secret many women have sought. Of fair complexion, she used to sunburn easily but she found that if she used only water to cleanse her face, the natural oils returned, protecting her from the sun's rays and incidently smothering her skin to youthful appearance.

Her diet consists of fruits, nuts, vegetables, whole grain, milk and cheese.

She is not affiliated with any organization and states that she walks as a prayer and as a chance to inspire others to pray and work with her for peace. She travels at the rate of 25 miles a day although she has done as much as 50 miles. This summer she is walking 1,000 miles through the northwest. The first year of her long walk she covered 5,000 miles but now she has so many speaking engagements she cannot cover as much distance. In summer she walks in the north and in winter in the south.

The message of the Peace Pilgrim contains two steps which could and should be taken now. One is the establishment of a common world language to be taught as a second language in all the schools in the world. The other would be the opening of a Department of Peace in Washington, D.C., to conduct extensive research on peaceful ways of resolving conflicts. The Pilgrim would like to see this country take the constructive leadership steps in promoting such peace ideas thus putting it in the position of being able to ask other countries to do the same.

While in Butte the Peace Pilgrim is the guest of Mrs. Murl Gidel, 1127 W. Mercury. She will leave here Thursday for Boise from where she will begin a walk to Salt Lake City.

When traveling distances too great to meet speaking engagements on time, the Peace Pilgrim will accept a ride, but when "counting miles" she always refuses. At the present time her itinerary covers 25,000 miles, but as time goes on it will lengthen until the world accepts the fact that peace must reign.

Having no home or base of operations, the Peace Pilgrim's mail, which is voluminous, is forwarded to her from a woman in Cologne, N. J. Another woman, in Pennsylvania, puts out a semi-annual newsletter cataloging the Pilgrim's experiences. This can be obtained by writing the forwarding address in New Jersey.