



TWO DIFFERENT WAYS—Peace Pilgrim talks with Ray Smith about the writings of the past that have promoted the idea of "inner peace with God." Miss Pilgrim met Smith, librarian at the Mason City Public Library, who asked

her which author in written works had influenced her life. "I arrived at an inner peace in my own life first, then read later what others had to say in books," she answered.

Peace Pilgrim praises good in 25,000 mile hike

By **JIM COLLISON**
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"I must get on with my work. It's my job, you know," Peace Pilgrim said Wednesday when she ended the interview at the Globe-Gazette.

Miss Pilgrim's job is a weary one. She is "self-employed" in a project to promote peace on the earth.

The terms of employment? She has made a personal vow to walk 25,000 miles.

When she leaves Iowa next week, at Sioux City, she will have completed more than 18,000 miles of her walking journey.

PEACE PILGRIM IS not the name she received at birth. She will not tell her given name; she will not tell when she was born or where. "Years mean nothing when one finds inner peace," she smiled.

When asked her age she said, as a metaphor, "I am ageless." Her hands and face are severe-

ly weathered. She is a silver-haired woman, dressed in blue from her crepe-soled shoes to her head scarf.

Her garb consists of shoes, slacks, sweat shirt and a faded tunic with the words, "Peace Pilgrim" on the front and "Walking 25,000 Miles for World Peace" across the back.

A guess would place her age in the middle or late 60s.

Asked how close this guess might be, she repeated she is ageless: "I can do things today I couldn't have done when I was 20."

MISS PILGRIM IS a spry woman. When she walks she springs along with the lively step of a teen-age girl in a foot race. She is in a hurry to get about her work. Wednesday she left Waterloo, hitch-hiked a ride to Charles City, broadcast her message there, continued to Mason City and spent the afternoon talking about peace.

"This is a city of peaceful folks, the nicest in Iowa," one man said

to her at the Mason City Public Library where she stopped to write letters to her many friends throughout North America. "You should stay here and settle down," the man added.

"OH, NO, I couldn't do that," she answered. "If you are a peaceful city you do not need me here."

Why was she not in Alabama preaching "peace" to the southern racists?

"I set a schedule to walk 2,000 miles a year—1,000 miles in the North during the summer months and 1,000 miles in the South during the winter months. After all, if you expect to talk to people along the roadside you must choose the weather when people are going to be out," she explained.

Miss Pilgrim visits five mid-west states this summer and walks 200 miles in each state. She will walk from St. Cloud to Duluth, Minn., as part of the walking pilgrimage in that state.

PEACE PILGRIM walks without a penny in her pockets, which