

## Peace Pilgrim Visits City In 16th Year of Hiking

(Picture on Page 5A)

"Peace Pilgrim," a silver-haired little old woman known only by that name who since 1953 has hiked continually around America and into Canada and Mexico in a vow to be a wanderer until mankind has learned the way of peace, walked into Fort Wayne at midday Thursday.

Speaking engagements in churches and before a local club interested in all religions, marks her first official visit to Fort Wayne since April, 1962, although she visited the city briefly for a single speaking engagement in October, 1965.

When she started on her peace walk 15 years ago she vowed she would "remain a wanderer until mankind has learned the way of peace, walking until I am given shelter and fasting until I am given food." A total of 25,000 miles was logged by end of 1964, she has since completed another four-year circuit of the country and is on a four-year schedule which should bring her back to Fort Wayne in October, 1971.

Peace Pilgrim will tell little about her earlier life, feeling that by having no name nor any other interest in life, nor identity with any specific area or place in the

country she can accomplish more. The only points she will acknowledge about her early life are: (1) She was born in the United States, (2) She didn't leave any dependents or obligations behind when she began her peace journey, (3) Her name isn't important, (4) Her education shouldn't matter, (5) She's not affiliated with any church or organization; and (6) "In early life she found money making easy but meaningless."

She had never been a devotee of hiking before embarking on her new way of life and says it hasn't been difficult because of the inspiration involved. She says she was inspired while viewing the beauty of the countryside from a hilltop while visiting in New England.

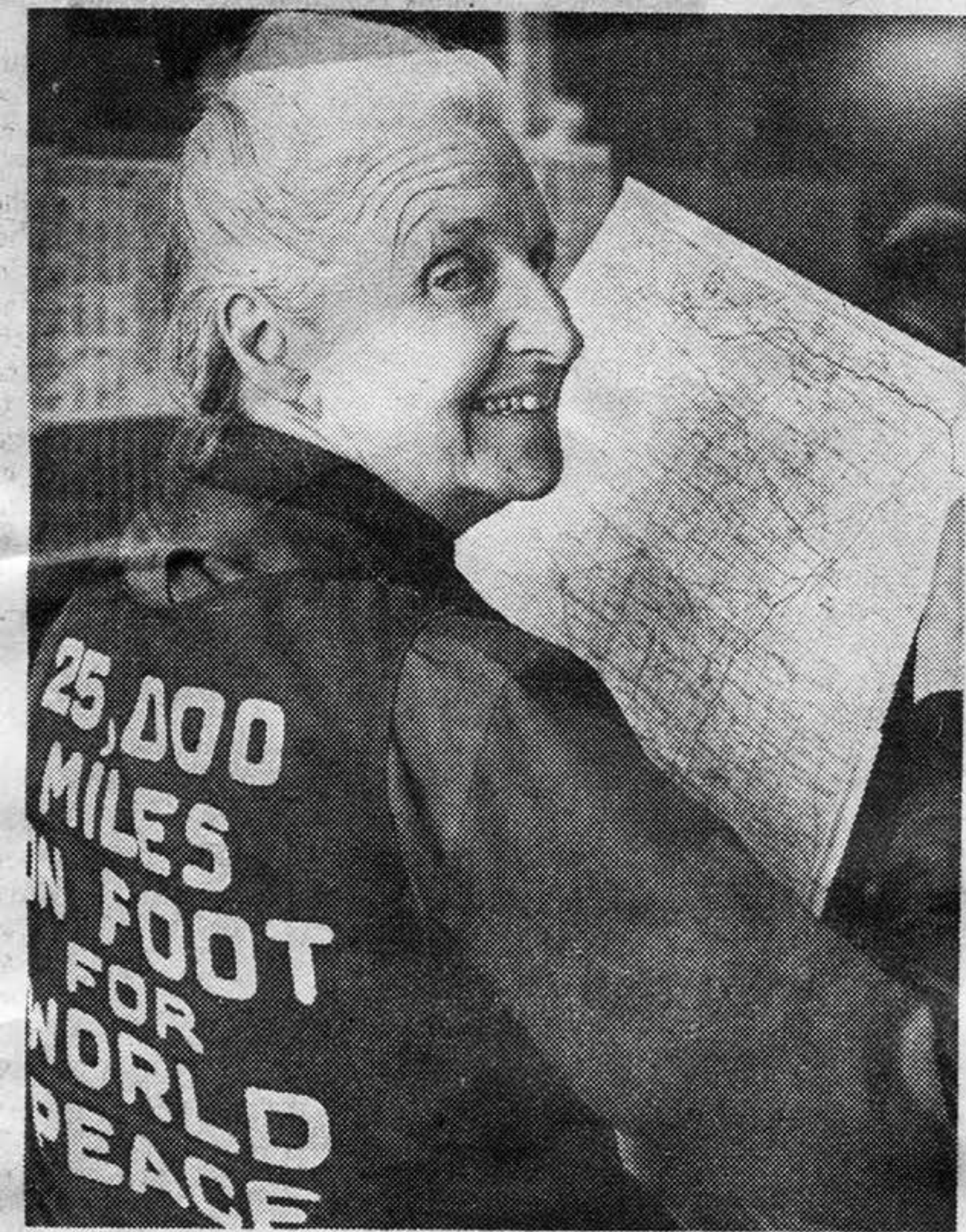
For trips across the country her footwear is a simple crepe-soled canvas oxford. She estimates that she can walk around 1,500 miles in one pair of shoes which compares with what footwear experts says the average individual walks in lifetime of an average pair of shoes.

She hiked in from Winchester where she spoke earlier in the week in an engagement for which a woman contacted her after hearing her interviewed on network radio. She has appeared on network television programs.

Peace Pilgrim says she can do 25-miles on an average day and 50-miles if necessary on "good day." She sometimes pauses at pleasant spots along the road to catch up with writing her mail. After leaving Fort Wayne early next week she will speak at Portage and later in Southwest Michigan.

She says that all this is possible because "through thought one can create inner conditions with help to create conditions around them." She has crossed the U.S. several times and visited the 10 Canadian provinces and Mexico. She walks with all of her earthly possessions carried in pockets of her light blue tunic. They include a comb, a folding toothbrush, ball point pen and at present a road map of Indiana.

Peace Pilgrim spoke Thursday evening in Unity Church of Fort Wayne, 3200 Leroy St., where she will also speak at 10:30 Sunday services. She will speak at a 3 p.m. Sunday public meeting of the Theosophical Society in Perfect Chapel of the Central YMCA.



**STUDIES ROUTE**—Peace Pilgrim, who for 15 years has hiked throughout the U.S., Canada and Mexico, having vowed in 1953 to wander until peace comes to the world, is shown studying an Indiana highway map. She walked in from Winchester on Thursday and plans to hike to a speaking engagement at Portage in Northwest Indiana next week. (Story on Page 6B)