

By Sarah Booth Conroy  
Washington Post Staff Writer

The sturdy white-haired woman—in all the clothes she owns—stood yesterday before the congregation of Christ Congregational Church, Silver Spring.

Her worldly possessions consist of blue slacks, blue shirt topped with a many-pocketed blue tunic, blue socks and rubber-soled blue sneakers.

Across the front of the hip-length tunic in white football-uniform letters are the words "PEACE PILGRIM" Across the back is "25,000 MILES ON FOOT FOR WORLD PEACE."

She told the congregation that her pockets carry all she owns. She doesn't, she says, possess a penny.

From her pockets, at various times, she produces a map, a piece of paper for people to write their names on if they want to be on her mailing list, and a blue slip of paper.

The printed slip says, among other things: "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 gives no other name than "Peace Pilgrim." Her age, former job, even her birthplace, she keeps secret.

She has been on her strange pilgrimage for 15 years and "prepared" for it 15 years before that... She dates her active interest in her cause some 30 years back.

"Even in little ways. The shoe clerk would say, 'Your feet measure 5B.' And I would say, 'Give me size 6C, I like to wiggle my toes.'"

She gave away her evening dresses to young girls who could use them. Other things she either gave away or "used up." She says she has no close family: "Can't you imagine how even grownup children would worry about mother being out on the road?"

She walks south in winter and north in summer. When she's cold, she stuffs newspapers under her tunic. If she's sleeping in the open, she covers herself with newspapers. When her clothes are dirty, she washes them just before she goes to bed at night and presses them dry in the morning.

When they wear out—her tunic now has large holes around the edge—an ad-

mirer makes her another one and mails it to her mail drop "Peace Pilgrim, Cologne, N.J. 08213," where another admirer (who has her schedule) mails it wherever she is. She accepts no money handed to her. Money mailed to her she uses to print a newsletter.

When she started her pilgrimage—January 1, 1953, by walking down the path of the Tournament of Roses parade in Los Angeles—she believed she must go "by foot and by faith."

But now, having walked her 25,000 miles, she takes rides when it is convenient.

"Now it is very difficult to walk in many places," says Peace Pilgrim.

"So many super highways won't allow pedestrians and bridges are often forbidden to those on foot. Sometimes I hitchhike.

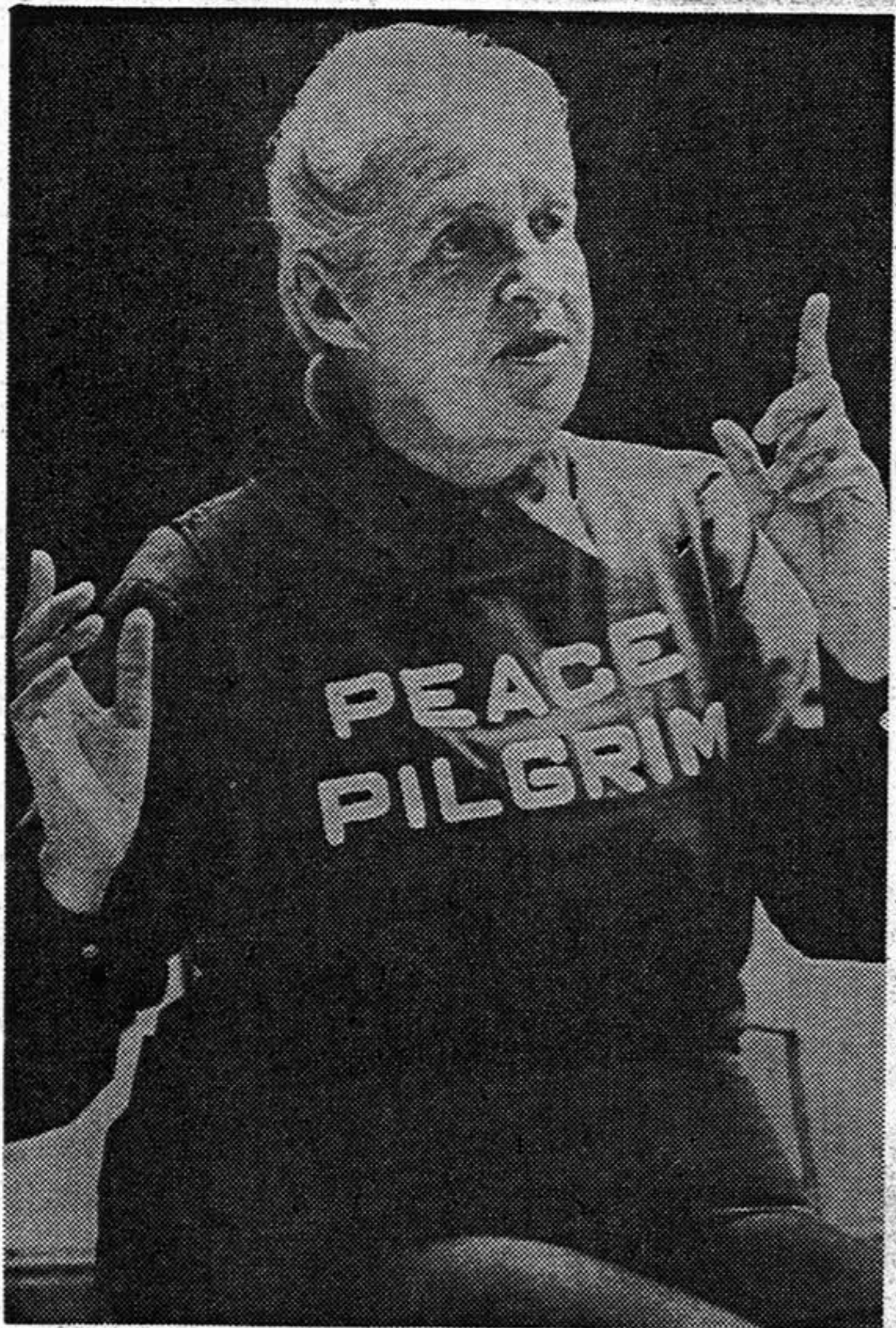
Peace Pilgrim talks with many young people along the way. She's been called an "old hippie" herself ("that's not the worse thing I've been called.") She believes the current "student rebellion" is good. "They are rebelling against hypocrisy and materialism."

Specifically, she wants a bombing halt and free elections in Vietnam. In the USA she wants delegates pledged to party candidates elected by the people.

(In Washington, she expects to speak at noon Tuesday at the University of Maryland Student Union Building, room 114. She has other meetings scheduled at Howard University and George Mason College. She will speak at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at Union Methodist Church.)

Peace Pilgrim says she understands that only a small number of the peace protesters in Chicago committed violent acts. She says she knew Martin Luther King and believed him sincerely devoted to non-violence.

Peace Pilgrim believes that both the Civil Rights movement and the peace protesters will only be successful as long as they are non-violent. She believes policemen should not carry guns. "I understand some tests with tranquilizing darts have been made. Perhaps this is the next step."



By Tom Allen—The Washington Post  
**PEACE PILGRIM**  
... 25,000 miles for peace

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# Peace Pilgrim Runs on Faith