

Her Peace March Has Taken Her Through All 50 States

BY JIM FOSSUM
Sun Staff Reporter

The back of the silver-haired lady's short tunic reads, "25,000 miles on foot for peace." On the front side in white letters are the words, "Peace Pilgrim."

What prompts an elderly woman to trek that distance, refusing rides and traveling penniless, with nothing but her worldly possessions?

According to Peace Pilgrim it's the chance to inspire others to pray and work for world peace.

"We have to make a momentous choice between the worst that could happen and the best that can happen," Peace Pilgrim said. "You don't need to be good at arithmetic to see that if we stop supplying implements of mass destruction we would be taking a giant step toward world peace. There is no single nation with the great strength and courage to lay down their arms. We are sitting on a powder keg with a lighted fuse."

Peace Pilgrim said apathy and complacency among Americans is largely responsible for existing situation.

"A pilgrim's job is to rouse people to rid them of their apathy and make them think. They may not agree, but they don't have to. But they will wonder why they disagree."

Peace Pilgrim is quite emphatic about not revealing her original name. She doesn't even try to keep count of her age.

"We create all time through thought. I decided that I had enough age and that there would be no more creating age," she said. "It took a long time for me to get it out of my head. I just don't think about the year of my birth. I'm constantly ageless and in radiant health."

Although long in years, the gray-haired lady continues her quest to avoid a nuclear war of annihilation and destruction.

Peace Pilgrim knows

what her schedule will be month by month for the next five years, but the thought of death is not included in those plans.

She has looked into the face of death before and it didn't scare her one bit.

"I'm looking forward to it as life's last great adventure," she said. "I haven't thought about when it will be, but I've seen both sides of it and it's a beautiful experience. It is full of warmth, light and beauty."

The wandering lady said her confrontation with death came in the Arizona high country during a blanketing snowstorm. She snuggled into a large packing box with wrapping

paper to keep herself warm.

A busy schedule, including a film offer and inspirational tour to Hawaii, have kept Peace Pilgrim from slowing down.

After 27 years on the road, Peace Pilgrim has walked through all 50 states, the 10 Canadian provinces and parts of Mexico. She has averaged around 25 miles a day but has put in as many as 50.

And she isn't about to hang up her blue walking shoes. Not yet anyway.

"I don't think my work is done yet. As long as I can inspire others I will keep walking."

Peace Pilgrim will be

speaking at the Campus Northern Arizona University Christian Center on the city campus tonight at