FIRST WOMAN TO WALK APPALACHIAN TRAIL

Last summer “Peace Pilgrim” walked the Appalachian Trail and afterwards gave a broadcast interview with Steve Allison (who used her Christian name, Mildred) over Radio Station WPEN in Philadelphia. The following is an extract if you’ll allow me to read a sentence from my little bulletin, I think I put the world situation in a nutshell when I said “Humanity, with fearful, faltering steps, walks a knife-edge between abysmal chaos and a new renaissance, while strong forces push toward chaos.” In a world situation like this, I think one who wishes to be of service might well learn a little about out-of-doors living, simple nutrition, and so forth.

Steve: Getting back to hiking, Mildred, as wonderful as you say your experience was, I don’t think you’d consider doing it again, would you?

Peace Pilgrim: I wouldn’t consider doing the Appalachian Trail again right now.

Steve: But I would consider doing some more hiking. In fact, I have another hiking trip all planned—and this time it’s definitely on the optimistic side—it’s a peace pilgrimage. There is hope...

I think that those of us who have found the way to peace should be shouting it from the rooftops, and with this thought in mind, I undertake my peace pilgrimage. Starting Jan 1, I shall walk from Los Angeles to New York and then to Washington, D.C., and talk to everyone who will listen to me about the way to peace. I’m even planning to wear a sign, the back of which will read “Walking Coast to Coast for Peace” and the front “Peace Pilgrim.”

Steve: Leaving the subject of hiking for the moment, Mildred, let me ask you this question. What is the way to peace?

Peace Pilgrim: I guess you expect me to give you a long talk on very important things like world government, economic adjustment, disarmament, and so forth—and of course on my peace pilgrimage I’ll be glad to discuss these things with interested people—but what I shall emphasise most is the simple, basic essentials of peace. Again let me put it in a nutshell—“Overcome evil with good, and falsehood with truth, and hatred with love”—The Golden Rule would do as well.

Please don’t say lightly “Those are just religious concepts—not practical.” Those are laws governing human conduct, which apply just as rigidly as the law of gravity. If we insisted on attempting to disobey the law of gravity, chaos would result, and if we insist on disobeying these laws governing human conduct, chaos will result.