Peace Pilgrim Walks Thousands Of Miles in Interest of Mission

By ADDISON R. BRAGG

It's a matter of conjecture whether or not there exists in this world a person with a truly "magnificent obsession." After talking for a while with Peace Pilgrim, however, you have the feeling she comes close to the description.

That's her name — Peace Pilgrim — and no amount of questioning, coaxing, wheedling or cajoling can wring other identifying labels from her.

"Why must a name be so important?" asks the wiry suntanned woman who in the last six years has walked thousands of miles in the cause of peace, "when the mission is the really important thing?"

Peace Pilgrim arrived in Billings late Tuesday and plans to spend two days visiting friends she made on a trip here four years ago.

Letters Waiting

Wearing blue slacks, gray rubber-soled canvas shoes and a tunic-like blouse lettered with her name and mission, the grey-haired "pilgrim for peace" skimmed rapidly through the hundred or more letters which awaited her arrival in the Billings post office.

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More The Better

"The more exchanges of visits we have, the better," she said. "The world could use many more friendly people-to-people and person-to-person contacts," she added.

Also on the subject of world peace, the Billings visitor outlined what she considers two important steps to be taken.

"Most people," she said, "who talk of peace speak of it as something in the distant future. I feel two things should be done immediately."

These, she said, would be the establishment of a "world language" to be taught as a second language in every nation.

Such a means of universal communication, she said, would do much to dispel misunderstanding.

The second would be establishing a "Department of Peace" within the U.S. cabinet which would do extensive research on peaceful means of solving nuclear age problems.

"I would like to see our country pioneer in this," she said.

Likenesses Greater

"You know," she said, "when we get to know each other some day we will discover our likenesses are greater than our differences, no matter how great those differences seem to be."

Peace Pilgrim, a woman who devoted her life to teaching the message of love and peace, said she is coming to be "as much of a talker as I am a walker."

About one-third of her time, she said, is now devoted to lecturing, one-third to walking and a third to replying to her voluminous mail.

"I answer letters," she said, "and I try to continue the correspondence until the person writing me has achieved the peace he or she seems to be searching for."

The proposed Eisenhower-Khrushchev exchange of visits is an important step toward peace among nations, says Peace Pilgrim.

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