Optimistic Peace Pilgrim Hopes for Success in 1964

A petite, elderly woman who has named herself Peace Pilgrim, and is known by no other name, spent today in St. Cloud.

The pleasant-voiced, silvery-haired lady whose tanned face shows few signs of age, is on a pilgrimage she expects to finish in 1964. Providing nothing happens to change her plans, she will have walked 25,000 miles for peace. She plans to end her journey in Washington, D.C.

She is spending the greater part of June in Minnesota and has now covered the southern part of the state. She stops in towns, talks to the people she meets, and speaks to groups when she is invited to do so.

She dresses in navy blue shoes, slacks, shirt, and sweatshirt. She also wears a short tunic with pockets in which she carries all her worldly possessions.

Her tunic bears her name and on the back states her mission, "Walking 25,000 miles for World Peace."

Penniless, she depends upon the people she meets for her existence. "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 says.

Her bright blue eyes sparkling, she marveled that since she has been in Minnesota she has always had a bed to sleep in and three meals a day.

The longest she has been without food is four meals. She arrived in St. Cloud Sunday night and was given lodging in the Hotel St. Cloud.

An average day's walk for the Peace Pilgrim is 25 miles. During the summer she tries to travel 1,000 miles in the north and during the winter months she travels about 1,000 miles in the south.

She has been in 48 states, Mexico and the 10 Canadian provinces.

The organization of the Peace Corps delights her. "An unarmed peace corps to go into troubled areas all over the world to work for peace is something I have always hoped for," she said.

"I surely thought it would be a United Nations movement. But I'm so happy that it is to begin with the United States. We are setting such a good example. Peace and Freedom go together," she claims. "When all people develop an inner peace, and shakily put down their dreadful arms, then we will have world peace."

Her goal of 25,000 miles draws closer. She began her walk in 1953. "I rather gauge my distance by my shoes," she said. "Each pair last about 1,500 miles, and I'm on my 23 pair. If world peace has not been accomplished by 1964 what then?"

"I shall continue walking," she said. "I shan't count the miles anymore, 25,000 is enough to count. But I'm an optimist."

25,000 MILES FOR PEACE — Peace Pilgrim, a self-styled pilgrim, has been walking about the United States, Mexico and Canada for World Peace since 1953. Penniless, her only possessions are the clothes she wears.