Walking ‘Peace Pilgrim’ Arrives With Message of Hope for Future

By A. LEE BEIER
(State Journal Staff Writer)

Eight years, 18,600 miles, and 24 pairs of shoes after "Peace Pilgrim" began her journey, she walked into Madison Saturday afternoon. She arrived here still convinced, still resolute in her 25,000-mile pursuit of peace.

With less than a fourth of her trip remaining, this silver-haired, tanned woman of the roads walked Saturday from a point between Edgerton and Stoughton to Madison. She will remain here through Tuesday.

Illinois Next

She has visited every Wisconsin city with a population over 25,000 for the last month, and will go to Illinois next.

"I shall remain a wanderer until mankind has learned the way of peace, walking until I am given shelter, fasting until I am given food," she said here, adding that her principal work is with "inner, individual peace."

Wherever she goes, the woman declines to identify herself personally, insisting that her mission is more important.

"Peace," dressed in a blue-and-gray tunic, has roamed the North American continent to areas including all states but Alaska, all 10 Canadian provinces, and parts of Mexico, spending summers in the North and winters in the South.

Travels Light

Wearing thick-soled children's shoes giving 1,500 miles per pair, she travels the highways equipped with comb, folding toothbrush, ball-point pen, copies of her "message," a map of the state in which she walks, and unanswered mail.

"Peace" addressed a public meeting at Bashford Methodist Church Sunday and will address more student and church groups before leaving. Her endeavors center, while traveling, in speaking to groups and individuals.

She has visited Madison previously in 1955 and 1957, remaining unaffiliated and unpaid for her services.

The woman sees future hope in the United Nations and President Kennedy's Peace Corps, but looks upon Dag Hammarskjold's death as "the UN's greatest test."

German Solution

Her solution for the Berlin crisis includes "sending a UN group of neutrals into Germany and withdrawing all national forces. The UN would disarm Germany, unite Germany, and would bring a disarmed Germany into the UN." She added, "I think both sides would accept this solution."

Peace pilgrim's hostesses in Madison are Mrs. Ernest R. Anderson, 1822 Chadbourne ave., and Signe Anderson, 1907 Birge terrace.