Sign on Peace Pilgrim's Back, Tells Her Story

Pilgrim's Progress:

WALKING 25,000 MILES FOR WORLD PEACE

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PALM BEACH — "You may call me Peace, or you may call me Peace Pilgrim," the lady smiled. She will not tell her name, nor her birthplace or date, nor furnish any of the other standard biographical data because, she says, "They aren't important."

"That would put the emphasis on the woman, not the mission," she explained.

The woman has had her mission for 12 years, during which she has walked 25,000 miles — always on the continent of North America, always in her navy blue slacks and tunic that has "Peace Pilgrim" stenciled on the front, and "Walking 25,000 Miles for World Peace" on the back. She counted up the 25,000 miles in three separate walks. The first was a zigzag pattern from Los Angeles to New York and the second included 45 states and Canada and Mexico.

On the third, she stopped at every city over 25,000 population in the U.S. and Peace Pilgrim "walks until Canada and ended when she given shelter, fasts until given food." There is not one cent in the pockets of her tunic.

She is a silver-haired woman of at least 60. She has the gentle voice that one would expect of a Peace Pilgrim: the weathered, healthy look expected of one who has walked 25,000 miles.

In her early life, there came a time when she found money-making easy but meaningless. "When I began to live to give, not to get, my life became meaningful."

"Call Me... "Peace"... for a new renaissance to us so we'll be able to co-exist with it."

Peace Pilgrim's brother contains two "magic formulas." For resolving conflicts: "Have as your objective to resolve the conflict, not the gaining of advantage."

For avoiding conflicts: "I am concerned that you do not offend — not that you are not offended."

She has made specific suggestions for achieving peace: The Congress should create a department of peace, and make it the head of a member of the President's Cabinet. She believes the United Nations should be an international police force.

"But there should also be the peace force, to remove the causes of strife," she said. She feels there needs to be a universal world language.

She does not go abroad because "my calling is here, to make the land where I was born a shining example and a firm believer in what she is doing has shown results."

There are extensive people-to-people programs underway, there is the nuclear test ban, there are research programs pursuing peaceful methods of resolving conflicts, and there is the Peace Corps, for which Peace Pilgrim has great enthusiasm.

"We are closer to peace than we were when I started my pilgrimage, I believe that I have helped.

"I saw in my mind's eye myself dressed in costume, the garb of my mission, and I saw a map of the United States with a jagged colored line traced across it, and I knew what I was to do."

When Peace Pilgrim is walking, she does "an easy 25 miles a day" that "leaves plenty of time to talk to people along the way," but she has done more than her share of 50 mile hikes.

When she is talking, she says that humanity has entered a new age, the awesome nuclear age, that calls