Message of Peace Pilgrim Is Inner Contentment

Peace Pilgrim — that's her name — is an elderly, gentle woman with a sweet smile and a soft, unlined face that belies the 25,000 miles she's walked preaching her message of world peace through inner contentment.

Real name and age? Oh, I don't like to give that. It puts the emphasis on me rather than peace.

Occupation? "Pilgrim. My job in the total scheme of things is to rouse people from their apathy, to make them think."

Background? She talks vaguely of a life 35 years ago terribly cluttered by possessions and void of any inner serenity.

Lacking the usual data, it's hard to answer who she is. You're left to identify her by her message. And that's the way she wants it.

ARTICULATE, quoting the Bible, Shakespeare and Tennyson in a high-pitched voice that dances up and down the scale, Peace spoke to a small group in the dimly lit parlor of the International Institute Friday night. She distributed a slinger that declares:

"Overcome evil with good, and falsehood with truth; and hatred with love. These are laws governing human conduct, which apply as rigidly as the laws of gravity. When we disregard these laws in any walk of life, chaos results."

She told the audience: "I decided I would not accept more than I need while others have less than they need."

Now she roams the country in tennis shoes, blue slacks and khaki work shirt, her only possessions on her back or in the pockets of a tunic with "Peace Pilgrim" lettered on the front.

"I ride some now, hitchike," she confesses. "It's easy for a harmless looking, silver haired lady."

AFTER THE meeting, she recalled nearly dying in a snow squall, being threatened with jail for vagrancy and the numerous television, radio and newspaper interviews which have taken her away somewhat from the person-to-person pilgrimage she originally sought.

Peace has a daily itinerary of speaking engagements set for the rest of the year. "I'm expressing something that people in their hearts know to be valid. I'm talking about man's potential for inner peace."

She expressed the hope that young people will express with their votes in the coming election the realization that war accomplishes nothing.

"If you want to make peace, you must be peaceful."

MESSAGE IN A NAME — A woman calling herself Peace Pilgrim was at the International Institute on Delaware Ave. Friday to spread her message of world peace — something she has done across the nation while walking 25,000 miles.