

Pilgrim Hikes to City for Peace

By JIM JACKSON

PEACE IS important to a gray-ing but energetic woman from Cologne, N. J.—so important that she has walked 1,900 miles since January 1 spreading her gospel.

That's 3,344,000 steps she has taken in the cause of world peace, with her yard-long stride.

Who is she? "Just call me the Peace Pilgrim," she says. "My name is not important and I'm not important. Mine is a feeble effort, but I've resolved to do everything I can for peace."

Dressed in blue slacks, canvas shoes and a tunic carrying her

Coast for Peace," the Peace Pilgrim arrived in Oklahoma City Thursday. She's stopping here temporarily before continuing her 5,000-mile hike for peace.

SHE LEFT Los Angeles Jan. 1 on her one-woman mission. Since then she has worn out two pairs of shoes and is well on the way through the third.

She doesn't carry any money. "I left without a cent. Things just come to me. I never ask for money; I just walk until someone offers me food and shelter," she says.

Her only luggage is carried in a pocket of her tunic. "All I have are the clothes on my back, three petitions for peace and a few copies of my message on the way to peace," she says.

The Peace Pilgrim says she doesn't need anything else on her coast-to-coast stroll. "Unnecessary possessions are unnecessary burdens—and this is true not only for one who walks, but for everyone," she says.

TWENTY-FIVE MILES a day is the speed with which the Peace pilgrim is making her way across the country. She walks four miles an hour.

From Los Angeles she went to

San Diego, then to Phoenix, Tucson, El Paso, Fort Worth, Dallas and on to Oklahoma City. From here she will go to Chicago, then to Washington, D. C., and New York City.

She expects her trip to take a year, because she stops in each big city to spread her message. She hopes to carry her message direct to President Eisenhower and to the United Nations in New York.

Why does one woman undertake this peace pilgrimage without the backing of any organization?

SHE ANSWERS the question: "It is an opportunity to talk with my fellow human beings about the way to peace. It is a penance for whatever I may have contributed, by commission or omission, to the tragic situation in the world today."

"It is a prayer that this world which is groping blindly toward peace will somehow find the way before the storm descends."

She vows until the world is at peace, she will remain a "wanderer on the face of the earth—walking until I am given shelter, fasting until I am given food, using money given me to bring the message of the way to peace to the people."

She follows highways in her cross-country walk. People stop their cars to talk to her and offer a lift. She turns down rides by pointing to the sign printed on her tunic, "WALKING Coast to Coast for Peace."

HERE IS THE message she carries.

"My friends, the world situation is grave. Humanity, with fearful, faltering steps, walks a knife-edge between abysmal chaos and a new renaissance, while strong forces push toward chaos."

"Unless we, the people of the world, awake from our lethargy and push firmly and quickly away from chaos, all that we cherish will be destroyed in the



—Times Staff Photo by [unclear]

5,000-Mile Stroll Hard on Shoes

The Peace Pilgrim, who says her name is not important, paused in Oklahoma City on her 5,000-mile hike across the United States. Her canvas shoes, she says, since her trip began, are ventilated for walking.