

Miss Peace Pilgrim Visits City During Phase of 10,000 Mile Walk

By IVAN KASTE
Freeman Staff

Some people pray for peace. The majority of mankind hopes for it. Tuesday evening Waukesha was visited by a woman who walks for peace.

Known only as the Peace Pilgrim, the slight gray-haired woman dressed in dark blue slacks and a tunic to match arrived at the city limits at about 6 p.m. She was on the Wisconsin phase of a coast-to-coast journey by foot. Large letters on her tunic announced her aim simply and briefly: "Walking 10,000 miles for World Disarmament."

Peace Pilgrim is walking from coast to coast across the United States talking with those she meets about the way to peace. It's as simple as that.

The essence of her message is this: "Overcome evil with good and falsehood with truth and hatred with love." The Golden Rule would do as well." These, she insists are not impractical theories, but laws of human conduct, as certain as the law of gravity.

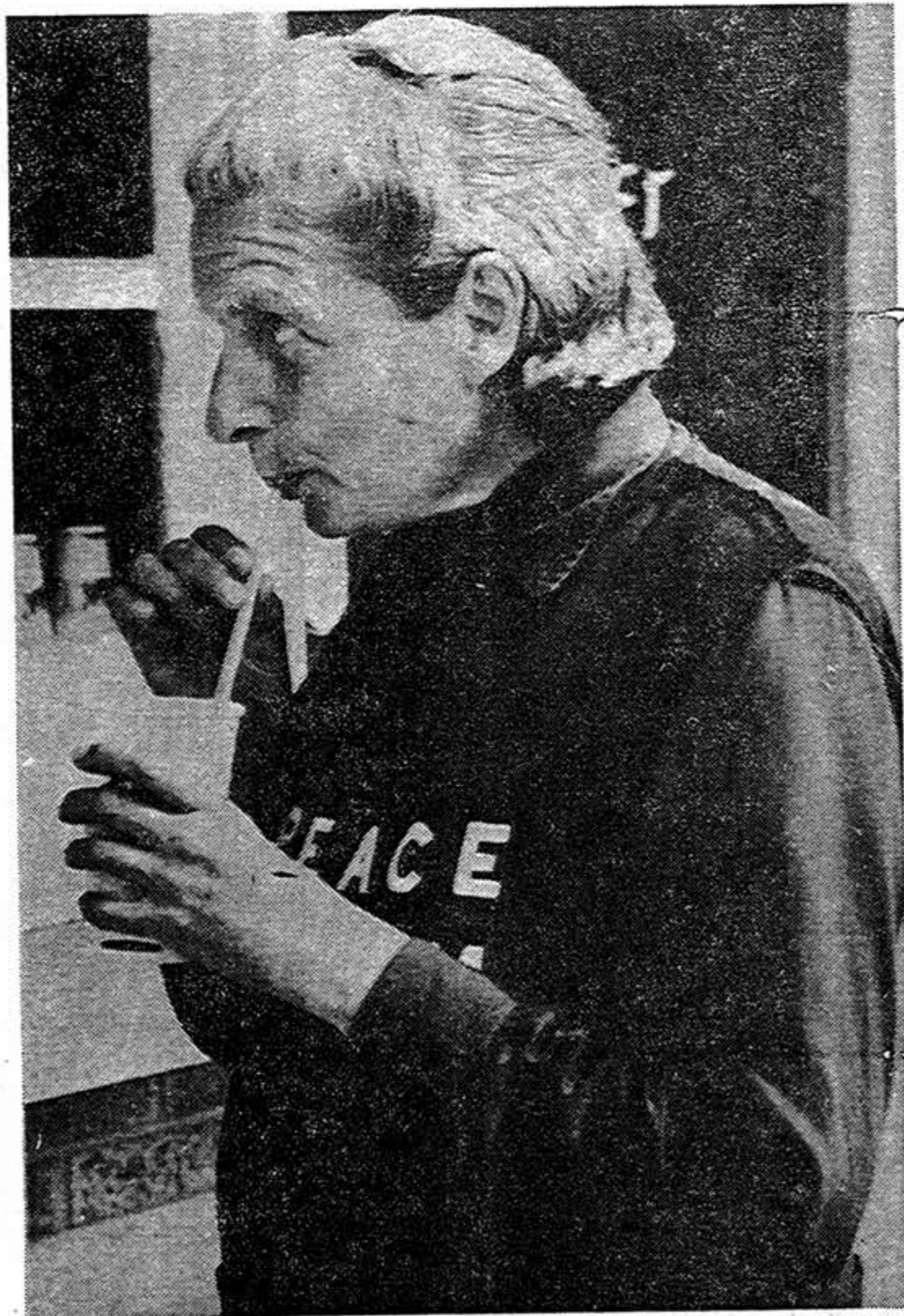
When the reporter saw Peace Pilgrim she was talking to a young man at Goerke's Corners. He plied her with many questions. She was vague and non-committal about many points — her real name, her origin and background. But she talked willingly about her personal philosophy and her pilgrimage — a prayer and a penance she called it.

She made it plain that she has no affiliation, no organization behind her. She denied emphatically that she is interested in founding her own cult.

Peace Pilgrim is completely on her own. Her only possessions are the clothes she wears, a few copies of her Peace Message and her petitions. She does not ask for food or shelter, but is often offered it by people who hear her message.

Though reluctant to talk about her past, she said that she had been an office worker, and for 15 years before becoming a Peace Pilgrim had devoted her life to the service of others.

She began her first journey in 1953, ending it in 1954 after covering 6,500 miles. She originally carried three petitions asking for (1) peace in Korea; (2) the creation of a department of peace in the president's cabinet; and (3) world



(Freeman Staff Photo)

Time out for some refreshment during journey

disarmament. The original petitions inspired a petition campaign that eventually found their way to the United Nations.

In 1954 Peace Pilgrim went through a 45-day period of prayer and fasting. A top level conference in Canada between President Eisenhower and Prime Minister Churchill on the world situation prompted her to end the fast.

During her second coast-to-coast journey, begun early this year in San Francisco, she concentrated on her third aim, world disarmament.

She tries to adhere to a fairly simple schedule. The wayfarer covers 100 miles of each state on foot, visiting the capitol and the largest cities. Walking every step of the way, she does not accept rides. She travels at the rate of 20 miles a day when actually on the road. She accepts rides between states.

Leaving Milwaukee early Tuesday, she estimated she would arrive at Madison, her

Wisconsin destination, on Thursday.

Peace Pilgrim spends about 10 days of a two-week period addressing church and student groups and women's groups at impromptu meetings. She also speaks to many persons along the highways.

Asked if recent international developments had heartened her, Peace Pilgrim replied: "Yes, the world situation looks brighter. But we aren't over the hump yet. And we won't be until we all have made a sincere effort toward world disarmament."

She was modest, too, about claiming any direct results for her one-women campaign to achieve world peace. But she admitted she had received many letters supporting her position.

WAUKESHA, WIS., WEDNESDAY EVENING, AUGUST 24, 1955

Waukesha County's Greatest News and Advertising Medium

WAUKESHA DAILY FREEMAN