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Nameless 'Peace Pilgrim'

By DOUG MILLROY

A tall, lithe woman, her springy stride belying the age her silver-streaked hair revealed, walked into Calgary early Friday morning carrying the troubles of the world on her slender shoulders.

She calls herself simply "Peace Pilgrim."

She is without a penny in her pockets and has no clothes other than those she wears. She is obsessed with a single goal in life.

From somewhere in the United States, Peace Pilgrim is in her fifth year of a walking pilgrimage for world peace. Her path has taken her across the United States, from Los Angeles to New York in a zig-zag manner, to Mexico and Canada.

10,175 MILES

She has worn out 12 pairs of shoes and six of the neat navy uniforms she wears so proudly while walking more than 10,000 miles. As she strode into Calgary she listed her total as 10,175, but admitted many times she had not bothered to count miles.

"Counting miles is like counting results," she said. "And I leave that to the Lord."

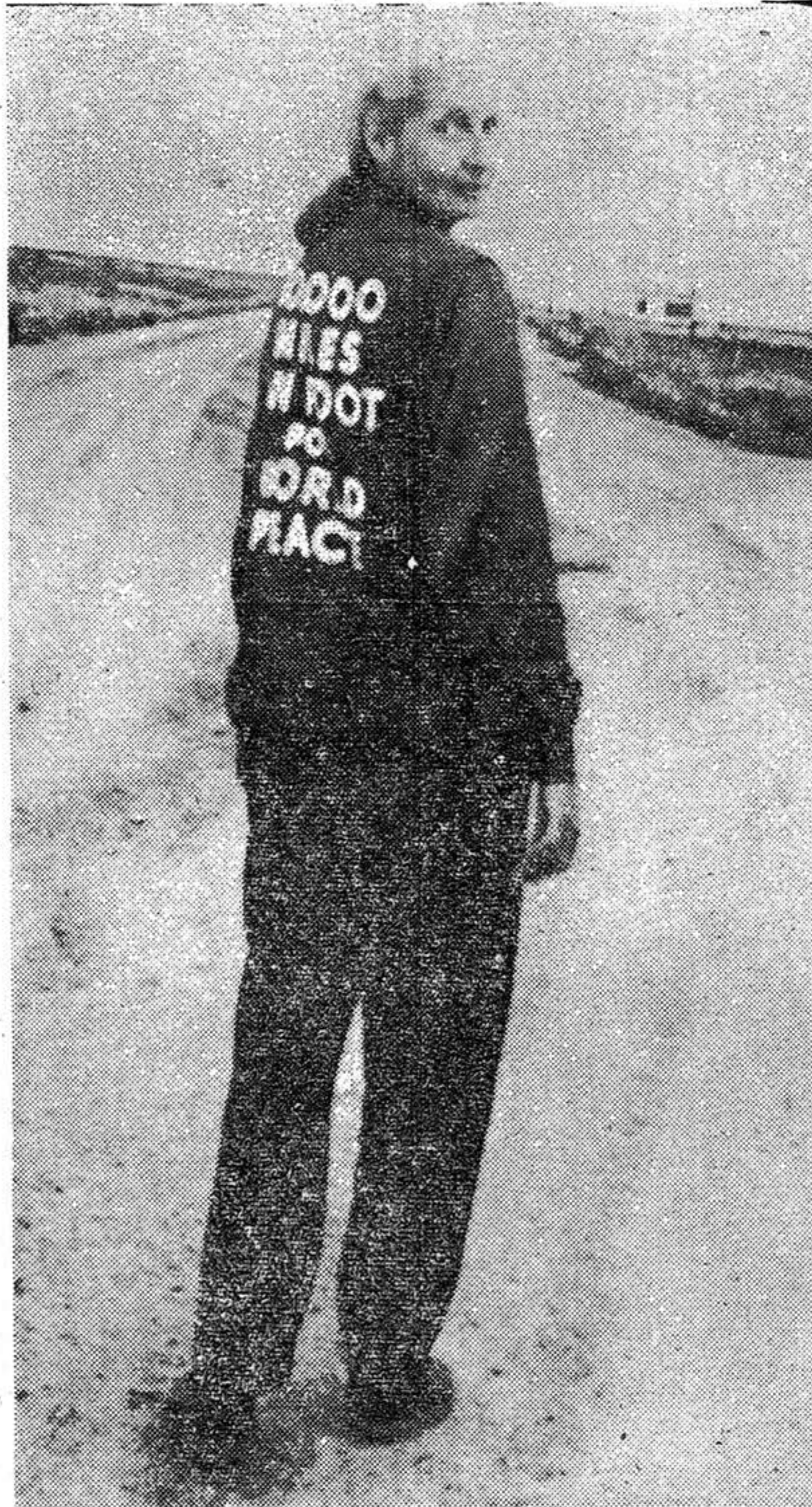
Her tale of endurance is as amazing as her dedication to her cause. Wednesday she ate only four small oranges and Thursday had only two glasses of milk. Tuesday night was spent partly walking and partly in an abandoned car between Lethbridge and Fort Macleod. Wednesday night she was sheltered for four hours in the Medicine Hat jail.

"I never ask for food or lodging," she said. "I have found it is not necessary to have shelter or three meals a day. Anyway, something always turns up, I have never missed more than four meals in a row and have only gone without shelter for about one-quarter of my journey."

NEVER TIRED

"I never seem to get tired. Energy flows through me like electricity through a wire. I'm not even tired on the days I walk 50 miles."

She says she started her pilgrimage
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PEACE PILGRIM—Who is she? She will not say. Where is she from? She will not say. What is she doing? As "Peace Pilgrim" she is covering the continent on foot preaching world peace. The legend on her back reads "10,000 miles on foot for world peace."

Pilgrim

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grimage because it was her calling. "My effort is to do something to bring about world peace. This is the way of peace, to overcome evil with good, falsehood with truth and hatred with love."

"There is nothing new in that," she said, "just in the practice of it."

"I have vowed to remain a wanderer until mankind has learned the way of peace, walking until I am given shelter and fasting until I am given food."

"People have been wonderful to me," Peace Pilgrim said. "They give me food and lodging and so many of those I meet keep in contact with me by letter."

Mail is right now waiting for Peace Pilgrim in the capitals of nine Canadian provinces. Her present pilgrimage calls for her to walk 1,000 miles in Canada, at least 100 miles in each province. She walked into Victoria, visited a while and then picked up her mail and left. After spending the weekend in Calgary she will leave for Edmonton where more mail will await her.

She carries nothing with her but a comb and toothbrush and her unanswered mail. Having taken an oath of simplicity, she will accept nothing she doesn't need. She won't have what others haven't.

She has travelled in extreme heat of summer and cold of winter; walked through hail, rain, snow and wind but shrugs it off saying: "I won't melt."

While in Mexico she battled not only heat but a language barrier. This convinced her that her mission was among English speaking peoples.

When asked of her name, marital status and age, she replied:

"Material things are of small matter. It's not the individual I want people to know, but the message the individual brings. If I were walking for health, you would never see me."