

THE DAILY REPUBLIC

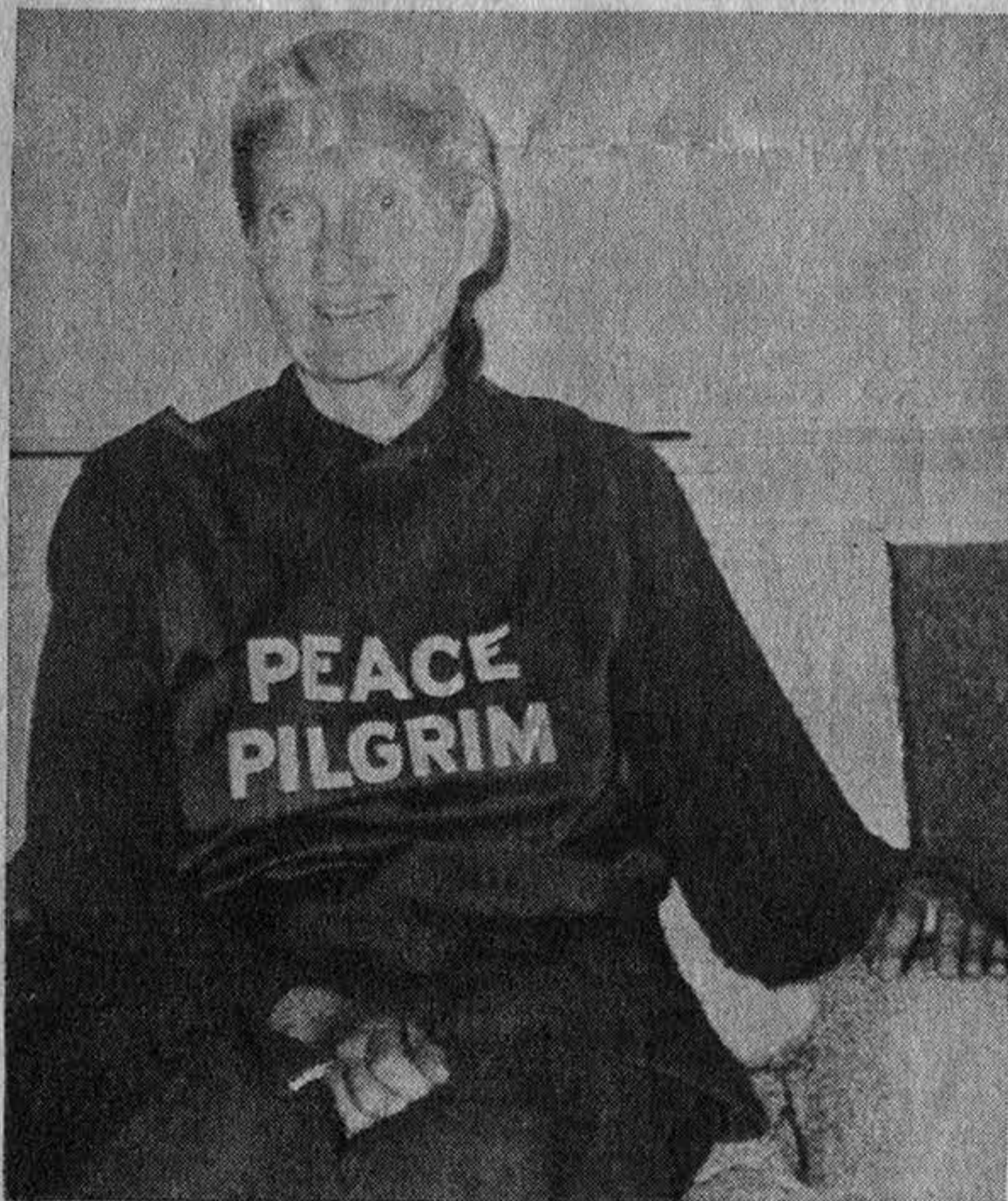


An Independent Newspaper



Mitchell, S. D., Friday, August 26, 1960

Peace Pilgrim To Stay A Wanderer



The Peace Pilgrim visited in Mitchell Thursday and Friday. Dedicated to winning world peace, she has walked more than 16,000 miles on a Peace Pilgrimage in the last seven and one-half years. (Republic Photo by Raymond)

BY ART RAYMOND

Daily Republic City Editor
The Peace Pilgrim, visiting in Mitchell Thursday and Friday, has dedicated her life to being "a wanderer".

Her complete vow is simply stated: "I shall remain a wanderer until mankind has learned the way of peace, walking until I am given shelter and fasting until I am given food."

She has no illusions about her goal to accomplish peace but she quotes, "It is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness."

Thus you may see her walking on her pilgrimage which may have no end, a silver-haired woman, dressed in blue slacks and shirt, and a short tunic with pockets all around the bottom in which she carries her only worldly possessions.

Lettered on the front of her tunic are the words "Peace Pilgrim" and on the back, "Walking 25,000 miles for world peace."

She's been at her mission for seven and one-half years and has walked 16,500 miles on her pilgrimage in 48 states, 10 provinces of Canada and in Mexico.

This is her second appearance in Mitchell. She was here about five years ago.

Her mission now has a three-fold dedication — walking, talking and taking care of her correspondence which has built up tremendously in the last seven and one-half years.

Thus, she walks and she talks whenever she can. Tonight she will address a public meeting at the First Methodist Church in Mitchell.

To accomplish her mission she must not only just walk but also must talk to clubs, to organizations, to church memberships, to college and university assemblies. "I'm interested in meeting people and having them meet me," she says.

Because of her increased talking schedule she now plans to walk about 2,000 miles a year — a cut-back from the 5,000 she did the first year.

Between Pilgrimage walks she will ride and frequently does she says, when she goes on speaking tours.

Her present Pilgrimage schedule calls for her to do about a thousand miles in the north in the summer, about a thousand in the south in the winter, zig zagging back and forth across the country. She is going east generally and hopes to end her 25,000 miles at Washington, D. C.

However, that doesn't mean the end of her wanderer's life for she says her wanderings will cease only when the tide of world peace is drifting as strongly toward peace as the tides of today's world are drifting toward war.

To the Peace Pilgrim her vow means what it says, "walking until I am given shelter and fasting until I am given food." She is penniless and doesn't worry about food, where her next meal is coming from or where she will sleep.

She says, "There is a magic formula for resolving conflicts. It is this: Have as your objective the resolving of the conflict — not the gaining of advantage.

"There is a magic formula for avoiding conflicts. It is this: Be concerned that you do not offend — not that you are not offended."

For 22 years this woman, who was born in the United States, has had not had so much as a cold.

"Most ill health is psychological," she says, "rather than physical." And she attributes her good health to an inner peace she achieved when she set out on her Pilgrimage. "We must live to give rather than to get."

Her Pilgrimage began suddenly and abruptly. Although she had been engaged in "service work" for some 15 years, she did not know the day before that on the next day she would begin her Peace Pilgrimage.

One day as she sat thinking, she relates, "a very strong inner motivation (a call)" came to her. That was her call and the next day she started her peace pilgrimage.

"I hope to do everything one little person can do and inspire others. 'It is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness.' This is an individual effort. I would not want anyone to follow me. I would want them to follow God."

Sometimes "peace" clubs spring up in the wake of her appearances, she says. But she is not a member or a part of those clubs or any other organization. When they form, they form locally.

"All of us desire peace and there is an increasing willingness to do something for it," says the Peace Pilgrim.

And thus she walks on stating, "There is great freedom in simplicity."