

By BETTY EHLERS
Of The East Oregonian

You'll see her striding down the highway — a vivacious, white-haired woman, dressed all in blue but for the inscription "Peace Pilgrim," in white on her coverall apron.

Her face, tranquil and smiling, shows evidence of her doctrine — what the world needs now is peace, sweet peace.

The time was when Peace Pilgrim — that's the only name she gives — felt like a "voice crying in the wilderness," with her doctrine of peace. Now she's on the popular side.

While Peace Pilgrim feels intense gratification that America is not at war with other countries, her particular doctrine cries out for the inner peace of an individual.

AS SHE sees it, a pilgrim's job is to rouse people from their apathy and make them think.

Is peace in the world really possible? She's sure it is. Man's immaturity has caused him to make mistakes with his war-like tendencies. Now man, in his added maturity, can profit by his mistakes, she contends, and achieve real peace.

For her pilgrimage, this sparkling woman carries with her only the clothes on her back. No matter where she goes she wears a pair of faded blue slacks; blue, long sleeved shirt; and an apron-type cover-up with huge pockets. The back pockets hold her mail, the front a folding toothbrush, ballpoint pen and copies of her printed message.

Underneath her outfit she wears a "sun suit" which doubles for a swim suit, or her "extra suit" when she washes her outer clothes. She wears the same attire winter and summer.

The fame of Peace Pilgrim has spread throughout the country. Now on her sixth "zig zag" trip across the country, she simply spreads the word to friends when she'll be in their area. Invitations for speaking appearances flood in, wherever she goes. Her mail is delivered to a small town post office that forwards her mail to her next destination. Once a week she picks it up; then answers it "at someone's home." Her clothing, food, lodging, even the paper on which she answers her mail, are gifts from friends. "I've taken a vow not to accept more than I need while others in the world have less than they need."

The modern-day pilgrim



PEACE PILGRIM

wears thick-soled tennis shoes, growing thin in the sole. Friends in Pendleton, when she was here this summer, "Offered to buy me a new pair, but these will last a bit longer." The same is true of her slacks, faded by the sun's rays. "But they have lots of wear left," she insists.

Peace Pilgrim walks country roads, highways, bridle paths. "On freeways I sometimes accept rides, since often there's no place to walk." Her aim is to meet people, and even rides in a car enable her to strike up a conversation.

MEALS SHE frequently eats with strangers. Sometimes she doesn't eat, "though I rarely go more than three days without food." At times no bed is near. Nothing daunted, she seeks out a roadside area, a grassy spot, a bus station. "I use newspapers for my sheets," and when it gets cold this determined lady lines her clothing and shoes with newspapers to keep out the cold. She carries no top-coat.

"But I don't often get cold," she vows. "I travel with the climate, north in summer, south in winter. My body adjusts to the temperatures."

Her quest for peace started by obtaining inner peace. "Since I achieved inner peace I have been blessed with good health. I haven't even had a headache."

Her address is Peace Pilgrim, Cologne, N.J., 08213.