

"WE RECEIVED A LOVELY LETTER & DONATION from a church we sang at recently where many of the congregation were saved: 'I am enclosing 5 pounds as a donation from a delighted congregation for such a wonderful evening. We were so amazed at the performance of such young children. There has been much talk about it since & a great deal of disappointment from those unable to be present. We are inviting you all again for Mothering Sunday Evening & we do hope you'll be able to come.' (Amen! They need life!)"
—Jacob & Rachel Scott; Br. Isles.

CAMERAS

To get the most out of their trips, many travelers take cameras. I'm not a shutterbug myself, so I asked a professional photographer and got the following advice.

If your camera is an expensive one manufactured abroad, register it with your customs authorities before you leave. This can usually be done at an airport. Because of x-ray detection devices which may damage film, keep your film and loaded camera in hand when boarding planes, asking if they can be exempted from the x-ray check. Keep the camera well padded, compartmentalizing the various pieces of equipment if possible. You'll probably get good results with black-and-white film developed abroad, but it's best to send color film back home to be processed. In any case, color film should be developed as soon after exposure as possible. Many discount stores offer name-brand film

with prepaid-processing mailer envelopes at a reasonable cost, certainly less than what you'd pay if you dealt with the camera shop. But these mailers may be lost or stolen. You can also work out an arrangement with a friend, who'll probably be so delighted to get the first look at your pictures he'll pay for the developing himself. When you mail film home, label the container "Caution! Undeveloped film of U.S. manufacture!" Always store film in a cool place. If Japan, Hong Kong, or Singapore is not one of your first stops, bring plenty of film with you when you leave, because it is expensive almost everywhere else.

If you are going to buy a camera, get one as light and compact as possible. For those who aren't satisfied with a pocket Instamatic or a tiny spy-type camera, a small 35-mm camera is recommended. If you're going straight to the Orient, it may pay to buy it when you arrive. Otherwise learn to use your camera before you leave. If you bring only one lens, the 50-mm type is probably best, along with a polarizing filter, which will not only protect the lens, but also cut glare and blueness and increase color saturation. Take lens cleaning tissues and liquid, the guarantee, and the manual. If you want to take night or indoor photos, you should bring fast film or an electronic flash unit.

In very humid areas, keep the camera sealed tightly, and pack it with silica gel or hygroscopic crystals, perhaps wrapping everything in plastic. In an emergency you can substitute uncooked rice. In extremely cold weather (below 0° F) your camera will slow down. Your shutter synchronization may be off as well as the speed, but the problem can be eliminated with special lubricants. Check this at your camera shop, and ask for a list of authorized dealers overseas.

In strong tropical light, you'll find that the best pictures are taken either in the shade or else early or late in the day. If your camera has a light meter, take the reading close to the subject so that the meter won't be fooled by strong background light. Finally, don't take pictures of the locals if it bothers them.

ALTITUDE SICKNESS

Unless you're doing some trekking above 12,000 feet or so, you won't have to worry about the serious aspects of acute mountain sickness. Milder symptoms you may experience include headache, fatigue, rapid heart rate, insomnia, loss of appetite, and occasional nausea. At high altitudes, if you eat lightly but well, drink plenty of water, and don't exert yourself too much for the first few days, you should have no problem. Sit down and breathe deeply if you feel dizzy. If you are at all weak, drink even more liquids and avoid alcohol. Vitamin E taken with meals or glucose candy may also help. If you're tired or sick, you're more likely to have problems.

In the unlikely event that you experience a persistent cough, severe fatigue, and a pulse rate over a hundred even when you are at rest, move to a lower altitude until things improve. Acclimation will be retained for around a month after you return to lower altitude; so going up and down is not a problem after the first bout.

and continued with no pack at all for the three freest, most uncomplicated months I ever spent. It really is true that the less you have, the less you can lose.

JOBS WITH LOCAL COLOR

The jobs that pay the most are generally located in the developed countries. Methods of finding work in these places are much the same as at home, although normally you're faced with the additional problem of avoiding the law. On the road you'll meet plenty of Australians, Americans, New Zealanders, Canadians, Japanese, and Europeans who'll tell you not only how to get work in their countries, but also how to stay ahead of the authorities while doing so. Japan especially is begging for English teachers. If you plan to work in any of these places, it might just pay to visit their embassy in your home country, since you may be able to work there legally. If you're an American and go to an Australian embassy in Chile, they'll probably tell you to apply from the States or Canada. At least, that's what happened to me. Those with special skills may want to bring recommendations or other proof of their talent abroad with them. University graduates can bring a copy of their diploma.

This chapter is directed mainly to the more casual job seeker who wants to find work after he's left home. Others should see the excellent *How To Travel and Get Paid for It*, by Norman D. Ford (Greenlaw, N.Y.: Harian Publishing, 1970).

The major focus of this book is on the less-developed countries, and this chapter is no exception. The pay may be lower, but the work is usually more interesting in these countries. Best of all, most jobs can be picked up on the spot. Usually you'll get so-called "black" jobs that the authorities don't know about. When you enter a country you'd like to work in, don't say anything at the border about getting a job. Even if it's legal, the guard may have a brother-in-law out of work and be resentful that some foreigner is going to walk in and take his job. Sometimes your employer may help you get working papers; other times you may be able to get a promise of employment from a firm you have no desire to work for just to facilitate getting your permit. But beware of companies that tell you they'll arrange your papers and then keep stalling. If you get fired or quit, you may find yourself in the country illegally and in trouble. This has happened to more than a few people.

One of the best jobs is writing for any of the foreign-language newspapers located in most countries. The wages may be low, but there are many fringe benefits. I worked five months on the *Tico Times* in Costa Rica for a superb editor who taught me a great deal about writing—or at least he tried. I traveled all over the country writing articles about little towns, and when I was in the capital, I reviewed a different restaurant every night at the paper's expense. I can't imagine a quicker way to learn about a country.

You can also write free-lance. Doing so usually works out if you set up a market with newspapers or magazines before you leave, and have someone at home to forward assignments to you. You can sell photographs to greeting-card companies and to magazines. They especially like dramatic tropical sunsets and snowcapped peaks. Check *The*

How to Avoid Ripoffs

In almost every ripoff, the victim's lament is that he left his stuff unguarded for just a few minutes. By keeping your eyes open and staying away from heavily touristed areas where robbers hang out, you'll automatically avoid 99 per cent of all ripoffs. When you are in such areas, be especially on guard. Looking poor will not only make you a less desirable target, but you'll find that you get along a lot better with the common people of other countries who might otherwise covet your possessions. If you follow this advice, you may still get ripped off; no amount of precaution is an absolute guarantee. But at least if you are beaten you'll have the consolation of knowing that it wasn't because of your own stupidity.

Never flash money or leave things sticking out of your back pocket, especially in crowds. Keep the majority of your cash in your money belt, so that when you pull money out of your pocket to pay a bill, you won't attract all the thieves in a hundred-mile radius. Some people recommend wearing a chest pouch suspended by a lanyard around your neck for carrying cash and other valuables, but in my opinion such things are much too obvious. Compared with a hidden money belt, they scream an invitation to ripoff artists, and can easily be snatched right off your chest.

Be careful with both purses and wallets. Wallets invite pickpockets, and purses can be slashed or snatched. One woman in India had her cloth purse slit by a robber in a market. She didn't notice until half an hour later. Carry a purse with the latch next to your body, and keep it in front of you, not behind your back. Articles in unlatched purses are easily ripped off. At restaurant booths, don't throw your handbag over the backrest. I've seen two women and a man lose all the contents of their bags that way.

Carry your cash in front pockets only, preferably in ones with snaps. Alternatively, you can jam a sock in above your cash to foil pickpockets.

Before buying anything, ask the price in advance, and also whether the item is refundable. At markets, check the weights. When you hand over the cash, announce the amount clearly to avoid being shortchanged.

If you suspect a vendor has ripped you off, don't nail him to the cross. Allow him to admit his "mistake" gracefully. He'll be much more likely to rectify the situation quietly and quickly if you don't yell thief and put his honor and job on the line.

A great many robberies occur on public-transportation vehicles, the most frequent calamity being the removal of baggage from the roof racks or backs of buses. By having a small pack, you can ride with it inside the bus on the floor or on the shelf above your head. If it's on the shelf, leave a string from it dangling inside your shirt, so that you'll know instantly if someone tries to take it. It's even better to put it on the shelf in front of your seat, so that you can see it at all times. It seems almost too obvious to mention not to leave your pack on the aisle seat while you stare out the window, but I saw someone who did this have his ex-

pensive camera stolen.

Neither should you leave your pack unguarded near a window. Sometimes people reach in and grab items when the vehicle is stopped. I literally lost my shirt on a train in Sumatra when a thief armed with a long hook reached through a window eight feet off the ground to snatch it. Watch out also for sticky-fingered train vendors. On ships, if you're traveling deck class, ask a cabin passenger if you can leave your stuff with him. In terminals you can safely leave your pack in the left-luggage room. Be extra careful at airports. At these you must watch your pack constantly. When you ride in taxis, don't get out unless the driver is already out, or you have your pack and change in hand, and be sure to check before getting in that the meter is working.

If you have your own vehicle, try to leave it in a guarded area. Within two days of arriving in Bali, I heard one guy saying that he'd had three different bicycles stolen for a total loss of \$135. Another guy had the battery of his motorcycle stolen while he was at a restaurant, it cost him \$25 to replace it.

Another great ripoff zone is the beach. If you can't leave your belongings in your room, ask a nearby shopkeeper if you can leave them with him. You can offer a little money, but he'll rarely take any, especially if you're a client. Make sure he puts it in a safe place, and be back before closing time. But first be sure that he is indeed the owner; one woman was readily granted permission to leave her pack by a customer who proceeded to walk off with it.

If you do bring your stuff to a beach, leave it with a group of bathers when you go into the water.

Even a tent is no protection on the beach. On Phuket, an island off the coast of Thailand, some Australians had their tent slit and their packs removed by an exceptionally quiet thief while they slept. The solution would have been to put the packs in the center of the tent or to leave a string from each pack resting under their sleeping bodies. If they had used day packs, they could have used them as pillows. Even better, the victims could have gone to any of the dozens of even prettier islands nearby that aren't mentioned in all the guidebooks and hence are not packed with tourists and those who prey on them.

Robberies from hotel rooms occur very infrequently. To avoid these, you can leave valuables in hotel safes, being sure to get a receipt. When you later reclaim them, watch out for sleazy types who hang around in hotel lobbies. Watch out also when the staff comes to clean your room. To prevent temptation, don't leave your camera or money belt laying around. You can specifically request that no one enter when you're not in. If you do want to leave your passport and money inside your room, it's a good idea to tape them to the underside of a drawer. For extra protection, bring along a small combination lock for door latches. You can also use it to lock your pack to the racks of buses and trains.

Be wary of giving your passport to a hotel proprietor to keep. If it's lost or stolen, he can only apologize or perhaps give you money, but that is no substitute for loss of freedom. If he doesn't have a good safe, let him copy any information he wants, and pay in advance if required; if

* And in some places it's best to arrange fares in advance!

you must, leave a cash security. A passport is a lot of collateral for a room.

In some countries, notably Colombia and Afghanistan, robbery has been developed into an art form. People grab your eyeglasses and even earrings as you walk by, or else steal your watch from your wrist when your bus is stopped at a red light. If the watch is on your inside wrist, they jab a pin into the outer one. Your natural reaction is then to reach over and grab at the wound with your inside hand, whereupon they snatch the watch from it. At post offices clerks will occasionally steal the stamp right off your letter if you don't watch them cancel it. The best way to travel with a clear head in such places is not to have anything worth stealing.

Fortunately, robberies by force are extremely rare among young travelers. Thieves sensibly concentrate their efforts on older people, who are likely to have more worth stealing and who put up less resistance. If someone tries to hold you up, don't forget you can always turn and run. Few muggers will run after a fleeing victim, especially if he's yelling. Besides, as one friend says, you can run faster scared than they can mad.

Think twice before deciding to stand and fight. Even if the thief doesn't have a weapon, he may have a friend nearby who does. As compared with running, you've got a lot to lose and nothing to gain from fighting, unless your self-respect hinges on your "toughness." For times when fighting is necessary and you don't know anything about self-defense, one paranoid character I met in Yugoslavia had several fascinating tricks. One was an earplugging whistle which would scare away the devil himself. Another was a pocket filled with salt, which he planned to throw someday into an assailant's face. His best was a cigarette lighter and a squeeze bottle filled with gasoline. Of course, you can carry a knife or a gun or even a bazooka, but if you keep your head, such ridiculous measures should never be necessary.

If you ever do get ripped off, it may be best to report the matter to the police. Even if their investigation is nonexistent or totally worthless, as it usually is, they'll give you an official theft report which is valuable in itself. Once my pack was stolen near Lake Titicaca in Peru when I put it down to help push a stalled truck. Stupidly I had left my travelers checks and a plane ticket in the pack. Although the cops did nothing, the paper they gave me was good for free rides with sympathetic bus drivers until I got to Lima for a refund on my checks. The report also helped me convince the Colombian consul to waive the normal Colombian onward-ticket requirement in my case.

The hassle of a bad robbery may be reduced if you carry a large bill or travelers check, in addition to those in your money belt, hidden somewhere on your body. Two favorite spots are on the inside sole of a shoe or sewn into a pant leg. You can also make copies of important papers you receive or notes you make and send them home.

A robbery is not the end of the world. Look on the bright side. After I lost my pack in Peru, I decided to find out just how light I could travel; so I bought a toothbrush and an extra pair of socks that I could stuff into my pocket

Writer's Market, a book available in any library in the States, packed with information for free-lance writers. Other countries have similar books.

One trick for getting all sorts of things from car repairs to free accommodations and meals abroad deserves special mention. A canny Frenchman used it all over the Near East. He'd just go to a newspaper and offer to write a story about his travels, which were always interesting. In return for a letter from the paper saying he was going to write the story. Then he'd go to repair shops, hotels, and restaurants asking if they wanted to have some cheap advertising. Cost: one repair, night's sleep, or free meal. He'd then write his story, including the name of the lucky proprietor, to whom he was offering what actually amounted to a good bargain. Everyone was satisfied: the proprietor, the paper, and, most of all, the Frenchman. They'd even send a copy of the papers to his home in France!

Jobs in cultural centers or teaching in international schools can be found locally. There are many jobs available as tutors, especially for those who speak a foreign language. It seems that everyone wants to learn English. A friend in Argentina was making over \$100 a week teaching English to members of the science faculty of a major university. He simply walked into the department office and offered his services. People also want to do artwork. If you're a musician or artist, you can tutor privately or ask for jobs at institutes. You can work in bars and cafes, or on the street.

Those of us who aren't swimming in big bills can find out who may need a translator and then knock on a few doors. Sometimes you can fix up the poor translations you often see on menus and at travel agencies. I charged one Thai tour operator \$28, the cost of a tour, to doctor the English on one of his brochures. The job took half an hour. I just said that a good translation would make his operation look more professional, and that if even one extra person bought a tour as a result, he'd break even. Hotels, publishing houses, newspapers, and companies that do business in a foreign language—and this includes almost all companies of even moderate size—are good bets. I made \$40 a day translating Portuguese sales pitches into English, Spanish, and French at a Brazilian trade fair.

Many jobs can be found by talking to resident foreigners; they're almost always into something that involves making money. If they can't help, they'll refer you to someone who will. You can read want ads or advertise on your own, especially with foreign-language newspapers. Don't miss the opportunity to talk with the staff; they'll be unusually well-informed. Lists of foreign firms are available through the commercial sections of embassies, and if you get a job with one of these, you can expect an exceptionally high salary. You can also find offerings and leave notices at bulletin boards at consulates, universities, and foreign-language bookstores. In fact, job offers float around any place frequented by foreigners, especially bars. One Swiss woman who got a job as a bartender in Istanbul was able to find work for just about any traveler who asked.

Other people buy goods for resale. If you're going from Egypt to the Sudan, you can make a very healthy profit by bringing cooking oil. From Sri Lanka to India, the

product is cloves. A \$10 watch bought in Japan, Hong Kong, or Singapore can be sold for \$50 in Burmese kyats or \$40 in India, where it's comparatively easy to convert rupees into dollars. If you buy two expensive cameras in Singapore, you can sell one in India for enough money to net you the other one free. Or buy in Panama and sell in Peru, preferably cassette recorders and digital watches. Radios, cosmetics, and foreign clothes are other profitable items. Often you can get a great deal at markets by trading away your tee shirts or blue jeans. The shirts that foreigners want are those that have a profound phrase printed on them, like "Love means never having to say you're sorry."

THE IMPORT-EXPORT BUSINESS

Even more money can be made by shipping goods home. As you'll see soon enough, foreign handicrafts which are ridiculously expensive in developed countries sell abroad for a song. You'll be in competition with established wholesale and retail operations, which buy cheaply and in quantity from manufacturers; so it's best to get individually handmade items that the big stores don't carry. You can sell them to shops, to acquaintances, at handicrafts fairs, or on the street. To do this successfully, you'll need good taste, which I lack completely. But don't worry; you'll find no shortage of bargains, or of prospective purchasers with bad taste. You'll meet dozens of people on the road who are managing to travel indefinitely by buying and selling (or having friends sell) such items as rings, necklaces, and sarongs. Sometimes you can send samples to shops and then, if they like them, proceed to ship in quantity. Don't expect a shop to front you money, though, unless it's owned by your uncle.

The best items to purchase are those that aren't fragile, and whose value is high in relation to weight and hence to shipping charges. Usually it's more convenient and cheaper to ship by ordinary mail. Check shipping times and prices of both air and sea freight.

If your package is very fragile or valuable, it may sometimes pay to send it via a private carrier. A good choice would be the freight office of a major airline, preferably one with an office near the recipient. But beware of un reputable companies. One woman in Spain shipped home \$350 worth of souvenirs with an air-freight company whose name made it sound like it was part of Spain's national airline. Actually it wasn't—and her shipment never arrived. The Spanish embassy admitted that other people had complained about the same company, but there was nothing the officials could do.

Cheap Living

When purchasing expensive items, be sure to go to a reputable dealer who's been authorized by the manufacturer and has its guarantee. A dealer's own guarantee is not an acceptable substitute. Check the number on the guarantee against the serial number of the product.

To buy things in duty-free ports, go from dealer to dealer, bargaining hard until you reach what appears to be a common floor price. Then go to a few more dealers, offering five or ten dollars less than this price. When you get sev-