

ble of Mahaveer, a small mountain village in the Himalayas. Actually, the village consists of three buildings, one of which is a tea house. At Perry's left is the mechanic on whose truck the University of Arizona student hitched a ride to Katmandu, capital of Nepal.

Being American Helped

Smile Opens Doors For Young Global Traveler

Ronnie Perry Back At Formal Studies

By DON CARSON

University of Arizona student Ronnie Perry is not rich and he is not a linguist.

Yet, at age 26, he has traveled over half the world.

The key which opened the doors to countries in Asia and Europe was the combination of a smile—a language that every man understands—and his nationality.

Perry, the son of Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Perry, 2132 E. La Madera Dr., officially began his trek in April in the Indonesian seaport of Tanjong Priok, near Djarkarta. He ended it in August in Istanbul, Turkey.

Actually, Perry, a 1950 graduate of Tucson High School, never intended to make the junket. He had been employed by a map company in Hawaii and intended to seek his fortune in Australia.

"After I got to Australia," he explains, "things didn't look so good. I worked for a short while, hitchhiked all over the continent—and New Zealand, too—and decided I'd better travel while I could."

So, with a limited amount of money and a minimum supply of clothes and other necessities, he left Perth for the mysteries and excitement of Asia.

From Tanjong Priok, Perry took to the open road that led to Singapore, Malaya, Bangkok, Rangoon, Calcutta, Nagpur, the Taj Majal, Nepal, Pakistan, over the Khyber Pass, Iran and Turkey.

To conserve his money, he hitchhiked—using that smile instead of a thumb—and, at times, walked and walked and walked.

He spent nights sleeping on top of bulging bags of stiff cowhide loaded on the rear of trucks which bounced and bumped their way over the crude Asian roads, between a sheet and blanket just off the highway, on the hard stone floors of Sikh Temples in Bangkok, or on the hard boards which serve as seats aboard the Royal Afghani Mail Bus.

Along the way he found traveling companions—German, Swiss or Scandinavian youths.

"Only once," he says, "did I meet an American traveling as I was. I did see many Americans, of course, but they were traveling on larger budgets."

Seldom did Perry have trouble getting rides. His appearance—most people thought him European—was almost enough to stop the trucks.

And if that didn't do the trick,



Hitchhiker In Himalayas

UA student Ronnie Perry stopped high in the Himalayas—at Simbhanjang Pass, elevation 8,162.93—on his way to the Nepalese capital of Katmandu. The Tucsonan, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Perry, "hitchhiked" his way through much of Asia earlier this year.

friends he'd made with his ever-present smile would stand in the road forcing trucks to stop. Once the driver learned his nationality, Perry would have his transportation.

"They seemed to think it was a privilege to travel with an American," he says. "Whenever we'd stop for a meal I would immediately become a center of attention. And the driver would often get a free meal because he had brought such an oddity into the small world of the tea house."

Though he was warned several times of the dangers he might face while traveling alone, Perry says he never encountered them.

"Perhaps there were dangers,"

he admits, "but I was really interested in the people and the country. Though I spoke the language of none of those countries, I think the people I met realized my interest was genuine and that I was harmless."

"At any rate, there was little they could steal from me. I carried only the bare essentials. The only thing I had they might have coveted was my camera. And most people were content—even excited—if I took their pictures."

Perry is back at his formal studies now. He has a year and one half to go for his bachelor's degree, but he may not finish.

There's an old gleam in his eye.

"I'd really like to travel through Europe and Africa," he says.

Coronado Forest Maps Are Offered To Public

Ore Train Engine