

Travel

NORIMONO

James Greenwood has already ridden across South America. Now he is in Japan, stirrups pointed westward, setting out on the next leg of his epic attempt to circumnavigate the world on horseback.

RIDING ROUND THE WORLD

Impossible. Absurd. The man is mad. Or so A.F. Tschiffely, the Swiss-born adventurer and writer was told before he set off on his 16,000-kilometer ride on horseback through the Americas in the 1920s. Not only did he prove his skeptics wrong, he also had the trip of a lifetime, wrote a blockbuster best-selling book, and has inspired thousands.

One of his inspirees has been myself. I read his book as a child and vowed to myself that one day I too would ride through South America as Tschiffely had done. Not until I was 24 did I have the courage to chuck in the conventional career path on which I found myself, working as a merchant banker. But in the end, never seeing the light of day in winter, the realization that I was wasting my youth drove me out.

The life of a free-lance expeditioner, whilst immensely rewarding and on the surface more than a little glamorous, is not an easy one financially. Being unknown, it was hard enough getting to see potential sponsors, let alone persuading them to finance my expedition through South America. But at last, armed with the advance on a book that I promised to write some time in the future, I flew to Buenos Aires, Argentina. I left London on the 1st of April — why not, I thought — but it was not until I arrived in Buenos Aires did I realize that I was landing in Argentina on the anniversary of the invasion of the Falkland Islands. At first I



night and my companions in the police station found themselves without the funds to pay for the traditional hospitality. Before I could prevent them, they had extracted suffi-

spectacular country through which I was riding. We arrived at Cusco, spent some time exploring the historical legacy of the Incas before climbing the final range of the Andes

time I will be accompanied by my wife) are almost ready to leave. I have again received immense hospitality from many people and organizations in Japan, particularly the Ar-