

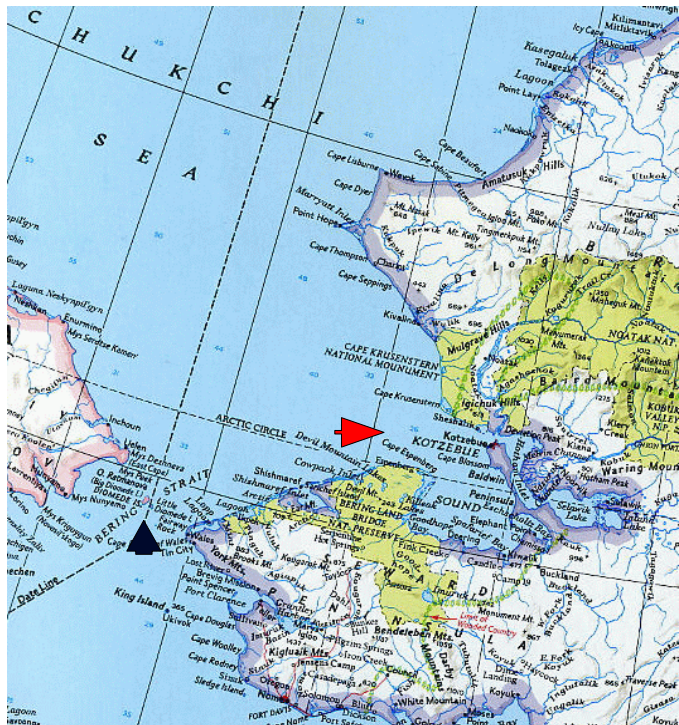
Radio interview with Barney Lamm and Doc Eisentrout on Polar bear hunt- 1957

In the past we've covered sports in most of its forms, even taking to the air on a wolf hunting expedition out west. Tonight we take to the air again but on a far more hazardous trail. High over the Alaskan ice fields in search of a massive Polar bear.

In Kenora Ontario, bear hunters Barney Lamm and Doc Eisentrout go over the dangerous ground again. They're interviewed at station CJRL.

Barney, where did you make your headquarters for this hunting trip?

Barney- We headquartered at Kotzebue (red arrow) for our bear hunting not because of its location but because of accommodations that we were able to room at they call this hotel that was above a grocery store. There were three or four rooms we could rent there, and there was a small café, the northern most café in Alaska. We ate in Koztebue, and would fly out there approximately three hundred miles to the bear hunting country.



Was the cost of living high up that way?

Doc- It certainly is. It's very expensive in Alaska. I was quite amazed. Heated breakfast was two dollars. A piece of pie fifty cents. Pie a la mode, seventy-five cents.

Barney- Hamburger was a dollar and a quarter.

A dollar and a quarter?

Barney- A dollar and a quarter for a hamburger.

It that right?

Barney- Put another piece of pickle on them would cost another ten cents.

How about a guide? Did you need guides while you were there?

Doc- We didn't need any. Barney did all the flying and navigating. The local guides up there each have their own airplane to hunt polar bears. They guarantee a polar bear for from seventeen hundred and fifty, to five thousand dollars per hunter.

Barney- That trip includes..., it can be over in about three hours flying. They guarantee they will stay with you from three to twenty-one days to see that get you a bear. If you get your bear in the first two to six hours they will fly around looking for wolves, show you the country, or something like that for the balance of the three days. The natives at Koztebue told us there's been about twenty-five people there to date over the past three or four years. And uh, so you can see that not too many people that are hunting polar bears yet. I think the supply is here. The Arctic Ocean, just off the Bering Strait from Russia. We uh, at one time we were only three miles from Russia, we went out to the Diomedede Islands. (*black arrow*) Its about, out there in the Arctic Ocean. (*Actually it's in Russia*)

Doc- There's not much to do once until you cross a polar bear, catch a polar bear and this has... that's a tricky one...

How long did you fly until you did catch the bear?

Doc- We got one polar bear the first day we tried. You have to wait for a sunny day because of treacherous ice and you have to work them in. We found the first polar bear running around on the ice. We couldn't believe our own eyes.

Just a little bit to tell us what you thought about it.

Doc- We found the polar bear running on the ice and then of course, it's up to the pilot to try to find a place to land. We look around for miles until you see a white sheet of ice that appears to be good. Then it's flying back to this polar bear hurrying him to what appears to be a good place to land. Might be anywhere from within two to ten miles. We got this polar bear over to this white landing strip and the pressure ridge is ten feet high. So we left him behind this one pressure ridge, then landed and got out, walked to the pressure ridge and climbed on top of it and there he was right on the other side of the pressure ridge. ...? You shoot them on the ground. You don't shoot them from the air. No, no you shoot them on the ground.

Barney- You don't shoot him from the air. You have to land and you're pretty busy. You get a bear herded over to where you think you can land. You land. You shut the switches off and get out while the airplane is still rolling, and run up to the pressure ridge and hope the bear is waiting there.

And for your information, the bear was waiting, but Barney and Doc had a proper greeting prepared for him.