

Landing Big Globemaster on Tiny Alaska Field Looks Easy

By CHARLES R. MOORE
UPI Correspondent
Sparrevohn, Alaska — (AP)—
Maj. John S. Kupko, a husky man with crew-cut black hair and eyes that match the blue

of his Air Force uniform, is one of a group of pilots whose work takes them to the ends of the earth.
But, he said, "there's no place like this in the entire world."

The 38-year-old MATS transport pilot didn't have time to say much more.

He was wrestling his four-engine Globemaster, which has the approximate dimensions of an Iowa hay barn, onto a mountain-locked airstrip that didn't look as if it should welcome anything bigger than a Piper Cub.
Thirty-two hundred feet

long, narrower than the 174-foot wing spread of the Globemaster, it was the airstrip at Sparrevohn, site of two vital military and communications stations.

One of these not only could locate enemy aircraft but could direct United States planes to the precise point to intercept them. Another part is a unique military and civilian radio communications system, White Alice, that links the far-flung cities and towns of the 49th state. They are a story in themselves. The

Globemasters help supply them.
The runway is eight degrees uphill from the approach end, with the other end up against a 3,000-foot mountain, the stations are on its peak.

"Once you come through the gap, and get your wheels and flaps down about two miles out, Kupko said earlier, "you're committed. One way or another, you're going to land. There is no room to turn around in the air."

For a few moments the plane bounced, dropped and shuddered as it hit the turbulent air close to the ground.

Then suddenly we were on, and came quickly to a stop although the wind was behind us. The hill usually makes brakes or prop reversal unnecessary.

"The landing is automatic," said Kupko. "There is much more in taking off."

After unloading cargo and turning around, he showed what he meant while the passengers sweated. Pieces of wreckage from two that did not make it are near the runway.

But without cargo and with the wind in its nose, the Globemaster surged smoothly

back into the air. It was early evening then, and the afternoon turbulence had subsided.

Looks So Easy
A non-pilot passenger told Kupko:

"You make it look so easy I think I could do it myself." Kupko laughed, then turned to technical discussion with a

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pilot who had been along to observe.

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Tips on Traveling

By United Press International
Take most of your money in Travelers checks. If you're traveling abroad, in some cases it is economical to buy foreign currency at free market prices (lower than the official rate) before you leave home.

You can visit many Caribbean islands for the price of one. For the tourist roundtrip fare to Trinidad, you can also visit Bermuda, Antigua and Barbados.

Remember that every government, including your own, possesses miles of red tape. Check to see that you have all the necessary documents: passports, visas, tourist cards, vaccination certificates.

When you want to see a city easily, think about using buses and trolley cars. Many cities — London, for example — have double-decker buses with upper decks for sightseeing.

If you are traveling as a family, look into all the concessions which airlines, steamship lines, tour operators and hotels offer to families.

Make allowance, especially if you are flying, for the purchases you will certainly add to your load of baggage—or you will be paying for excess. It's a good idea to keep aside a small suitcase for your purchases. It will save time at customs if all your souvenirs are in one place.

Peru and Poland have signed United Nations agreements designed to ease travel restrictions.

Sweden has doubled the dollar exchange it allows tourists leaving for the United States and Canada; but the Sudan has cut its allowance in half.

Keep your bills. It will save you time and pain at customs when you get back.

Air travelers making a number of stops should remove the stickers from their baggage at each stop. It is not unknown for travelers to have their baggage routed

back to one of the places they have already visited.

Save money by traveling in the "thrifty" season—the off-season — October to May in Europe, April to December in Florida and the Caribbean.

Make sure what "plan" you are paying for at your hotel. There are several available, differing mainly in their meal allotments.

Bermuda celebrates its 350th birthday this year. The Duke of Edinburgh will visit there April 28-29.

If you travel with electric appliances such as a razor or an iron, ascertain the size of the current you will encounter and whether you will need adapter plus or small transformers.

Do a little comparative window shopping before you go abroad. If you plan to buy a camera in Germany or Japan or glass in Belgium or Czechoslovakia, find out the cost in America, then shop around until you're sure you've found a bargain.

Turkey, in a vigorous campaign to attract more tourists, is building 39 hotels for occupancy this year.

Passport issuances in 1958 increased 16 per cent, according to the U.S. Passport Office. The New York State increase of 36 per cent was the largest for any state.

Troutdale, Ore. — (UPI) — Wilbur M. MacKey, 27, Kelso, Wash., Sunday claimed the world smelt-eating championship in a contest here. He consumed 84 fish in an hour and 29 minutes.

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In addition, 200 Truth Broadcasters will be awarded Hallcrafters short-wave radios!

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