

Local Man Bags What May Be Largest Polar Bear

Bering Strait Is Scene of Kill by Arthur R. Dubs

By DICK JEWETT
Mail Tribune Staff Writer

When Arthur R. (Art) Dubs of Medford flew out from Kotzebue, Alaska, last March 3 and winged out over the Bering strait, he was after a big polar bear — the largest that he, and guide Tommy Thompson of Anchorage, Alaska, could find.

The 31-year-old home designer and builder, however, had little idea that he would bag a trophy of his hunting, a bear that experts are saying is probably the biggest a hunter has ever slain. And, Dubs still is finding it hard to believe.

Their search for a polar bear of trophy proportions took them 180 miles southwest of Kotzebue. There, off Big and Little Diomed Islands in the waters separating one of the United States from Soviet Siberia, they noted huge tracks of a mammoth arctic animal. Then, they spotted the bear.

On Ice Floe
After a long swim through open water, the wary quarry climbed onto an ice floe. That gave Dubs his chance. The plane was landed on the ice by Thompson and the Medford builder, armed with camera, as well as gun, brought down his prize in area of pressure ice. Dubs fired from 380 yards as the bear was bagged right under the noses of Russian air patrols.

Observation from the air and subsequent examination on the ground led Dubs and Thompson to realize that here was a likely record kill. And, their beliefs were substantiated when they returned with skull and hide, to Kotzebue and Seattle, Wash., where they set big game authorities astir with amazement.

Art and the experts are confident from information since the hunt that here is a polar bear that will top the list in the North America big game records of the Boone and Crockett club of New York.

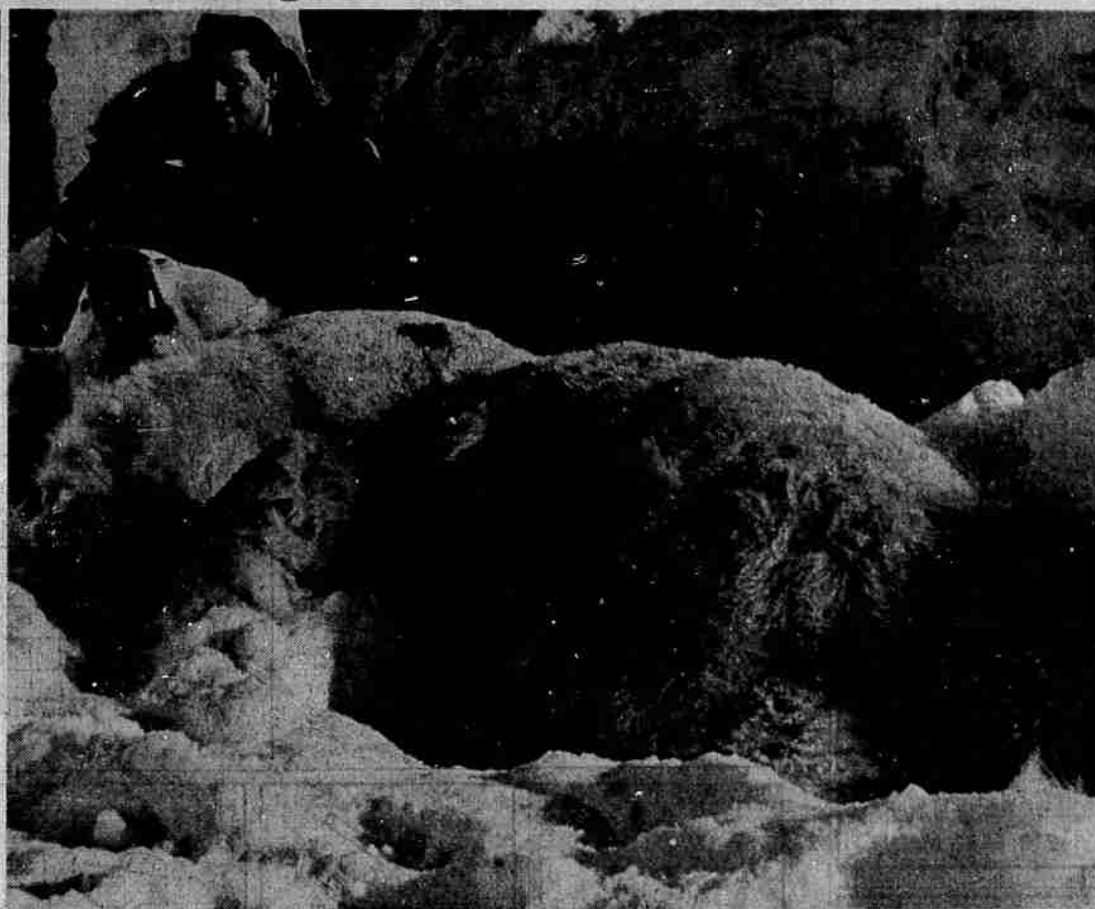
Unstretched on Floor
Laid out unstretched on the floor at Jones Bros. Seattle, world-famed taxidermists and furrers, the bear's hide is 11 feet, 9 inches from paw to paw and 11 feet, 4 inches from nose to tail.

Preliminary measurements of the skull by the Jones Bros. firm exceed the world record bear skull. Records are determined by skull measurements for Boone and Crockett. Official measurements are made in New York 60 days after a kill.

This is what Bert Klineburger, president of Jones Bros., had to say in a letter to Dubs last week:

"The size of this animal has amazed us and this is rather unusual since, as you know, we have done almost all the bears taken in Alaska and Canada in the last 20 years and do about 1400 bears a year. We also mounted the world record bear for Mr. (Tom) Bolack and find your bear to be by far larger than his or any other polar bear we have ever mounted.

Exceed Record
"Also, the preliminary measurements (of the skull) exceed the record . . . and, after working on the mount, it appears that the head is actually small in proportion to its giant body. Naturally,



POSSIBLE RECORD POLAR BEAR—Arthur Dubs, Medford, poses with his kill, shortly after bringing down this huge polar bear on an ice floe in Bering strait off the Alaskan coast March 3. Immense size of the animal is seen.



ENORMOUS PAW—The size of the paws on the polar bear killed in Bering strait by Arthur Dubs is enormous. Here Dubs displays one of the paws.

we had to make a special model for this giant. . . . We are always pleased to work on such a magnificent trophy."

An article, "Bears Facts and Fantasies," by Grancel Fitz in Sports Illustrated magazine, establishes Dubs' bear as an even more value prize.

Declared Fitz, an expert on the subject of bears from long experience as a sportsman: **Considered Biggest**

"The polar bear has . . . unique quality which, as a trophy hunter, I find most fascinating of all. The biggest, found off Alaska, are longer and heavier than bears of any other kind in the world. I stirred up a mild tempest . . . when I first published my convictions on their superior size."

"The Alaska brownies had always been considered the

biggest in every way. But that claim seemed doubtful to me after my first trip to the Alaskan arctic in 1949, and those doubts were confirmed when I returned in 1956 to collect my own polar bear trophy."

Fitz said further that in the last couple of seasons a few hunters have taken nose-to-tail measurements of unskinned polar bears that were reported to be as long as 10 feet, 6 inches. Such field measurements are not official, according to Fitz, but are interesting when compared to a 9-foot maximum for browns.

The big bears were not weighed, Fitz said in the magazine, but a Carnegie museum specimen, which now ranks 18th on the basis of skull measurement, was weighed in pieces and totaled 1,728 pounds.

Dubs' bear was a full 10

seen. Head measurements of the bear exceed the record listed by the Boone and Crockett club of New York. Dubs was flown out over the strait by a guide from Anchorage, Alaska.

SECTION D
MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE
MEDFORD, OREGON, SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 1961



BEAR FROM AIR—Colored movie and still shots from the air and while he stalked his polar bear for the kill are prized by Arthur Dubs, who last month bagged an animal of possible world record proportions off the coast of Alaska. Here, from the air is shown the bear which was soon to become the trophy of his hunt.

inches longer from nose to tail than those mentioned by Fitz. No weight, of course, was taken of Dubs' animal. But, pictures and the opinion of the experts, although some are hesitant to be quoted, strongly support the probability that it is a world record bear.

Prized, too, are Dubs' pictures of his hunt—the color stills and movies of the actual stalk and kill in his adventure in the north.

Said Klineburger, " . . . You can be complimented on getting such outstanding stills and movies, as well as the trophy. It is unusual, indeed, for a hunter to get both a top trophy and pictures, too."

According to Klineburger, Dubs' polar bear will be ready for delivery to him in about three weeks. His problem, now, is where to put the most valued trophy of his collection.

Ashland Station Joins MBS Network

Ashland — Radio station KRVC, Ashland, has become affiliated with the Mutual Broadcasting system, according to General Manager Bill Henley.

Declared the world's largest radio network, the MBS will offer programs and personalities including the well-known commentator Fulton Lewis Jr., and Sportscenter Bill Stern.

According to Henley, radio KRVC will feature a "special" world and local news roundup at noon each day, with six different commentators and newscasters.

MBS programming over KRVC (1350 k.c.) started yesterday.

LESS NICOTINE
New York — Most U.S. cigarettes contain about two per cent nicotine. In 1915 the average was three per cent.



ARCTIC CIRCLE ARCHITECTURE—Arthur Dubs has been a home builder and designer here for 11 years. When in Alaska last month for a polar bear hunt, he tried his hand at Eskimo-style architecture. Result was the structure above which two natives of the far north seem to enjoy.

Films on Alaska Slated This Week

Films of pioneering in Alaska will be shown Monday and Tuesday, April 3 and 4, starting at 8 p.m. in the American Legion hall, 404 Walnut st., Medford.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Clark, former Oregon residents, recently returned from Alaska after living there since the summer of 1958. The couple have prepared a 1½ hour color movie of their experiences including "shots" of moose, caribou, dall sheep, grizzly, fox, ermine, lynx, beaver, black wolf, and wolverine.

On one occasion, Mrs. Clark is shown 40 feet from a 1,000-pound grizzly bear. Other pictures show a moose with more than a six-foot horn spread approaching within 60 feet of the couple.

44 Cases of Mumps Reported in County

A total of 44 cases of mumps were reported to the Jackson county health department last week, according to Dr. A. Erin Merkel, public health physician.

In Jacksonville, 28 cases of mumps were reported; others were in Talent 1, Medford 8, Ashland 4, and Phoenix 2.

Other diseases in Medford included chicken pox, 3; impetigo, 1; measles, 7; gonorrhea, 1; infectious mononucleosis, 1; and influenza, 10. Ashland reported one case each of infectious hepatitis, pink eye, and measles. Central Point reported one case of gonorrhea.

STATE RESTRICTIONS
New York—All but nine of the U.S. states have a ban on the sale and use of fireworks.



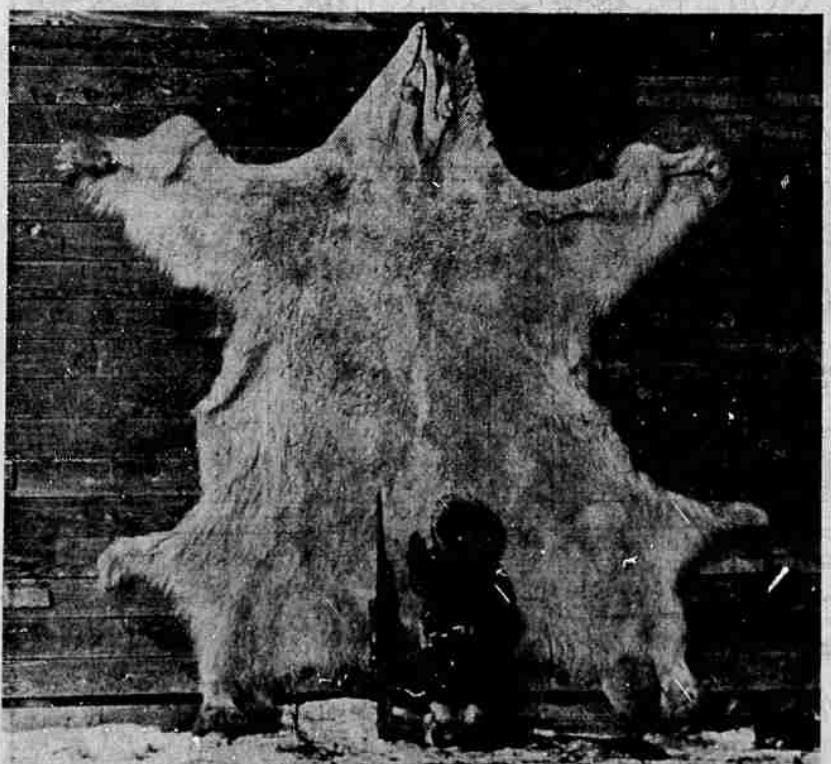
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HIDE PORTRAYS SIZE OF BEAR—Shown at Kotzebue, Alaska, is the hide of the mammoth polar bear killed by Arthur Dubs, Medford, early last month in waters between Alaska and Siberia. When laid un-

stretched on the floor of the taxidermist shop at Seattle, the hide measured 11 feet, 9 inches from paw to paw and 11 feet, 4 inches from nose to tail.

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Piggy-bank specials this week
15 Sheet Sandpaper Pack Reg. 27c Special 19c
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