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ALASKA JUNIOR RIFLE TEAM
SPENDS WEEK IN MISSOULA;
SHOOTS AT MEETS

MISSOULA, Mont.--

Thirteen rifle-toting youths were flown last week into the nation's fourth largest state--Montana--from the country's biggest frontier state--Alaska.

The nine girls and four boys, ranging in age from 12 to 17, are members of the Alaska State Junior Rifle Team, which arrived in Missoula a week ago.

The group will be flown this Thursday (July 31) to Ohio, where the Alaskans will vie in the National Rifle Championship matches at Camp Perry.

While in Missoula, the Alaska group had the opportunity to hear Franklin L. Orth, executive vice-president of the National Rifle Association (NRA), who discussed "Alice in the Legislative Wonderland: Gun Control Laws" Tuesday (July 29) at the University of Montana.

The Alaskans are being housed at their own expense in University dormitories during their stay.

Most of the team and its four adult escorts arrived in Montana by an Alaskan Air Guard aircraft. All but one of the team are members of the Civil Air Patrol. The sole nonmember, Steve S. Dobson, 12, is just three weeks short of being eligible for CPA membership.

While in Missoula the sharpshooters from Anchorage racked up honors for their home state during the Missoula Regional Smallbore Rifle Prone Championship Tournament, July 26-27, in which 52 competitors from nine states and one Canadian province participated.

Robert E. Hickey, team coach, took first place in the expert division and Valorie F. Walker, 16, a stand-out shooter for the past four years, copped first place in the junior expert class.

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In any-sights competition, Stephen M. Brooks, 17, an honor graduate of East Anchorage High School, placed second in the individual matches. Brooks, winner of the national indoor junior title this year, plans to attend Kansas State University in September on an Air Force ROTC scholarship.

Brooks and his partner, David L. Ash, 16, team captain, also placed second in the two-man competition. Ash, who has completed his sophomore year at West Anchorage High, was responsible for developing a rifle team at his school in 1967-68 and led that team to a National Class "B" title victory in the same year.

Others placing in the event were Diann J. Landacre, 15, who took first place in the marksman class and Betsy A. Fleishauer, 16, who was the high lady's scorer.

The Alaska team also is competing July 28-30 with the Montana Junior Rifle Team.

Hickey, a social studies teacher at Orah Dee Clark Jr. High School, is assisted in his coaching by Lt. Col. (ret.) and Mrs. Harold J. Hopkins. Lt. Col. Hopkins heads the aerospace program of the Air Force Junior ROTC at West Anchorage High School and is a prominent scout leader.

The Hopkins and their son, Michael, 13, arrived in Missoula from the International Boy Scout Jamboree at Farragut State Park, Idaho. The other escort on the trip is Mrs. Edna L. Walker, Valorie's mother.

Other members of the team are Liam J. (Bill) Moran, 15; Michael C. Pavlovich, 16; Shala K. Dobson, 15; Linda A. Jeffers, 14; Nancy Jensen, 15; Beverly Genelle Scott, 16; Marie E. Steadman, 16, and Ann Young, 14.

While the teenagers are vying for titles at the national championships, the four escorts, plus Mr. and Mrs. Robert V. Dobson, parents of Shala and Steve Dobson, will attend the NRA Instructor-Junior School at Camp Perry, Aug. 10-15.