

Matt Parker and horse, Smokey, reach Nevada

Former short-term Willow Glen resident Matt Parker, who with his Tennessee Riding Horse, Smokey, is making his way haphazardly through Nevada, according to the *Nevada Appeal* newspaper.

The Willow Glen Resident profiled Parker in its May 14 issue. Parker a 23-year-old Michigan native, whose goal is to traverse the northern route—4,883 miles—of American Discovery Trail on horseback, started his trek from Sacramento on May 29.

As of June 16, Parker was in Carson City, as reported by the *Nevada Appeal*, preparing to take on a "remote and waterless" stretch of the trail. A few days earlier, the newspaper reported that Parker and Smokey encountered a bear and also a mountain lion.

The encounter with the mountain lion spooked Smokey, and Parker said, "I had to chase him down in boxers and boots," the newspaper reported.

A Willow Glen friend of Parker's assured readers that Smokey is fine and that the scratches Smokey acquired from the encounter were not from claws or fangs but from Smokey snapping his harness lead.

Parker and Smokey will take a month to traverse the Nevada portion of the discovery trail, "the most difficult area in terms of water and forage" for Smokey, according to the local Nevada paper.

The newspaper also reports that Parker hopes to arrive in his hometown of Ann Arbor, Mich., by Christmas.

—William Jeske