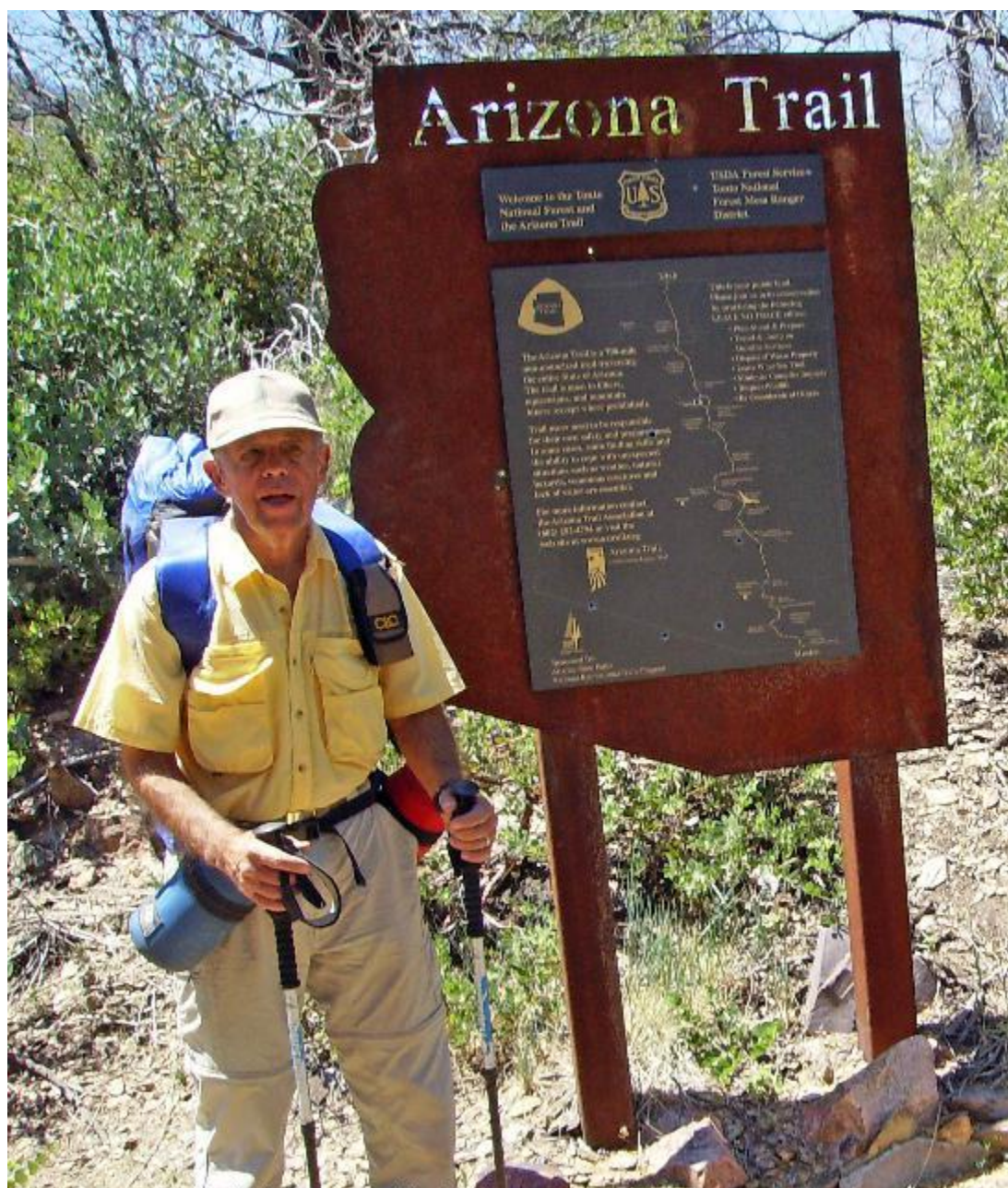




ONE STEP AT A TIME UTAH TO MEXICO



By Andrea Rivera

ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Don't try to hike a mile in Ed Cleveland's boots.

Cleveland and five friends, who all belonged to the Sun City Vistoso Hiking Club, set out to walk all 800 miles of the Arizona Trail, which extends from the Arizona/Mexico border to the Utah state line.

Cleveland, 78, hiked his final passage of the Arizona Trail in May. It had taken him 10 years.

Still, he was the only one of the six to hike all 800 miles, which is divided into 43 passages, ranging in length from 11 to 35 miles.

Two men dropped out early on, and three women hiked most of the trail with Cleveland.

"I was happy to get it done," Cleveland said. "It was disappointing to the extent that my three lady buddies couldn't finish it. It was nice to do it and to be able to say, 'I finished it.' I experienced areas of Arizona that very few people ever see. You can't appreciate a lot of Arizona by just riding through a highway."

He didn't hike the trail continuously but did so when he could schedule a time for all of his hiking companions to meet.

