U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Las Cruces District Office
1800 Marquess St., Las Cruces, NM 88005
575-525-4300

Organ Mountain Summer Series 2011

He is alive!

On June 11th at 7:30 PM -

Colonel Eugene Van Patten comes back to hike with you.

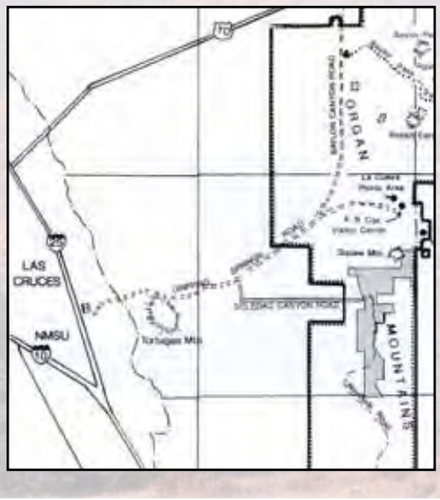
Hear his story and experience first hand the history of Dripping Springs Natural Area.

In the late 19th century Eugene Van Patten, a former confederate army officer, established a resort at Dripping Springs in the Organ Mountains. Known as the Van Patten Mountain Camp, the resort became so popular that it had a regular stage line leading to and from Las Cruces. Now the resort marks its place in history with its structures standing in ruins; its walls leaving only hints of the stories of the past.

Find out about those stories - hike the Dripping Springs Trail (3 miles total) with Van Patten. See the area through his eyes. Experience life over 100 years ago. Hear about the people, things, and events that made Las Cruces and surrounding areas the places they are today.

Hike begins at the Visitor Center at Dripping Springs NA. Bring hiking shoes, water, snacks, hats, camera, etc., to make certain you have everything you need to have a healthy, happy hike.

Bring flashlights - the sun sets around 8:30 PM and it may be dark when leaving the trail. The guided hike will last approximately 1 hour with Eugene Van Patten (Scott Green, education coordinator at the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum) leading the way a mile and a half up to the historical ruins of Van Patten's Mountain Camp. You are free to make your own way back down the trail.

A $3.00 vehicle pass will apply (except for those who have the Golden Age, Access, America the Beautiful or the LCDO Recreation Pass). No extra fee will be charged for the program.

The Dripping Springs Natural Area is located 10 miles east of Las Cruces, on the west side of the Organ Mountains. From Exit 1 on Interstate 25, take University Avenue/Dripping Springs Road to the end where there is a parking lot.
For further information, call McKinney Briske at BLM's office at 575-525-4334.