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THE NEW YORK TIMES, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, 1971

JAMES M'DONALD, A CLOUD PHYSICIST

Leading Scientific Defender of U.F.O. Existence Dies

TUCSON, Ariz., June 15 (UPI)—Dr. James E. McDonald, a nationally known University of Arizona physicist, was found dead in a desert area Sunday, an apparent suicide. He was 51 years old.

Dr. McDonald was a senior physicist specializing in clouds at the university's Institute of Atmospheric Physics and was credited with contributions to the advancement of cloud physics and weather modification research.

Authorities said Dr. McDonald had died of a head wound and that a note and a .38 revolver were found beside the body.

A Respected Scientist

Dr. McDonald, a member of the National Academy of Sciences, was the most outspoken scientific proponent of the possibility that unidentified flying objects might be under control from beyond the earth.

In July, 1968, he told the House Committee on Space and Astronautics that the world's scientific community "tended to discount and regard as nonsense" reports of saucer sightings. Serious attempts at studies had been "laughed out of court," he said.

Conceding that this was because of a lack of scientific data, he asserted that these same scientists would not support the collection of such data.

The tall, sandy-haired physicist, with degrees also in chemistry and meteorology, was already a respected scientist when he took issue with what he considered deliberate Government efforts to "debunk" U.F.O. sightings.

Dr. McDonald held that the Air Force, which had commissioned a study of the phenomenon, was "blissfully unaware of the serious problem that it has on its hands" in stating that it could explain all but a handful of U.F.O. sightings as natural phenomena or government projects. He believed that the U.F.O.'s were real and probably came from outer space.

He embarked on a speaking crusade two years ago, challenging the Air Force's Condon Report, in which most U.F.O. sightings were linked to satellites, weather balloons, clouds, birds and other explainable causes.

Dr. McDonald also suggested that the U.F.O.'s might have been related to power failures in New York.

Deaths

ACKERMAN—Gertrude M., suddenly on June 14, 1971, devoted wife of the late John Ackerman, 68, of 100 E. 10th St., New York 10003. Burial at St. Paul's R.C. Church, 100 E. 10th St., New York 10003. Services Wednesday, 11 A.M., at St. Paul's R.C. Church, 100 E. 10th St., New York 10003.

ALLEN—Anna, beloved wife of the late Louis Allen, 68, of 100 E. 10th St., New York 10003. Burial at St. Paul's R.C. Church, 100 E. 10th St., New York 10003. Services Wednesday, 11 A.M., at St. Paul's R.C. Church, 100 E. 10th St., New York 10003.

ARMSTRONG—Howard Pearson, On Monday, June 14, 1971, of 34 Valley View Ave., Summit, N.J. Husband of Elizabeth Carl Armstrong, mother of Mrs. Victor A. Cook. Grandfather of two grandchildren. Funeral service at Community Congregational Church, Hartshorn Circle, Short Hills, N.J., on Thursday, June 17, at 10 A.M. Interment in Mount Pleasant Cemetery, 1100 N. of Newark, contributions to Overlook Hospital, Summit, N.J., would be appreciated. The family requests friends to call at 300 N. of Newark (Suburban), 415 Manor Ave., Springfield, N.J., on Wednesday, 7 to 9 P.M.

BAILEY—George W. E. (Doc), age 46, of 201 E. 10th St., New York 10003. Burial at St. Paul's R.C. Church, 100 E. 10th St., New York 10003. Services Wednesday, 11 A.M., at St. Paul's R.C. Church, 100 E. 10th St., New York 10003.

BELLINSON—Solomon L., B.D.S., beloved husband of Esther, dear father of Arthur Bellinson and Robert Bellinson. Burial at St. Paul's R.C. Church, 100 E. 10th St., New York 10003. Services Wednesday, 11 A.M., at St. Paul's R.C. Church, 100 E. 10th St., New York 10003.

BRENNAN—Rudolph J., beloved husband of Ruth, devoted father of Carl and Andrew, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Brennan. Burial at St. Paul's R.C. Church, 100 E. 10th St., New York 10003. Services Wednesday, 11 A.M., at St. Paul's R.C. Church, 100 E. 10th St., New York 10003.

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