

## Noted UA Physicist

# J. E. McDonald Found Dead

Sheriff's deputies yesterday reported the finding of the body of Dr. James E. McDonald, 51, noted University of Arizona atmospheric physicist.

Sheriff Walden V. Burr said McDonald's body was discovered about 11 a.m. Sunday by Frank Flores, of 127 E. Lee St., who told detectives he and his children were hiking when they discovered the body near the bridge at Canyon Del Oro, next to Ina Road on Interstate 19.

The deputies said McDonald apparently had committed suicide. They found a .38-caliber revolver next to the body along with a note. "He apparently killed himself for personal reasons," detectives said.



McDonald

They said the body had been lying there "eight to ten hours" before it was discovered. He said investigators learned he left the Veterans Administration Hospital Sunday by taxi.

Tucson police records indicated McDonald was blinded when he shot himself in the head April 9 at his home at 3461 E. 2nd St. He was being treated at the hospital for visual problems. Police records said he also left a note at the time of the first shooting.

McDonald came to the UA in 1954 as the associate director of the school's Institute of Atmospheric Physics.

UA President Richard A. Harvill said of McDonald: "He had been very productive in the amount and quality of research, and he became well-known throughout the United States as a brilliant scholar. He was an exceptionally able teacher and he was well-liked by students."

McDONALD, James E., 51, of 3461 E. 2nd St., passed away June 13, 1971. Survived by his wife, Betsy Ann; daughters, Nancy Kay McDonald, Gail Ellen McDonald, and Jan Lorraine McDonald, all of Tucson, also Roslyn Louise McDonald, of Los Angeles, Calif.; sons, Lee Hunt McDonald, of Tucson and Kirk T. McDonald, of Pasadena, Calif. Memorial services will be held Thursday, June 17, 1971, 7:30 p.m., Unitarian Church, 4831 E. 2nd St. Private interment. In lieu of flowers, friends may contribute to Books for the Blind of Arizona, 2026 E. 5th St., Tucson, Ariz. Arrangements by Arizona Mortuary, Eastside Chapel, 4001 E. First St. (one block west of Swan Rd.)

McDonald was known worldwide for his theories on unidentified flying objects and also on the health effects of the proposed supersonic transport jet planes.

McDonald testified March 2, 1971, before a House transportation subcommittee in Washington, D.C., about possible environmental hazards of flying a large fleet of SSTs.

The altitude the planes would be flying, he said, would place them in the stratosphere, which he noted is about 100 times more sensitive to technological contamination than the lower regions where current aircraft cruise.

He said the supersonic aircraft could result in the reduction of ozone, which screens out the sun's ultraviolet radiation. This could, he said, increase the U.S. incidence of skin cancer by about 10,000 new cases a year.

He also was highly critical of the U.S. Air Force's "Condon Report," which linked the majority of UFO sightings to satellites, balloons, birds and other objects.

He told the House subcommittee that "the problem of UFO's is a very serious scientific problem." He also said "the correlation between UFO sightings and power failures is disturbing."

McDonald, in the early 1960s, formed the Committee Against Ringing Tucson with Titans. The group protested the selection of Titan intercontinental missile sites around Tucson.

McDonald received his doctorate from Iowa State and served with the U.S. Navy during World War II as an aerologist.

He was the author of "Physics of Cloud Modification" and served as a contributing editor of "The Glossary of Meteorology."

He is survived by his widow, Betsy; four daughters, Roslyn, Nancy, Gail and Jan, and two sons, Kirk and Lee.

A memorial service will be held Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 4831 E. 2nd St.

Funeral arrangements are being handled by the Arizona Mortuary East, 4001 E. 1st St.