

New book revives story of 1940s flying saucer

By Scott Fornek
Staff Writer

After years of studying deep space as an astronomer, astronaut and NASA official, Robert Allan Parker doesn't believe in flying saucers.

"My prejudice is that there is a natural explanation for everything," Parker said after the fifth-anniversary celebration for the Museum of Science and Industry's Henry Crown Space Center Monday. "I have never seen anything I did not understand or could not understand with a readily available explanation."

If the National Aeronautics and Space Administration bigwig, who flew on two space shuttle missions, doesn't believe in UFOs, that about settles it. Right?

Well, maybe.

Donald R. Schmitt and Kevin D. Randle don't share Parker's certainty.

They contend that the government is covering up a 1940s flying saucer crash in New Mexico that killed the three or four aliens aboard.

Schmitt and Randle were downtown Monday to promote *UFO Crash at Roswell*, a book they wrote about the UFO sighting, which the Army Air Corps labeled a flying saucer before calling it a downed weather balloon.

The two, who are affiliated with the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies, 2457 W. Peterson, said they talked to about 300 sources during three years of research.

"The only explanation we've been able to

come up with, with the available facts, is an extra-terrestrial spacecraft," Randle said.

In July, 1947, according to Randle and Schmitt, a rancher discovered an area three-fourths of a mile long by 200 to 300 feet wide littered with a strange substance near Roswell, N.M.

Three miles from the debris, investigators from the Roswell Army Air Field found the crash site, complete with "the classic flying saucer," Randle said.

"And at least three bodies," he said. Small—4 to 5 feet tall—with large heads, very thin, and hands with three long fingers, but no opposable thumb. They were yellow and black in color."

Randle said he and Schmitt have spoken to people who said they flew the bodies to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, then Wright Field, in Ohio, and people who performed the autopsies.

So why hasn't this all come out before?

Schmitt said the government covered up the crash for security reasons, and the cover-up continues to prevent general panic.

Back in more established scientific circles, NASA's Parker said he disputes popular accounts of UFOs, but he is not ruling out life on other planets.

"There are 100 billion stars in our galaxy, and probably 10¹¹ galaxies in the system," Parker said. So there are 10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 stars in the universe, he said.

"To think that we are the only star with any life around it is the ultimate conceit. There's got to be something out there."



Donald R. Schmitt



Kevin D. Randle

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