

Looking for unexplained things in the sky

SEGUIN, Texas (UPI) — Retired businessman Walter Andrus never thought much about alien beings or unexplained lights in the sky until he saw four dull silver objects speeding high over the Arizona desert almost 25 years ago.

Since then, Andrus has compiled reams of material on Unidentified Flying Objects and has converted part of his Seguin home into the headquarters of MUFON — The Mutual UFO Network — which claims 1,100 members in almost every country in the world.

"Our position is that earth has been visited from beings from space," Andrus said. "They're here all the time. They are treating us like guinea pigs or ants. They don't mean any harm. They're just observing."

MUFON membership is by invitation because "that's the only way to keep the crackpots out," said Andrus, a retired Motorola executive from Quincy, Ill.

Andrus' UFO sighting came Aug. 15, 1948, as he and his family walked down a Phoenix street. Four dull, silver objects resembling balloons moved across the desert in formation and at high speed. They disappeared, then reappeared before all four vanished.

"It was my only sighting, but it was the motivation," he said.

MUFON, he said, has members from all sectors of society, including doctors, lawyers, military personnel and even former employees of top-secret intelligence gathering organi-

zations such as the National Security Agency.

With his MUFON telephone hotline, Andrus is linked to a network of regional and state section MUFON leaders, who interview people who claim UFO sightings.

A full report on each interview is analyzed and classified. Most sightings have earthly explanations, but Andrus claims 10 to 20 percent of them "defy explanation."

The MUFON hotline net-

work and investigation team were established in 1969, when it appeared the U.S. Air Force was ready to end Project Bluebook and "go out of the UFO business," he said.

According to Andrus, the Freedom of Information Act has made it possible to receive more than 100,000 pages of UFO-related documents from Project Bluebook, the FBI, CIA, NSA, DIA and the departments of the Army, Navy and Coast Guard.

And he believes that many more documents exist, particularly in the NSA, which collects top-secret electronic data from foreign countries.

Some of the reports make for bizarre reading.

According to a series of reports from Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M., radar approach control equipment and scanner radar at Kirtland and the Albuquerque Airport experienced a "total blackout" from "an unknown cause" for more

than five hours on Aug. 13, 1980.

The report concluded that "the presence of hostile intelligence jamming cannot be ruled out," but went on to say "no evidence would suggest this (was the cause)."

Andrus said his own experience and these and other reports have convinced him that alien beings have visited earth, but further proof is necessary to educate the public.