

LIGHT, San Antonio, TX  
Aug. 8, 1986

# Canvassing the Stars

Mike Abrego paints  
what he believes  
in: And that's UFOs

By NANCY PERDUE  
Staff writer

If seeing is believing, Mike Abrego believes in UFOs, and he is painting images on canvas to make believers of his friends.

Abrego, a San Antonio International Airport maintenance worker, claims he saw an unidentified flying object one night 16 years ago in Port Lavaca.

The 52-year-old amateur artist said he began painting flying saucers and space creatures shortly after his experience.

"I'm crazy. I'm not the only one," Abrego said, "because millions of other people have seen them, too. Maybe I dreamed that I should start painting these sightings, or maybe they (UFO aliens) planted it in my mind."

Abrego said the UFO he saw appeared with a rumble that sounded like a fast-moving freight train. The green, saucer-shaped disc lit the sky for about 15 minutes, he said, adding that it quickly disappeared — without any extraterrestrials appearing.

His wife, Maimie, was not a witness, but she said she heard the noise that accompanied the reported sighting that made UFO an Abrego household word.

Abrego said he taught himself to paint his portrayals, many of which he gives away. His wife stores most of the others in boxes with UFO magazines and Abrego collectibles.

He gets ideas for his paintings from magazine or newspaper articles about alleged sightings.

Six years ago, Abrego joined Mutual UFO Network, a Seguin-based organization that investigates UFO

# LIVING TODAY



SEEING IS BELIEVING: Mike Abrego holds one of his paintings. He is surrounded by books and magazines on UFOs.

sightings.

Walter H. Andrus Jr., 65, international director of the network, said 1,500 people are members of the group, which he said is the world's largest UFO organization. He helped establish the network in 1969 while working in Quincy, Ill.

When he was transferred to Seguin in 1975, the UFO network headquarters also moved to Texas. The main purpose of the organization, Andrus said, is to investigate sightings.

"Eighty to 90 percent of the reports that are called in can be explained as something mundane," Andrus said, explaining the others still remain a mystery.

"The most exciting answer we could give is that they are extraterrestrials," Andrus said. "But we aren't sure."

Abrego said although he has seen only one of the mysterious objects, he has helped investigate several unexplained sightings by pilots and airport radar monitors.