

## PAGE TWO

# This writer has a bead on one UFO

Something very strange has been happening for years in the Hudson River Valley, just north of New York City. So strange, in fact, that Bob Pratt of suburban Lake Worth



**GLENN  
SINGER**  
PEOPLE

has written a book about the occurrences, which he calls "a true mystery."

Pratt has, for more than a dozen years, specialized in reporting on unidentified flying objects. As a writer for *The National Enquirer* in Lantana — and later as a free-lance journalist — he has traveled throughout North America, as well as Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Peru, Uruguay and the Philippines to investigate reports of UFO sightings and close encounters.

"I was very much a scoffer on the subject until my first UFO assignment in 1975," Pratt says. "But after a week of interviewing 60 or 70 people who'd had UFO sightings in Wisconsin and Minnesota, I became convinced something strange was going on."

Pratt soon became *The Enquirer's* expert on UFOs, and he usually kept a bag packed, not knowing where he would be heading next to report on a sighting. He estimates he has interviewed more than 1,400 people.

Pratt's book, *Night Siege: The Hudson Valley UFO sightings*, published by Ballantine, isn't based on his research, but rather on that of Philip Imbrogno and the dean of UFO researchers, J. Allen Hynek, who died last year.

"The book is about a nuts-and-bolts UFO that was triangular or boomerang-shaped and at least as large as a football field," Pratt says. It was first seen in the Hudson Valley on the last day of 1982, but most of the sightings came in 1983 and 1984.

Pratt says there have been more than three dozen sightings of what seems to be the same UFO, including a handful this year. Hundreds and hundreds of people have seen it, and some of their photos are included in the book.

"Skeptics and debunkers claim the object was nothing more than a hoax staged by some private pilots in small planes, flying in formation," Pratt says. "But small planes do not fly silently, cannot hover and cannot safely fly in formation in strong winds."

"The UFO was seen by very credible people — police officers, lawyers, doctors, engineers, scientists and pilots. Twice, it hovered over the Indian Point nuclear reactor, and one night the supervisors asked for military help and the security guards were ready to fire their weapons at it."

Unlike some reported UFO encounters, these did not involve abductions or the sighting of aliens. Says Pratt: "Perhaps they were less spectacular, but the frequency with which they occurred is unmatched anywhere in the world."

P.S.: If you're wondering why you don't see as many stories as you once did, blame Ronald Reagan.

"When Jimmy Carter was president, you could get a lot of information under the Freedom of Information Act," Pratt says.

"Under Reagan, the North American Aerospace Defense Command has put up all sorts of obstacles. There is almost no cooperation, and when they do cooperate, they want exorbitant fees for copies of reports."