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NEWARK VALLEY CE3

On the morning of April 24, 1964, Gary Wilcox, a 28-year-old Newark Valley, New York, dairy farmer, had an "eerie feeling that something was going to happen" as he drove his tractor up a hill on his property. It was 10 o'clock, and he was carrying a sack of manure which he intended to spread on a field. A shiny object on the inside edge of a nearby patch of woods caught his eye. At first he thought it might be a fuel tank from an airplane. Curious, he drove toward the trees, got off the tractor, and approached the object, which was egg-shaped, 20 feet long, 16 feet wide, and four feet high. It was hovering two feet above the ground and making a sound like a car idling.

He touched it and felt a metal harder than aluminum. There were no visible seams or rivets. Suddenly two figures appeared from under the object. Wilcox did

not see them come out of the ship. The two figures, four feet tall and two feet wide, were dressed in seamless "silvery garments like the same material as the ship," he recalled a few days later (Ellis, n.d.). The suits covered their entire bodies. Each carried a tray approximately one foot square. The trays were "filled with alfalfa, with roots, soil, leaves and brush" (Schwarz, 1983).

Wilcox heard an eerie-sounding voice say, "Do not be alarmed. We have talked to people before." He told Tioga County Sheriff's Officer George E. Williams:

One of the men was standing in rear of the other. I could see that both of these four-foot-high men had arms and legs the same as us. I couldn't tell whether they had feet or hands the same as us. They were quite broad for such short persons; they seemed to just go straight down. They had no face, such as eyes, ears, nose, mouth, or hair. The voice seemed to be coming from about them rather than from either of them. There was a voice, but I don't know where it was coming from insofar as their body was concerned [*ibid.*].

One of the figures stood near one end of the ship. The closer one, from whom the voice emanated (apparently from its chest area), approached to within five to 10 feet of the witness. "We are from what you know as the planet Mars," the voice said. The man asked Wilcox what he was doing. When he said he was spreading manure, he wanted to know what the substance was, where it came from, and what it did. The conversation about manure continued, and the Martian asked if they could have some. Wilcox offered to go to the barn, but then the visitor remarked that he and his companion were traveling the hemisphere and could come to the earth only every two years. "Their conversation seemed to shift rapidly from one subject to another," Wilcox recalled when interviewed by Officer Williams.

They mentioned that we should not send people out into space. They said that they have watched us. They said that we could not survive there at Mars and that they could not survive here on earth. They also said that they got stuff out of the air to live on and that they were here to see what they could learn about our organic

material because they felt that the earth and Mars, plus some other planets, might be changed around. They said there was a difference in the gravity pull and that there was a change taking place. They said they did not fly near cities because the fumes or stuff in the air affected the flight of their ship. That they tried to stay where the air was pure. They seemed to know more about planets, air, and all that kind of stuff, but they did not seem to know much about our agriculture. They also said that our people that had entered into space would not survive over a year.

There were many Martian ships on the current expedition, they said. They preferred to land in daylight because at night their ships emit a glow which causes them to be easily visible. The ship they were on ought to have been visible for no more than 100 feet, and they were surprised that Wilcox had seen them.

They also asserted that within a year astronauts John Glenn and Virgil (Gus) Grissom and two Soviet cosmonauts would die.

After two hours the conversation ended abruptly. As he turned to leave, the Martian remarked that Wilcox should not tell anyone about his experience "for your own good." This suggestion was not uttered in a threatening tone. The figures entered the ship from the bottom. An idling sound emanated from the UFO. After a minute it took off in a horizontal direction and vanished at a distance of 100 to 150 feet.

On the ground where the occupants had stood were one- to two-inch-square depressions about one-sixteenth of an inch deep. A thin, red, jellylike substance, eight inches in diameter, was also apparent. Wilcox tried to pick it up, but he could not hold on to it. It left no stains on his hands. A foot behind the jelly, a pile of leaves and dead grass had been blown together into a small pile nine inches around (Webb, 1965).

All during the conversation Wilcox suspected that someone was playing a prank on him. It occurred to him that perhaps the encounter was set up by *Candid Camera*, a popular television show on which tricks were played on unsuspecting victims. The incident

had not been frightening, just peculiar. He told Officer Williams:

After they left, I drove back home and called my mother on the phone. I told her the highlights of seeing this object. [Wilcox's mother later confirmed receiving such a call.] I then milked the cows and did some other chores. I went back up the hill with a load of manure about 4:30 P.M. and put a bag of fertilizer on the spreader. When I got back to the top of the hill where the ship had been, I dropped the bag of fertilizer to the ground and left it. The next morning, I went back up the hill and noticed that the bag of fertilizer was gone.

Aftermath. Over the next few days Wilcox told his story to family members and friends, and it quickly circulated through the largely rural county. As it happened, Rose Marie Ellis and Dorothy Livingston, two members of the Washington-based National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP), worked with Floyd Wilcox, the younger of Gary's two brothers. Floyd told them about Gary's experience and expressed the view that if his brother said it happened, then it "must be true." He arranged for the two women to meet with Gary, who provided them with a short statement about the encounter (Ellis, *op. cit.*).

On April 28 Priscilla Baldwin, a neighbor who had known Gary Wilcox most of his life, interviewed him at length, then returned the next day to examine the landing site. Rain had washed away whatever traces there may have been. On returning home, Baldwin called Sheriff Paul Taylor, who said this was the first he had heard of the incident. He promised to investigate as soon as his schedule permitted. She called again the following morning, and an hour and a half later George Williams drove up from the sheriff's office in Owego. Together they went to Wilcox's farm and spoke with the farmer, who said he did not wish to interrupt his chores. He added, however, that Baldwin was welcome to show the deputy where the UFO had landed. The two looked over the site, then met again with Wilcox, who promised to go to Owego early that evening to make a statement.

In his official report Williams wrote:

By the late 1960s the paradoxical situation of sensible witnesses reporting nonsensical communications demanded some kind of explanation. Some ufologists suggested that UFO intelligences, wishing to hide their true identity from us, confuse us, or even cause those reporting them to be discredited, by telling ridiculous lies about themselves. Certainly no rational observer could believe in visitors from Mars or, as points of origin alleged in later abduction-CE3s, "another galaxy, the fourth solar system, or 163,000 light years away" (Bullard, 1987).

Two final points:

Several hours after Wilcox's purported encounter, one of the most famous CE3s of all time took place in New Mexico (see **Socorro CE2/CE3**). It attracted international press attention, whereas Wilcox's story was treated only in local newspapers. Wilcox did not hear of the Socorro event until a week later, when his father showed him a clipping about it (Schwarz, *op. cit.*).

Coincidentally or otherwise, two other CE3 claimants of the period were rural men living alone and apart from their wives (see **Brooksville Incident** and **Eagle River CE3**). In each of the two instances, aspects of the case caused even UFO sympathizers to question its authenticity. One of the principals, John Reeves of Brooksville, Florida, went on to become a self-professed interplanetary traveler and the possessor of Venusian artifacts. Gary Wilcox, on the other hand, left the farm and became a mechanic.

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NEW ZEALAND FILM

The Argosy cargo plane left Blenheim, New Zealand, and flew uneventfully along the Kaikoura (east) coast of New Zealand's South Island on its way to Christchurch just after midnight on December 21, 1978. Then at around 12:30 A.M., white lights "similar to landing lights," in the words of Capt. John B. Randle, appeared in the sky above the mouth of the Clarence River. Randle contacted Wellington Air Traffic Control, which confirmed that it had five unidentified, oscillating objects on its scope. The lights were also