

STAGE ONE:



WHEELER 2:

Titicus
Reservoir
1955



First, a red globe splashes in the
lake water, and later a very odd
looking light form cruises at a distance.

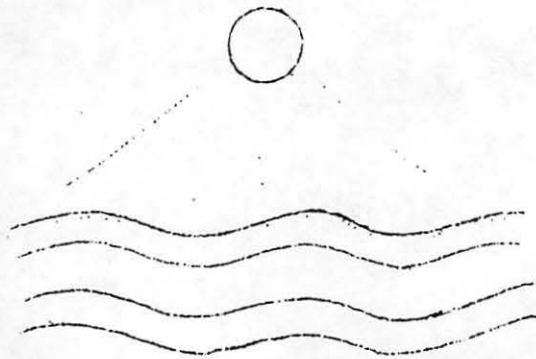
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THE TITICUS RESERVOIR INCIDENT

In the November-December, 1955, issue of the British Flying Saucer Review there appeared an account of a peculiar incident which befell Frank and Eileen Bordes as they were fishing on Titicus Reservoir, near Purdy's in northern Westchester County, New York, in the early morning hours of September 16-17, 1955. This unique sighting has been referred to subsequently (not very accurately) in the Review of July-August 1957 and in Arthur Constance's new book, The Inexplicable Sky. At the recent Eastern Science Fiction Convention, the editors were fortunate in meeting Mrs. Bordes, and subsequently her husband Frank, who is called "Hawkie" (in tribute to his sharp eyesight, it may be noted). From them we have received the following account, which in a few points corrects that published by Flying Saucer Review.

The couple arrived at the lake, to troll for bass, shortly before midnight. At about 1:30 they were in a small cove on the north side of the lake, which is about three miles in length with the long axis east to west. Mrs. Bordes was rowing while her husband was busy untangling fishlines. For the first time in their experience they had not taken a single fish. It was pitch dark; there was no moon, and the stars were hidden by overcast. At this moment Mrs. Bordes saw a strange object rise out of the water on the shoreward side of the boat, no more than a few yards away. It was a rose-colored, luminous sphere - at least, it appeared spherical as seen from the top - about the size of a basketball, with darker areas on it. It rose about a foot into the air and then fell back into the water with a resounding splash. "Hawkie," standing in the stern with his back to it, thought a big fish had jumped.

Mrs. Bordes is a more than usually intrepid young woman, who enjoys hunting and fishing at night, but this sight was so unnatural that it alarmed her; she took up the oars and rowed straight for shore. Her husband, still intent on his task, ex-
 plained, until suddenly he, too, caught sight of something. "Quiet!" he whispered. "I think I see a phenomenon!" Mrs. Bordes, petrified, then saw the "phenomenon" too.



Some two hundred yards to the southeast of them, toward the center of the lake, and apparently floating on it, glowed two parallel lights, like bluish-white fluorescent tubes. They were of a sinuous wavy shape (see drawing), but rigid; they did not undulate. Their length seemed to be about twice that of a 15-foot rowboat. Above these "serpents" was a round light of lesser brilliance, more yellowish-white in hue. Considerably smaller than a full moon, and dimmer than a car headlight, it appeared the size of a basketball or "pawbroker's ball" at a distance of a few hundred feet. It was

not hovering in mid-air, but was apparently fixed to a solid body, which was only intermittently visible as a dim grey shape against the blackness (dotted lines in sketch). As they watched, they perceived that this round light was regularly eclipsed from one side and then opened up again, giving a very definite impression of a rotating spotlight; and although it projected no visible beam, they could see each other's face when the light was shining toward them.

Hawkie, who felt more curiosity than fear, wished to row closer to the object; but his wife, in near-hysterical fright, threatened to jump overboard if he did any such thing. He therefore put her ashore, and started off in the boat to investigate by himself. As he attempted to approach the lights, without any sound they began

moving off to his left (eastward). Hawkie emphasizes that they were moving into a rather stiff breeze at a rate much too fast for any rowboat. (No boats other than rowboats are permitted on the reservoir.) Then they stopped, and came toward him slightly. At this point he returned to the north shore to pick up his wife, and they rowed westward to the boat mooring, nearly a mile. During the whole return trip, the object appeared to be following them at roughly its original distance; the boat was illuminated the whole time by the light, and Mrs. Bordes was weeping with distress. When they left the boat and drove off in their car, the luminous object was still visible on the water, though by now it was moving off to the east again. These motions were so definite, according to Mr. Bordes, that any optical phenomenon of the mirage order seemed to be out of the question. Besides, no natural source of such brilliant light could be found.

Mr. Bordes made inquiries the next day of a local Water Supply official, a friend of his; but he could not uncover any other observations of the strange object. Although Mrs. Bordes told no one but one of her brothers about her frightening experience, within three days it had come to the ears of Bruce Lansbury, at that time U.S. representative of Flying Saucer Review, in New York City, who told CSI about it immediately.

A remarkable aspect of this case is that Mrs. Bordes, who normally has no "psychic" tendencies or interests whatever, had experienced a strong sense of oppression and anxiety that night from the moment of their arrival at the reservoir. "I felt I wasn't wanted there," she says. She has never had a similar feeling before or since. In contrast, Mr. Bordes felt no such premonitions, and was not upset by the phenomenon as was his wife. He has been to Titicus several times since then, but she refuses to fish there now, even by day.

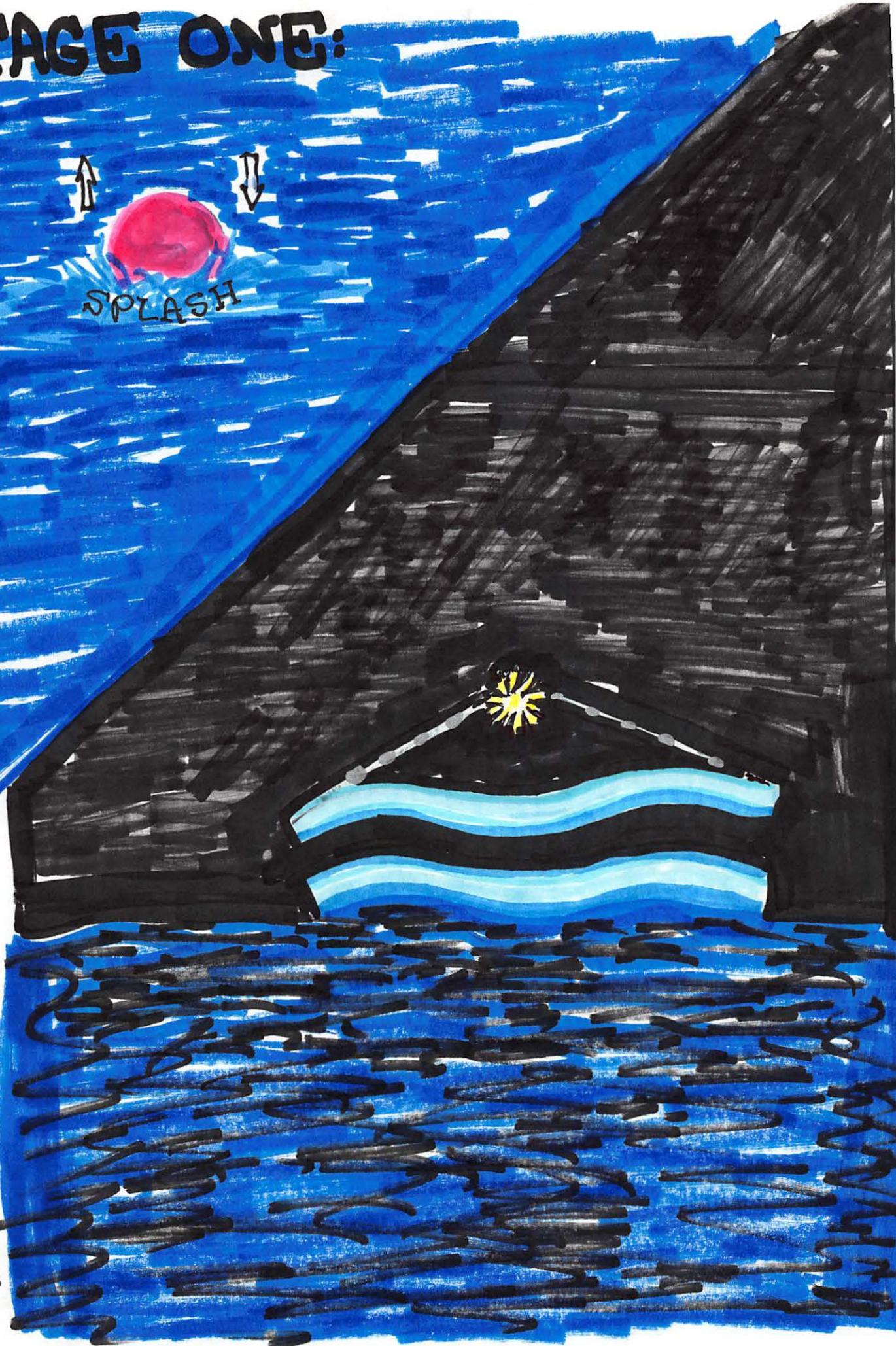
#20 CSI-NY Newsletter

STAGE ONE:



MEASURE 2:

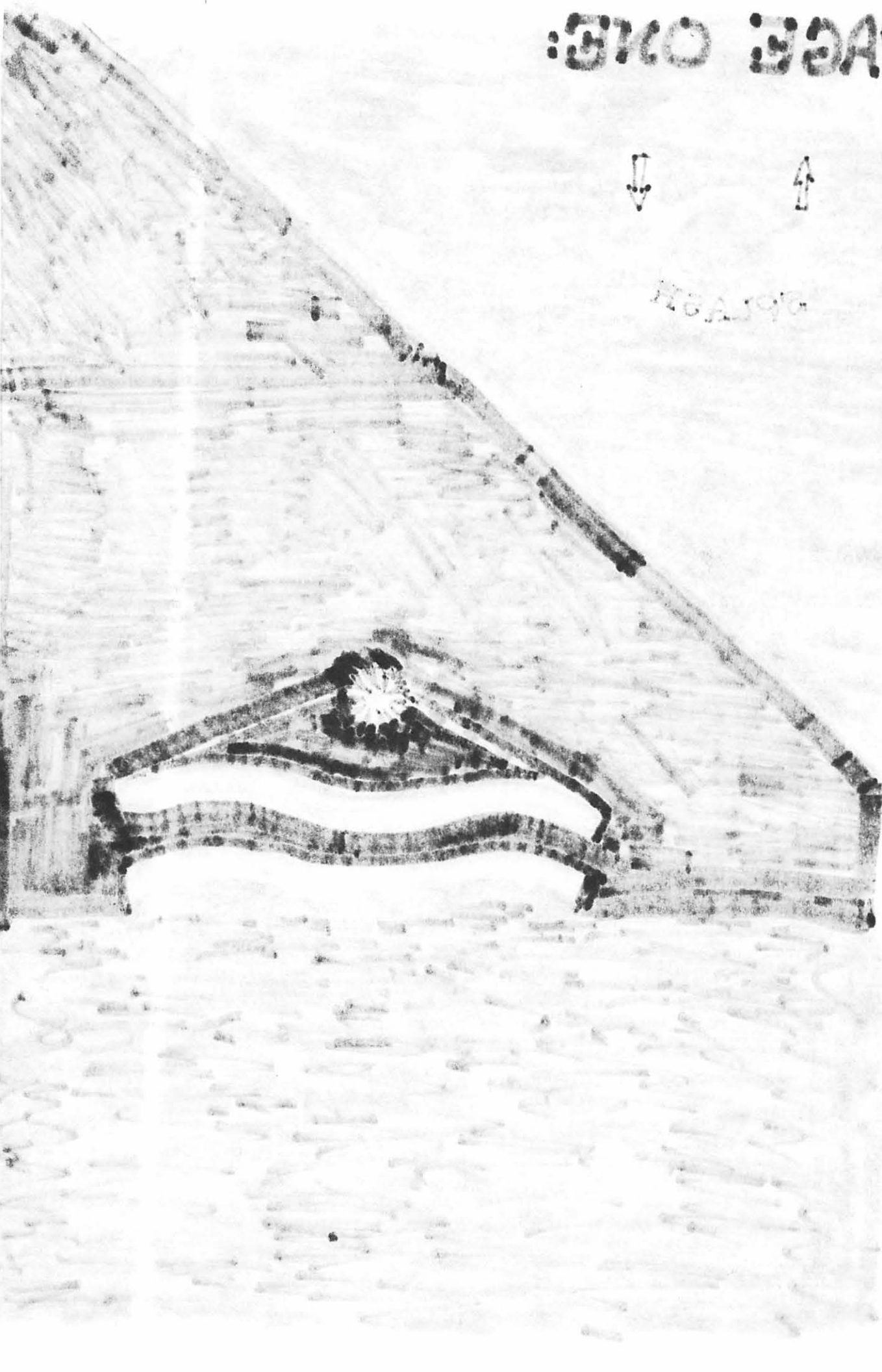
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STAGE ONE



HEAVY



STAGE TWO

STAGE THREE