

systematic. I am confident that all the answers already exist buried within the available material but we must ferret them out, digest them, and reduce them to some tangible form. A reflective phenomenon cannot be dealt with in the same way that our military intelligence teams determined the nature and origin of the German rockets of World War II.

If it is reflective, then we may be able to learn to exercise some control over it. There is the very chilling possibility that someone on this planet has already learned to do so.

NOTES

Name withheld. A full report on this case will be published at a later date.

² Old cars that look like new keep turning up in my investigations. See FSR, July/August 1968, *West Virginia's Enigmatic "Bird"*.

References to these "details" are not meant to tease the reader. A great deal of explanation is necessary for each of these details, and it may be unwise to publish some of them since they provide one method for testing and comparing contact claims. Some of these details are so incredible that no one could accidentally make them up.

⁴ Example: Playa del Rey, California, November 6, 1957. See FSR first special issue *THE HUMANOIDS*, pages 56-57. Also the Gary Wilcox case of April 24, 1964, Newark Valley, N.Y.

⁵ Alluded to, for example, by Charles Bowen in *Few and Far Between* in FSR special issue No. 1, *THE HUMANOIDS*, October 1966. Mr. Bowen told how physicist Dr. Stannard, of University College, London, writing in the scientific journal *Nature*, had postulated the existence of such a parallel universe with time running in the reverse direction.

⁶ Dell's *Flying Saucers—UFO Reports*, No. 3, October 1967, page 23.

⁷ This task is now under way in the United States. See the story of the Glendale, California, contact claim, for further discussion of the "prophecy factor"—FSR special issue No. 2, *BEYOND CONDON*. . . .

⁸ See *The Problem of Non-Contact* by Aimé Michel in FSR's *THE HUMANOIDS*, page 67.

⁹ See *Is the EM Effect a Myth?* by John A. Keel, FSR for November/December 1968.

MUSHROOMS AT ALLEGED UFO LANDING SITES

Strange phenomena reported from Argentina

John Livingstone-Learmonth

Our contributor is an English student travelling in South America before returning to enter University in October this year.

(He was in S. America with the Millington-Drake Expedition)

At the end of November, I was travelling in the south of the province of Buenos Aires and was staying three days in the town of Tandil (pop. c. 80,000) before moving on south to the town of Necochea. On my second day—November 27—I came across this article in the local paper *El Eco de Tandil*. My Spanish is fairly weak, but I will try to give you the gist of the article.

Some enormous fungi had appeared on a lonely farm some 10 kilometres from Tandil during the night of November 25-26. They were visible next to a scorched circle of ground and were first seen by Juan Tami, one of the staff, on the morning of November 26.

The appearance of the mushrooms, within a circle of 7 or 8 metres, was sudden and prolific. There were many of them (I found out that there were 14 altogether), the largest being the size of a football. The grass inside the circle seemed to be singed, or at least with

less humidity than the grass outside.

Inside the circle, a cow bone about 50 cm. long and still fresh, showed signs of having been burnt, as did a branch of a tree. . . . Many attribute the rare phenomenon to the presence of an unidentified object.

Don Juan Tami, who looks after the Beritaco farm, expressed his surprise about the appearance not only of the mushrooms but also of the area with visible scorch marks. He said that in almost 15 years on the farm, he has never seen a single mushroom, and that the area should undergo such an alarming change in the space of a few hours was amazing. . . . His wife and two daughters confirmed that on rising yesterday they found the mushrooms about 20 metres away from the lonely house.

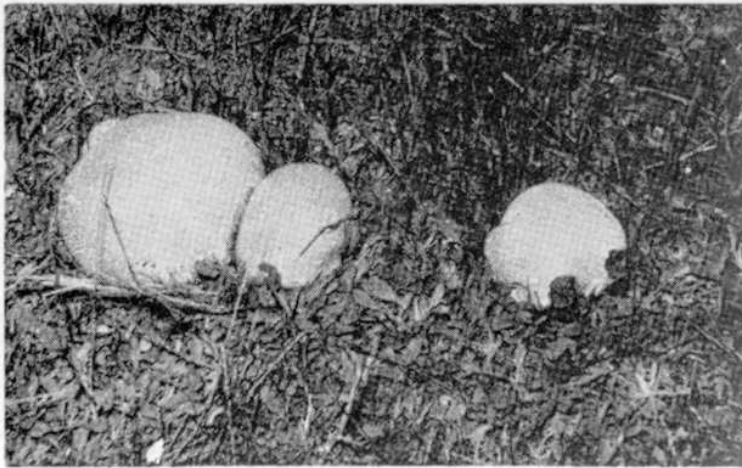
The case of the mushrooms could be attributed to natural causes, and this has already been the subject of scientific study after similar occurrences in Rosario and Necochea.

(Tandil lies about 37.3S., 59.2W.)

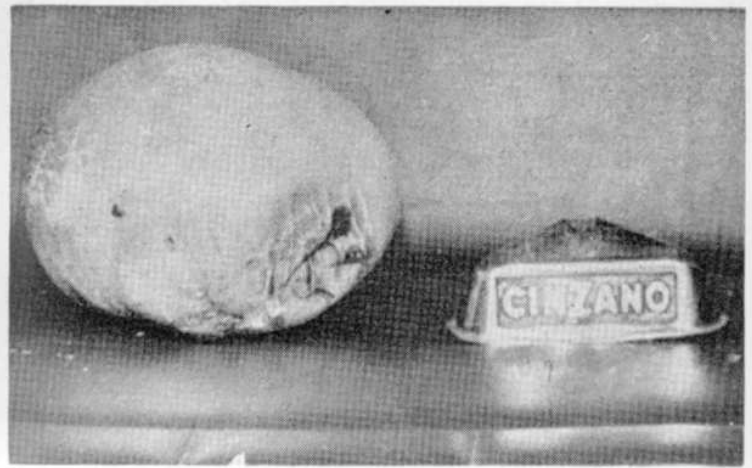
But what is really unusual for the local dwellers is the burnt cow bone and the branch, the stem of which showed obvious signs of having been in contact with the fire.

Now from the *Eco* of the following day: "The characteristics of the area are as follows: (a) there is an outline in the grass, of ovoid shape, whose larger furrow is of some 10 metres. In this outline the grass does not grow, as if the earth had been scorched. Around the mentioned outline, the mushrooms have grown and nothing of a similar dimension has ever been seen by the farm's inhabitants; (b) the mushrooms "sweat" when placed in the sun; (c) the partly-burnt cow bone and the branch lay roughly in the centre of the oval; (d) the mushrooms were continuing to grow, even in a few hours.

Some neighbours declared that they had seen some strange lights in previous nights without being able to define their nature or origin.



Tandil mushrooms on location



Tandil mushroom and ashtray

The Tami family had seen no unusual phenomena.

I was not able to glean much more information, as I myself was busy that day, but I visited the local newspaper and received the two photographs; they were not able to tell me much more than what I have already said. I saw one of the mushrooms that the newspaper had in its office window—I think it is the one that is beside the ashtray in the photograph—and it was a creamy sort of colour, with yellowish area around the bottom; it was also quite solid as far as I can remember. The weather was fine while I was in Tandil, and the night when these mushrooms appeared was warm and dry.

I was lucky enough to be continuing on to Necochea anyway, and when I was there I again visited the local newspaper, but as the mushrooms there had appeared two weeks before, they didn't tell me very much. All I discovered was that they were found near the flying club aerodrome, in the shape of a semi-circle (as the third photo shows) and that there was also this strange burnt-out area of grass within the circle of the mushrooms. These mushrooms had been taken off to the University at La Plata—down the coast from Buenos Aires—for examination.

The latest discovery of the mushrooms was made by a civilian air pilot, who, as he was landing his light aircraft on a runway at the flying club, noticed an enormous whitish circle nearby.

That is all I am able to tell you: admittedly I am probably not view-

ing the matter with an open mind, on account of my interest in UFOs, but these enormous mushrooms seem to be a curious phenomena that have appeared in three different places within a short space of time. The burnt or scorched areas and the shape of a semi-circle in Necochea are also interesting and unusual. In Tandil, the mushrooms were in no special formation, while I am afraid I know nothing about those in the Rosario case.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Our friend Antonio Ribera sent us a Spanish newspaper account of

the Necochea incident. Necochea lies on the coast half-way between Buenos Aires and Mar del Plata. The account reads:

"A gardener who was called to look at the phenomenon was so astonished that he went off to get various members of the local Commission for the Investigation of Unidentified Flying Objects who—with a number of military men—returned with him to the spot.

"It is understood that they found the soil totally burnt over an area 6 metres in diameter. Within this circular area there were eight mushrooms, some of them as much as 81 cms. (32 inches) wide and 15 cms. high.



Necochea runway and grotesque "fairy ring"