

Search for Missing Bones

Peking Man, Mystery Woman

New York

A mystery woman who claims she has the bones of the prehistoric Peking Man has again made contact with a businessman offering \$500,000 for the priceless fossils; it was learned yesterday.

Christopher Janus of Chicago, a millionaire investment broker who once traded a load of ball bearings for Hitler's five ton Mercedes-Benz, said the woman contacted him four weeks ago through a man identifying himself as her attorney and demanding a letter from China guaranteeing there would be no legal claim against her.

A prominent anthropologist said a photograph supplied by the mystery woman shows a skull that strongly resembles the Peking Man.

The Peking Man fossils disappeared in 1941 as Japanese troops moved into China and their whereabouts have become an international issue involving the United States, China, Japan and Taiwan.

The fossils, believed to be those of a human-like creature that lived more than half a million years ago, were unearthed in a limestone quarry near Peking in the late 1920s. Parts of 40 skeletons were recovered.

The Chinese have charged



INVESTMENT BROKER CHRISTOPHER JANUS He inspected a photo of the bones sent to him; a painting of Peking Man was behind him.

that the United States spirited the fossils out of the country.

The mystery woman first contacted Janus in 1972 after he returned from a visit to China and offered a \$5000 reward for information leading to the recovery of the fossils.

Janus said the woman arranged to meet him on the observation deck of the Em-

pire State Building. She showed him a photograph of a footlocker full of bones before becoming alarmed at a man with a camera and fleeing from the building. He has not seen her since.

Janus said the woman was in her late 30s, dark and attractive with a slight German accent. She told him she was the widow of a Marine stationed in China at

the outbreak of the war. Among his war relics, she said, was a footlocker containing fossil bones he claimed were very valuable.

Janus later reestablished contact with the woman through a classified ad in the New York Times. She refused to meet with him again, but agreed to supply the photograph of the bones, which include a skull.

The photograph was examined by several experts, including Harry L. Shapiro, chairman emeritus of the department of anthropology at the American Museum of Natural History here.

"That skull is very, very interesting," Shapiro said in an interview. "I won't make any outright identification, but I will say it might well be worth pursuing," said Shapiro.

A man identifying himself as Harrison Seng who said he was an attorney for the woman telephoned Janus to demand a letter from the State Department saying the cited for possessing the fossils.

Janus said the State Department provided a letter.

Last month, however, Seng telephoned Janus again to demand a written guarantee from China that it would make no legal claim against the woman. According to Janus, Chinese officials have balked at providing such a guarantee.

"We appear to be at a stalemate," said Janus, whose reward for information leading to the recovery of the fossils now stands at \$150,000. In addition, he said, he has available \$500,000 for the actual bones, which he would turn over to the State Department.

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