A Search Dropped
For Peking Man

Los Angeles

Financier Christopher Janus said he is giving up his foot-and-helicopter search for the missing bones of the Peking Man and is leaving the hunt to a young soldier who thinks he may have stumbled on the fossils 13 years ago.

"I'm disappointed with our search results so far," Janus said Saturday, "but I'm determined to find the fossils." (25 Jun)

Aided by two men who said they came upon the ancient remains while hiking in the hills north of San Diego in 1962, Janus has been searching the area for the cabin the two said held a footlocker with the bones inside.

Donald Githens, 23, an Army communications specialist from Ft. Bragg, N.C., and Jose Salicido, Githens' 30-year-old uncle who now lives in Hawaii, spent several days last week searching with Janus for the cabin they were in 13 years ago.

The ancient bones of a human-like creature who lived more than a half a million years ago were unearthed in a limestone quarry near Peking in the late 1920s. U.S. marines retreating from the advance of Japanese troops in 1941 put the bones in footlockers. They have not been found since.

"This guy (Githens) saw a marine footlocker and he found pictures of China that look authentic," Janus said. "He saw bones, but that doesn't mean they're the Peking Man bones. They could be dog bones or cattle bones.

"But the circumstantial evidence is rather convincing. I think the chances are very good that it is the Peking Man."

Githens, who was 10 when he saw the bones, said he thought little of the discovery until he read earlier this year that Janus was trying to recover the Peking Man fossils and was offering a $150,000 reward to anyone who could help.

United Press

In 1962 Githens would have been 10 and Salicido 17 years old.

*The wording of the story is ambiguous. It is not clear whether the writer is paraphrasing Janus saying what Githens told him, or Githens' own statement. There is no indication in this story that Salicido or Githens were seen or interviewed by reporters.