

as a human being than anything so far discovered, and yet more human than any form of ape. It can therefore, be regarded as something in between man and ape, or in other words, the missing link.

It is estimated that the age of this skull is between 750,000 and 1,000,000 years old. It was found embedded in a limestone formation in what was once a cave. It can be assumed that the remains of this creature lying in the cave in due course, became covered in dust and sand, and that through the ages lime dripped on to this deposit from the roof of the cave, and finally turning it into limestone. Eventually the roof of the cave collapsed and fell in on top of the limestone deposit, burying it for centuries until now Dr. Broom with his assistants have unearthed this remarkable store of evidence of man's early link with lower creatures. It is yet unknown what further wealth of evidence and knowledge may be retrieved from this area and other parts of South Africa, and it has become of such interest to the scientific world that a party of scientists from America are travelling out to South Africa to assist in the discoveries.

The series of film shots could open up with Roll No. 1 (Already sent in parcel with story "Closing of Baragwaneth Military T.B. Hospital") showing general view of the old demolished caves and Dr. Broom and his assistant, Mr. J.T. Robinson, inspecting the deposits with a cut in, of closer view and different angle of the inspection, followed by the scene with the native hammer boy at work, where the famous skull was discovered and Dr. Broom giving instructions. Followed by the shot of a portion of an ape's skull embedded in the limestone with close up of same. (cut in.) This could be dissolved to an exterior view of the Transvaal Museum, Pretoria, the headquarters of Dr. Broom in which the work of studying and assembling the discoveries is undertaken. (Roll No 3, shots 5 or 6.) Dissolve - to Dr. Broom in his store-room amid numerous specimens of rock cuttings and fossils. (Roll No.2, last shot.) Followed by Dr. Broom walking from a bench to his table where he commences work on the famous Sterkfontein Woman's skull, known as Mrs. Ples, short for Plesianthropus transvaalensis Broom - which is the scientific name. (Roll No. 2 First shot.) The demonstrations could then be shown where Dr. Broom exhibits the open skull interior illustrating the difference of the brain cavity between the skull of an ape, Mrs. Ples, and that of a man, or human skull; followed by the demonstration of measurements between the distance apart of the eye-sockets as observed on the skull of an ape, Mrs. Ples, and that of a human, or modern man. (Roll No. 2) A close-up of the skull of Mrs. Ples could be shown. Then Dr. Broom could be seen making his sketch of the profile of Mrs. Ples as he visualizes it would appear in real life, based on measurements and data obtained from the skull. (Roll No.2) This could be dissolved to the full face sketch of Mrs. Ples. (Made by Mr. Robinson, M.Sc., the Doctor's assistant) (Roll No. 3, Shot 1, 2 or 3.)

Following on this could be the upward pan shot of the "Tree of Evolution of Man" which is constructed on Dr. Broom's

theory that man and ape evolved from a common ancestor, but that the apes as we know them today branched off separately, whereas man developed along a different line. The type of apes from which we directly descended are now extinct. The progress of this evolution may be traced in the picture until the final stages of man may be seen on the top left corner, and the development of present day apes appear on the right, with the branch off, lower down the tree. (Roll No. 3, shot 4.)

The story can close with the inference:- "So let's be kind to our cousins", showing a man at the Johannesburg Zoo affectionately greeting a caged chimpanzee who in turn is obviously pleased to see him. There is a series of petting, kissing and shaking of hands. A second chimp is also shown. He puts up his bottom to be patted.. (Roll No. 3.) Pick best shots. P.S. The man in the Zoo shots is Mr. Lamprecht, one of the keepers who is regarded very affectionately by the chimps.

H. Duncan Abraham

Note.

The different skulls may be recognised in the shots of the demonstration by their size, the skull of the ape is the smallest and I think $\frac{1}{2}$ is on the left, Mrs Ples is in the centre and the human skull is the largest and situated on the right, that is to say on Dr Broom's right who is facing the camera.

You will notice by one of the press cuttings that at one stage Dr Broom was banned from working at Sterkfontein by the foolishness of the Historical Monuments Commission, but this matter was quickly settled and Dr Broom was duly permitted to continue his reseach work at the caves.

M.

P.S. Attached are copies of an article written by Mr J.T. Robinson M.Sc. Dr Broom's assistant which may be useful in compiling the running commentary.

M.

Suggested title
"The Missing Link"
M.

H. DUNCAN ABRAHAM, ²

P.O. Box 3113, Johannesburg, S. Africa.

Serial No. ABR 12.

DOPE SHEET.

Date 6th June, 1947.

Story STERKFONTAIN WOMAN'S SKULL.

Cameraman H. Duncan Abraham.

Length 490 ^{total}
of which 120 already
sent

Location Sterkfontein, Pretoria + Johannesburg.

Also covered by _____

Roll Number

Footage

SUMMARY OF STORY.

The question of mans' evolution, his relationship to the ape, and the so called missing link, which remained missing! has for a long time been a source of controversy between scientists, and a subject of interest among laymen. But the recent discovery by Dr. Robert Broom, of the Sterkfontein Woman's skull appears to be the long sort-after missing link between man and beast, and is therefore probably the most important discovery of its kind yet made.

The story shows Dr. Broom at Sterkfontein caves at the site of the discovery, at work on the skull in the Transvaal Museum, and demonstrating the link between man and ape. The tree of mans' evolution is shown and also our cousins the chimpanzee at the Zoo.

STORY.

The actual origin of man and the question of whether there ever existed a link between man and ape has always been a matter for debate. Science has ~~always~~ brought forth many interesting and important discoveries in the form of fossilized skulls of ancient and primitive man and beast, but both man and beast have remained distinct and apart. The actual link between the two evaded discovery, and consequently the doubt remained in the minds of many as to the truth of man having evolved from a common ancestor with the ape. Some years ago Dr. Robert Broom, Professional Officer of Vertebrate Paleontology and Physical Anthropology of the Transvaal Museum, Pretoria, and one of the world's leading scientists in his line, made the startling discovery of the Sterkfontein Man in the form of fossilized remains of portion of a skull embedded in the limestone of the Sterkfontein caves. Dr. Broom was of the opinion he had discovered the remains of the missing link, and his discovery became world famous, but so incomplete were the remains that a good deal of guess-work had to be employed in re-constructing the skull which still left an element of doubt as to the full significance of the discovery. Recently, however, Dr. Broom made another discovery at Sterkfontein caves, but this time the skull discovered was almost complete and in such a good state of preservation that it was possible to determine with all reasonable accuracy that this skull, which is that of a female, belonged to a creature more primitive,

6-252090

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SHOTS

1. (Already sent with Baragwaneth Hospital series.)

View of portion of old Sterkfontein Caves, the site where Dr. Broom made his outstanding discoveries. This site consists of old caves, the roof or overhead portion of which, has fallen in, creating a sort of open ravine. D

Dr. Broom with his assistant, Mr. J.T. Robinson, is seen walking along a ledge of rock and examining the formations.

Clearer view of Dr. Broom examining fossilized bones appearing in the rocks.

At the actual spot where the famous skull was discovered. A native is seen cutting into the stone with a hammer and drill, while Dr. Broom watches and gives instructions.

Portion of the fossilized skull of an ape is seen embedded in rock, and Dr. Broom points it out.

C.U. (cut in) of same skull.

2. Shots taken in Dr. Broom's work rooms at the Transvaal Museum, Pretoria.

Dr. Broom busy assembling the various parts of the now famous Sterkfontein Woman's Skull, ~~the~~ which he recently discovered, the type scientifically named *Plesianthropus transvaalensis* Broom, but for short nicknames "Mrs. Ples".

Dr. Broom demonstrates the difference in size of the brain cavity between the skull of an ape, Mrs. Ples, and that of a man. (a native.) The Dr. holds up each skull momentarily, in turn, showing the brain cavities.

Dr. Broom makes another demonstration. This time relating to the distance apart of the eyes in the skulls of the ape, Mrs. Ples and the man. He does this by means of a compass and measuring the distance apart of the eye sockets on the different skulls and showing the comparison.

Dr. Broom making a profile sketch of Mrs. Ples as she would appear in real life, this is based on details obtained from the skull.

In his storeroom Dr. Broom is seen amid a quantity of stones and fossils brought in for examination.

Roll No. Shot

- 3. 1. C.U. of full face sketch of Mrs. Ples made by Mr. Robinson (Dr. Broom's assistant.) This shot is repeated owing to it being held unsteadily.
- 2. As above, repeated this shot, and one above, taken in strong sunlight.
- 3. Above repeated in shade. Use whichever is best. (Please advise whether bright sunlight or shade are best for this type of subject for future reference.)
- 4. Slow upward pan of tree of evolution designed by Dr. Broom and portraying his theory of mans' evolution, and largely based on his discoveries at Sterkfontein, and showing mans' relationship to the Ape.

5and 6. Exterior views of Transvaal Museum Pretoria, which is Dr. Brooms headquarters and where the technical work of the discoveries are carried out.

7. And all following shots.

Show one of our closests living ape relatives, the Chimpanzee. Two specimens appear in these shots taken at the Johannesburg Zoo. The inference being that we should be kind to our cousins.

The shots are of two Chimpanzees at the Zoo, and depicts considerable friendship between the man and the Chimp. They shake hands and kiss etc. Choose best shots.

H. D. Abraham