

# Trip souvenirs may be ancient Peruvian artifacts

By **KAREN SMITH**  
*The Champion*

What Kathy and Steve Bonin first thought were token souvenirs actual-

ly may be Peruvian artifacts dating back thousands of years.

The Main Street East couple, who went to Peru to adopt a child, pur-

chased a jar, bottle and some shells for \$10 (U.S.) from a poverty-stricken woman in 1992.

"She told me in Spanish that she dug them up in her backyard," Mrs. Bonin, 32, said. "First of all I said 'no way', because I was afraid to bring them out of the country."

But she changed her mind and decided to buy them after Peruvians with whom the couple was staying assured her that she would have no problem, Mrs. Bonin said.

Later, while doing research on the country where her adopted-daughter Sofia was born, Mrs. Bonin learned about Peruvian grave robbers who steal artifacts called huacos from tombs and sell them.

"I thought the pieces were worthless," she said, "but with further investigation, I know that they're not."

Mrs. Bonin wrote to John Topic, a professor of anthropology at the University of Trent in Peterborough. He looked at photographs of the pieces and now shares her view that they may be ancient.

He believes the jar is Chimú (an

early tribe) style. "I would say that it is quite a late piece, possibly dating back to the Inca occupation of the north coast (1460 to 1532) or early colonial period," the professor said.

He added, however, that "the molded decoration on the front is not a particularly common motif and some people might question its authenticity."

Professor Topic said he believes the double spout-and-bridge bottle dates back to 1100 to 1350 AD, related to some small jars he has seen in Ecuador.

"There was quite a lot of influence back and forth between the far northern part of Peru and southern Ecuador, but we still don't know much about it."

He said the shells are spondylees princeps, also called thorny oysters because of their sharp spines. "They were harvested in Ecuador and traded south into Peru from at least 2000 B.C. on. They were highly valued in Peru for ritual purposes."

The professor said; however, that the only way to determine if the pieces are truly artifacts is through testing.

Mrs. Bonin said she isn't interested in selling the pieces and wants to donate them to a Canadian museum.

However, Professor Topic warned that such a gesture may be hard to carry out. Exporting artifacts from Peru is illegal, he said, so museums would shy away from accepting them.

## 15% TO 20%

### Projected One-Year Return!

HOW TO PROFIT FROM THE  
BOND MARKET INSTRUCTIONAL

## VIDEO

To receive video, please call **ROB RUBINO**  
at (905) 702-2098 (Milton)  
Ideal for Individuals willing to invest  
minimum \$25,000



**RBC  
DOMINION  
SECURITIES**

A Member of Royal Bank Group



BEFORE

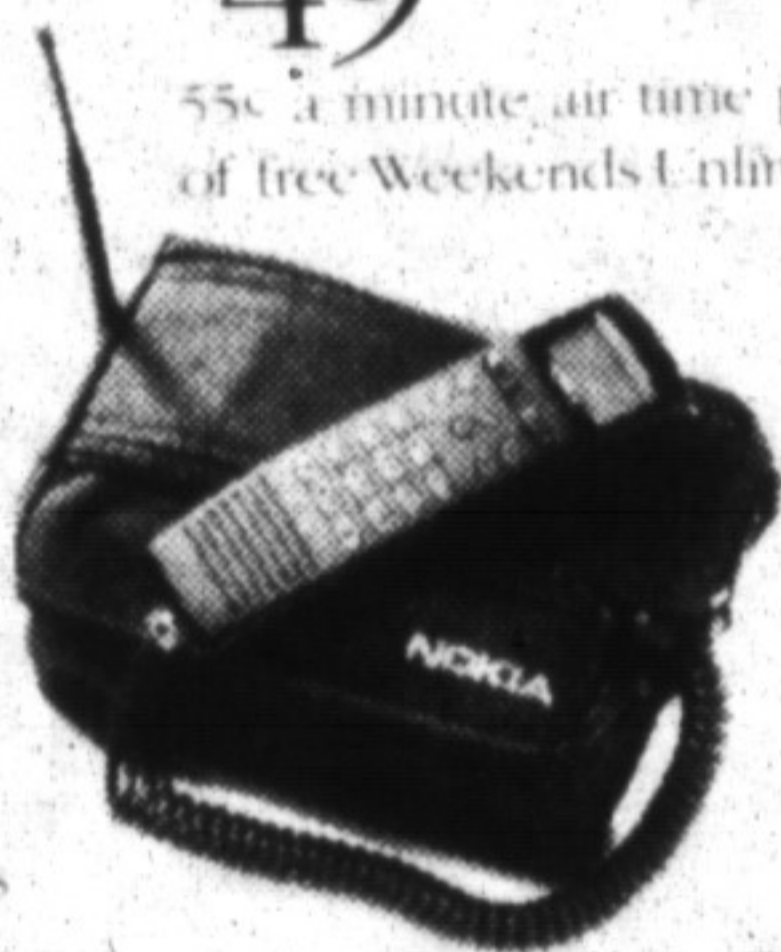


AFTER

### The next time you see a cellular offer that seems too good to be true, ask if you get to keep the phone.

\$49.95

55¢ a minute air time plus get six months of free Weekends Unlimited



See the cellular phone pictured here? It's yours for just \$49.95! We think it's the best deal going.

There is, however, one small catch: You get to keep it.

Unlike some other unbelievably affordable offers, you don't have to return it to the dealer by some special hour.

And for a low monthly fee of \$19.95 you can sign up for a Bronze package.

With Bronze, local calls are just 55¢ a minute.

and you get six free months of Weekends Unlimited.

That alone can save you hundreds of dollars a year when you compare other offers that charge you 95¢ a minute.

You'll receive an itemized bill every month so you know exactly what you're paying for. Your Bell Mobility dealer is even waiving the \$60 activation fee.

So if you want the safety and convenience of a cellular phone, don't just pick one up. Buy one. And may you live happily ever after.



\* Offers valid for new subscribers only on the 1000+ phone system. Activation system plans. Offer ends August 18, 1994. C.A.C. Annual System Access Fee extra. Applicable taxes extra. Long Distance, Roaming and additional features not included. Not comparable with any other offer. Subject to regulatory approval. T.M. AIR MILLS International Holdings, N.V. Bell Mobility Cellular Authority, Inc.



**Miltown Cellular**

Approved Agent

342 Bronte St. South, Unit 1, Milton

Tel.: (905) 878-1113

**Boldly Go**

## Bell Mobility

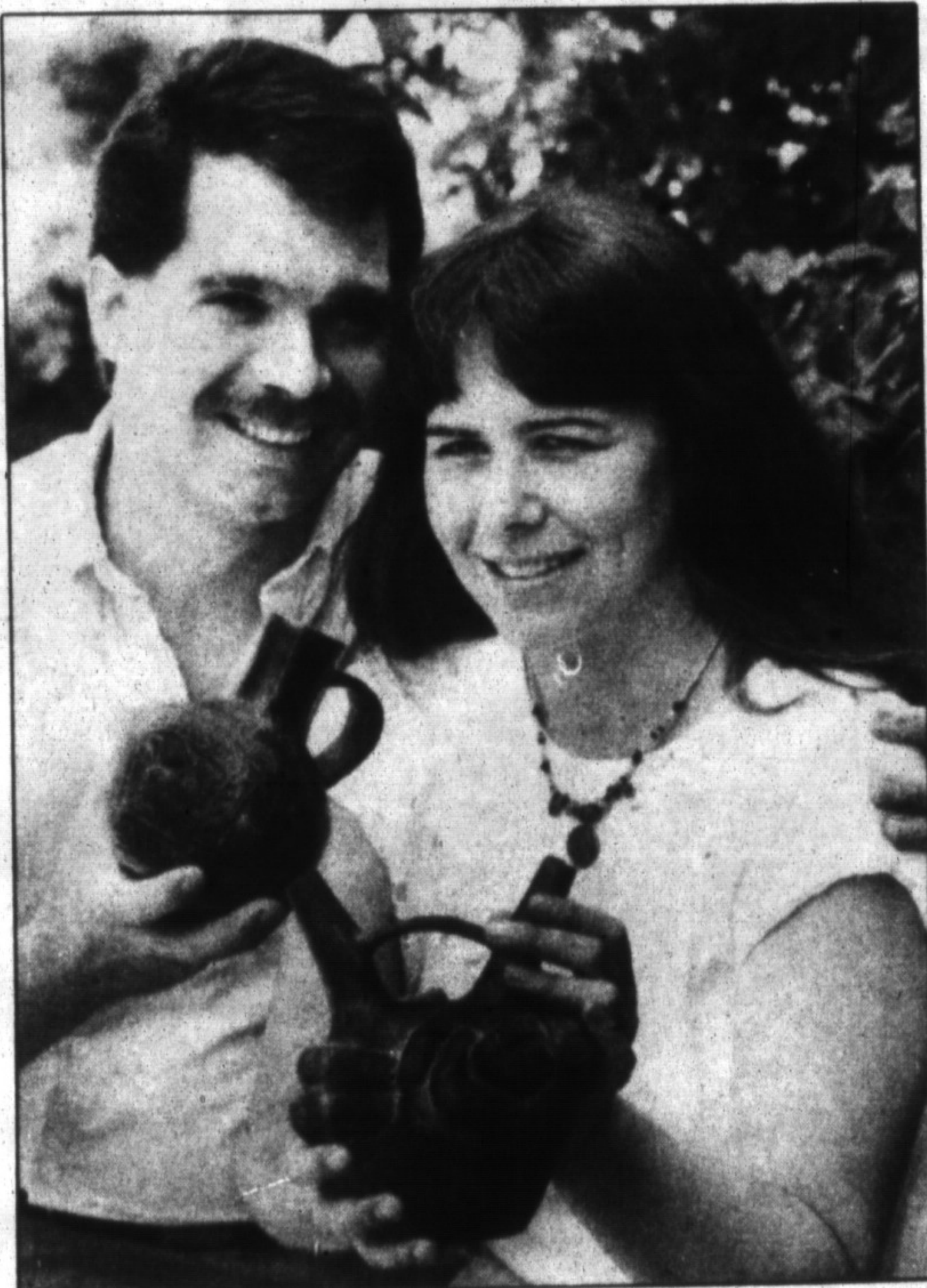


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Miltonians Kathy and Steve Bonin hold some artifacts they brought home from a recent trip to Peru.

## ACTON LEATHERTOWN FESTIVAL

Good Food  
Good Music  
Good Times

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 7, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.**  
At the olde Hide House Parking Lot

\* Leather Displays & Sales \* Entertainment  
\* Double Decker Bus Rides \* Pony Rides \* Food Booths  
\* Children's Activity Tent \* Juried Craft Show  
\* Community Displays \* Punch & Judy Show \* Jumping Pillow  
Sponsored by the Halton Hills Tourism Committee