Archaeologists investigate Catahoula Lake Indian site

A group of Louisiana archaeologists last week met at Walters, La. to investigate a large Indian site, lying in the swamp-land south of Catahoula Lake in Catahoula Parish.

The meeting was organized by Jon L. Gibson, USL assistant professor, who is investigating the site as a nucleus for his Ph. D. dissertation at Southern Methodist University.

The aims of the investigation were to obtain samples for radiocarbon and thermoluminescence dating and to make a detailed engineering map of the site.

The site, called Caney Island, has six conical mounds arranged in a semicircle about 1200 feet in diameter. Artifacts found here indicate that the site was a large trade center for the "Catahoula" phase people who were probably contemporaries of and in contact with the "Poverty Point Phase" people who lived about 1500-500 B.C., according to Gibson. The site is on property belonging to Louisiana Delta Plantation, whose owners permitted the work to be undertaken.