Artifacts Subject Of Local Lecture

The man who is directing excavation of the Indian shell mound on Weeks Island south of New Iberia is scheduled to lecture at the Lafayette Natural History Museum and Planetarium tomorrow at 7:30 p.m.

Robert W. Neumann of the LSU Geoscience Museum will describe work at the excavation site. He is anthropology curator for the project.

Many Artifacts

The excavation, which began in October under a six-month $31,360 National Science Foundation Grant, has yielded many artifacts. Pottery, bone, stone tools, projectile points, cooking hearths, and the skeletal remains of the people and the animals they ate (raccoons, squirrels, deer, alligators and mollusks) have all been discovered in the 12-foot high shell mound which is 700 ft. in length by 120 feet in breadth.

These and other artifacts have produced evidence of the Modern Natchezan period, the Troyville - Coles Creek Culture, 700 to 1100 A.D.; Marksville Culture 1 to 500 A.D.; Tchefuncte back to 250 B.C., and the Poverty Point Culture that began around 1250 B.C.

Asks Little Delay

Neumann has stated that there should be as little delay as possible due to the erosion of the mound caused by Weeks Bayou. Also, though funds, equipment, and services are being provided by Morton Salt Co., the Louisiana Foundation and Melhennv Co., the project will cease when N.S.F. funds are exhausted. Neumann was noted to say that though work would stop, the knowledge which could be attained from further excavation would remain buried on Weeks Island.

Neuman's talk at the Lafayette Natural History Museum will center about his activities at Weeks Island and will be accompanied by slides. The public is invited. There is no charge for admission.