INeINDIAN BURIAL

GROUNDS FOUND

SMU Archeological Team
Makes Discovery

CONVERSE, La. (AP) - An ancient Indian burial ground believed to have been the site of a flourishing community over 600 years ago has been uncovered about 12 miles south of here.

The discovery, announced Saturday, was made by an archeological team from Southern Methodist University headed by Prof. Nel Wodid and assisted by volunteers from Northwestern State College.

The team reported it had uncovered four Indian skeletons during the past four weeks, along with pieces of pottery and numerous arrowheads.

Experts said the skeletons are believed to be from the Pre-Caddo Indian era and possibly are part of the Belcher Focus, an Indian settlement uncovered by amateur archeologists several years ago in Caddo Parish near Belcher.

Scientists said the Indians were living sometime between 1,100 A.D. and 1,400 A.D. Members of the SMU team said they would be able to determine the exact period more closely when they examine their findings at the university.

The area where the artifacts were discovered, in Sabine Parish, is located on the banks of the former main channel of the Sabine River.

The site will become part of the tremendous reservoir of the planned Toledo Bend Dam in the early 1970s, eventually to be covered by 28 feet of water.

The four graves were uncovered as the team dug a network of crisscrossing trenches. Each skeleton lay surrounded by two water jugs, three pottery bowls and a small quantity of arrowheads.

The archeologists said they believe the area supported a thriving Indian community for hundreds of years.